



**Title**

CURE Foundation  
Report 2016

**Publisher**

CURE Foundation

**Author and editor**

Vedrana Frašto

**Translation**

Marija Vuletić

**Press**

Cober d.o.o.

**Print**

300

## CURE FOUNDATION REPORT FOR 2016

1. CURE INTRODUCTION
2. BIH WOMEN'S ADVOCACY ACTIONS
3. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE -  
VIEW FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE: VIOLENCE IN YOUTH RELATIONSHIPS
4. GENDER AND SEX THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
5. HOW TO STOP GENDER BASED VIOLENCE?
6. CAPACITY BUILDING OF CURE FOUNDATION
7. RAISING VISIBILITY OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS
8. CREATION OF SAFE SPACES FOR LBT\*Q WOMEN
9. LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF LGBTIQ PERSONS
10. SUPPORT FOR MARGINALIZED WOMEN
11. ACTIVISTS BUILD PEACE
12. SWAN DAY
13. PITCHWISE - 11. FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S ARTS AND ACTIVISM IN BIH
14. WOMEN FROM HER HISTORY OF THE WORLD WE BROUGHT TO SARAJEVO
15. MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
16. IDAHO MONTH OF EQUALITY
17. GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE
18. CURE PARTNERSHIPS:
  - UTILIZING THE EU INTEGRATION PROCESS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LGBT RIGHTS
  - GENDER MAINSTREAMING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS
  - PEACE WITH A WOMAN'S FACE
19. NETWORKS CURE FOUNDATION IS A PART OF:
  - WOMEN'S NETWORK OF BIH
  - REGIONAL LGBTI ASSOCIATION ERA
  - INITIATIVE FOR THE MONITORING OF THE EU INTEGRATIONS IN BIH
  - PEACE BUILDING NETWORK
  - CULTURAL GENDER PRACTICES NETWORK
20. STREET ACTIONS
21. OTHER CURE ACTIVITIES
22. OUR CONTRIBUTION
23. WHERE WERE WE IN 2016?
24. CURE PUBLIC REACTIONS
25. AWARDS FOR CURE FOUNDATION TEAM MEMBERS
26. PUBLICATIONS
27. PRODUCTION
28. MEDIA VISIBILITY
29. DIRECT AND INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF CURE FOUNDATION IN 2016
30. DONORS

## INTRODUCTION

CURE Foundation is a feminist-activist organization which operates for the equality of sexes and genders pleading for positive social changes through educational, artistic, cultural and research programs. Providing affirmative action, CURE Foundation celebrates women's strength and power and works on empowering people so they could become initiators of social changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad. Feminist activism has provided a safe space where women are strong, fearless and capable united in their differences. CURE Foundation is an organization of professionals and volunteers who go out to the streets in sign of public protest against violence, discrimination, violations of laws and fundamental human rights, organize performances against violence, invite artists, scientists, educators, activists and the citizens to action and personal contribution to creating a better and healthier BiH society.

***Vision - The kind of society we want - CURE Foundation works for the equality of women in BiH, for a society without patriarchal norms in which violence and discrimination are not tolerated, where women are recognized as responsible initiators and bearers of positive social changes and equally make decisions in the society.***

***Mission - What we do to realize the vision - CURE Foundation works on supporting, strengthening the capacity and creating a safe environment for a new generation of activists and feminists, for their responsible and active involvement in positive social changes through:***

- educational programs,
- research, analysis and public advocacy,
- improvement of the media image of women and raising visibility,
- local and regional networking,
- engaged arts and activism and
- building an inclusive and sustainable women's movement.

On this occasion CURE Foundation team wants to thank everyone for cooperation, support and solidarity.

CURE Foundation team: Jadranka M., Vedrana F., Stela K., Denija H., Marija V., Sanda K., Tanja Č., Selma H., Vildana Dž., Berina Dž., Berina M., Zlatiborka P., Asmir F., Dubravka K., Medina M., Safija S., Ajna J., Jovana J. and other volunteers.



## CURE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

***BiH women's advocacy actions*** - the project's aim was to strengthen the cooperation between local activists - women human rights defenders and women politicians in the spheres of the right to health and access to health services, the right to parenthood and economic opportunities for women in rural areas and small communities. The best achievement of the project was the Lobbying meeting in the Parliament of the Federation of BiH in May 2016, where 22 women's rights defenders and 10 women politicians gathered including the vice president of the Federation of BiH. This was the first time that we had a highly ranked politician at one of our advocacy meetings. In numbers: #30 politicians and women active in politics participated at our activities; #5 Memorandums of cooperation with a limiting time frame and responsibilities were signed; #100 activists and protectors of women's human rights from local small communities took part in our lobbying activities; #20 activists from invisible, socially marginalized groups joined our lobbying efforts; around #1600 persons were directly or indirectly included in our lobbying activities. The project took place in Sarajevo, Livno, Bugojno, Gornji Vakuf/Uskoplje and Pale, and it actively included women politicians and women active in politics, local activists for the rights of socially marginalized women. The project introduced the BiH Feminist Advocacy Platform.

***Gender based violence: View from a different angle - Violence in youth relationships*** - Through this project, CURE Foundation focuses on empowering and building the capacity of young women and girls on the topic of women's human rights, feminism and gender based violence with the desire to motivate and engage them to become bearers of positive social change in their local communities. During 2016 we had 2 FEM Camps (36 participants) on Jahorina and in Sarajevo, and a meeting of the Network of young activists (15 participants) who worked on empowerment, networking and the creation of the Global campaign 16 days of activism against gender based violence. The participants were from: Sarajevo, Mostar, Banja Luka, Bosanska Krupa, Doboje, Brčko, Čapljina, Konjic, Tuzla, Tešanj i Visoko. The project was also focused on work with high school students in Sarajevo Canton, and we organized 14 workshops with 10 classes for 192 students. Also, we worked with professors and pedagogues in high schools through two focus groups (15 students), workshops (22 professors) and a round table (10 participants) on the topic how to stop gender based violence.

***Working with volunteers and members of CURE Foundation*** - During 2016 we had eight thematic meetings with volunteers and members of CURE Foundation with a total of 51 participant where we worked together on the organization of activities for the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the PitchWise festival of women's art and activism, organizing a campaign 16 Days of Activism and we celebrated our successes and activities.

***Gender and sex through the educational system*** - There were 13 workshops for 134 students organized in high schools in the municipality Center (Canton Sarajevo). The workshops were organized in Secondary dental school and Secondary artistic school. Workshops were held by pedagogues/psychologists and the members of CURE team in schools as part of school classes so we continued our collaboration with the teaching staff through this project. During the workshops we used interactive methods with the combination of different creative activities that required an active participation of all participants. Workshop topics were: gender boxes, the definition of types of violence in partner relationships, myth or reality, good and bad quality relationships, stereotypes related to the role of partners in adolescent relationships, types of violence in adolescent relationships. The workshops had an interactive character which included work in groups, discussions etc.

***Workshops sexual and reproductive health*** - Within the project, which is supported by various activities and is aimed at capacity building and empowerment of women in artistic and cultural engaged programs, especially those that operate at the local level and empower them to be initiators of positive changes in their local communities, we organized several workshops on sexual reproductive health within PitchWise festival, Fem camp and work with young women activists.

***How to stop gender-based violence?*** - Within the framework of this project in 2016 we organized a presentation of six artistic-activist works on the topic "Zero tolerance for violence against women and girls" in Sarajevo which was attended by about 150 participants. Also, in Sarajevo we organized one training for trainers on the topic: "Prevention of gender based violence", which was attended by 20 participants from 11 local communities from across the country. The training was intended for people who wanted to acquire the knowledge and skills to create an agenda, how to prepare and conduct a workshop on gender-based violence.

***Capacity building of CURE Foundation*** - Implementation of these activities aimed to strengthen the capacities of CURE Foundation, to strengthen and upgrade the capacities of the team in order to build a stronger women's movement in BiH. On the other hand, these activities were carried out in order to strengthen our own capacities in order to cope with internal processes such as stress and burnout. In 2016, we had several workshops in order to strengthen our personal capacities.

***Raising visibility of women's human rights*** - This project was created in order to support the implementation of the strategic plan of CURE Foundation in order to strengthen the structure and sustainability of the organization and to support other activities of CURE Foundation. Through this project PitchWise - festival of women's art and activism was partly supported and the implementation of educational workshops that aim to educate and empower BiH women citizens, politicians and representatives of NGOs to be active in the political and public life. PitchWise - festival of women's art and activism is a program for the creation of a platform for networking and exchange among artists, activists, students, youth and the general public to ensure the visibility of the achievements of women, celebrating and empowering women. In 2016, we organized the internal evaluation of PitchWise festival and a pre-strategic planning meeting where we evaluated and monitored the fulfillment of the strategic goals in the last three years.

***The creation of safe space for LBT\*Q women*** - The project is supported by Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (ASTRAEA), CURE Foundation organized 2 three day workshops „Integrated security for women defenders of LGBTI rights“ where LBQ women from all over BiH participated with the objective experience exchange and the creation of a safe space for empowerment of LBTQ women, as well as expanding their knowledge in the LBTTIQ area. The main goal of the project was to empower LBTQ women so they could connect and resist homophobia/transphobia in the society, but also to enhance their visibility through exchanging experiences and using examples of positive practices from the region in order to work on themselves.

***Legal empowerment of LGBT persons in BiH*** - During implementation of the project in 2016 we organized one workshop entitled "What options are available to me as an LGBTI person in real life?". There were 16 participants from different areas of BiH. Four moderators led the process. This project will help increase public awareness, and specifically amongst members of the LGBTI community of its legal options in the face of discrimination, harassment, and violence.

***Support to socially marginalized women*** - Our collaboration with the Library in Kakanj and Roma women's association "NADA" resulted in #31 Roma girls and boys taking part in literacy workshops. In addition two round tables on women's social and political participation were held in Tešanj and Kakanj. As part of our peace activism - we joined the Peace solidarity action of Women's association from Jadar - Konjević Polje - and distributed more than 1000 refreshment items to participants of the 2016 Peace March.

***Activists build peace*** - CURE Foundation in the period from August 2015 to February 2016 implemented the project "Activists build peace" which was financially supported by Mozaik Foundation as a part of the PRO-Future project. As part of the project, CURE Foundation has organized five workshops in the region Birač with 41 people participating at the training. The topic was peace-building and transitional justice. Workshop participants have established an informal network of women "Women of Peace" which in cooperation with the Association of women Jadar organized the fair "Homemade with Love" in the municipality of Bratunac, where they had the opportunity to present the network and their domestic products.

**Swan Day (Support Women Artists Now Day)** is an international day of artists that celebrates diversity and the power of creativity of women. The goal of Swan Day is to focus the public's attention on the contributions and achievements of women in culture. CURE Foundation with the support of the Ars Aevi Museum marked the day on March 26, with performances of: Aida Čorbadžić - soprano, National Theater in Sarajevo, Selma Štrbo-Arnautović - ballerina of the National Theater in Sarajevo, Dancing ballet group Bellarte and Children's ballet ensemble Bellarte. The performance was visited by at least 30 people.

#### **PITCHWISE - FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S ARTS AND ACTIVISM IN BIH**

CURE Foundation in 2016 marked the eleventh year of organizing the PitchWise festival of women's art and activism in BiH. This year's festival gathered 70 artists, musicians, theorists, workshop facilitators, writers, feminists of different generations from BiH, the region and the world. With the performers, we had 370 direct participants and around 600 indirect participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Austria, Germany, USA, Slovenia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Egypt, Turkey and England. The central theme of the eleventh consecutive PitchWise festival was: Pitchwise CONNECTING - questioning individual activists' experiences and contemporary social context to fight patriarchy! Think globally - act locally!

#### **WOMEN FROM HERSTORY WHO WE BROUGHT TO SARAJEVO:**

**Mona Eltahawy** is an award-winning columnist and an international public speaker for the Arab and Islamic issues and global feminism. She lives in Cairo and New York. She is the author of the "Headscarves and hymen: Why the Middle East needs the sexual revolution " issued in April 2015, and is also a columnist for The New York Times.

**Jouanna Hassoun** is the project manager for MILES. Originally from Palestine, but her family moved to Germany in the early '80s. In his spare time Jouanna volunteers in organizations that deal with the issue of refugees in Berlin. MILES is a project of LSVD, Berlin-Brandenburg, a lesbian and gay alliance of Germany, with offices in Berlin and Brandenburg. MILES is a project focused on supporting LGBT+ refugees in Berlin and Brandenburg.

***Vivian Angelene Morris*** belong to ESTA Cate, Native American, the Navajo, Seminole and Mvskoke tribe. The city of her tribe is Alabama-Quassarte. She has received scholarships from the Gates Millennium Foundation, and she is a student of double major in Women's and Gender Studies and the School of Environmental Protection. Her optional subject is Native American Studies. She finished the boarding schools Riverside Indian. She is a nomad from Oklahoma, and originally comes from New Mexico. Some of the main topics which she spoke of were domestic violence related to tribes and states, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), racism, foster care, discrimination, cultural identity, etc. She believes that informing the public about these issues is the first step towards achieving social justice.

***Nimco Ali*** is a British-Somali feminist, social activist and media commentator. Co-founder and Director of the Daughters of Eve, the organization led by the survivors who helped transform the approach to stopping genital mutilation (FGM). Nimco has worked on the campaign The Girl Generation: Together for stopping FGM which celebrates Africa-led movement to stop FGM in a single generation. Currently, the ambassador for #MAKERSUK. MAKERS AOL platform is led by women and highlights stories of revolutionary women of today that are true leaders of tomorrow. In 2014, she was awarded by the Red magazine as Woman of the Year and gained sixth places on the list Woman's hour of power. Recently named as one of Debrett's 500 most influential women in the UK by The Sunday Times. She is a commissioner for Women for women refugees, winner of Emma Humohreys Memorial Award and a member of the Committee for women's equality.

#### **MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

CURE Foundation as a part of the marking of the International Women's Day organized a street action on March, the 8<sup>th</sup>, the human library and exhibition of art works of LBT\*Q women, and participated in numerous events which were organized as part of the 8th of March. Here are some of the activities:

***Human library and exhibition of art works of LBT\*Q women*** - CURE Foundation organized a Human Library, where about 40 people had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Books of the woman lieutenant in the Armed forces of BiH, lesbian, super woman, artist, football player and many other live books. Also there was the opportunity to see an exhibition of activist's unique posters that were created with ideas from LB\*Q women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on the topic of activism and the LGBTI movement in BiH.

***Marking International Women's Day, organized by the Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo*** - The minister of secondary and adult education and training of Sweden, Aida Hadžialić, was the keynote speaker at the celebration of International Women's Day organized by the Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo which was also attended by activists from CURE Foundation.

## **IDAHOT MONTH OF EQUALITY**

CURE Foundation, as part of our activities for April / May - Month of equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in BiH in 2016, organized a Human library with the LGBTIQAP theme. The human library works on the principle of a real library. Books are people who with readers voluntarily talk about the challenges they face because they are different from the others. Our Human library was visited by 15 persons, who had the opportunity to meet a lesbian, a gay man, a bisexual person, a trans\* person, a pansexual, asexual, and queer person.

Members of CURE Foundation were also present at the reception of the US Embassy on the occasion of IDAHOT in Sarajevo.

## **GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE**

*Global campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence* - CURE Foundation supported and participated in the Global campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. This year, we marked the campaign under the slogan "Do you approve?" The message we wanted to convey to the public is that we activists, feminists and women's rights defenders do not support violence and we believe that we need to build a society in which there is a rule of zero tolerance for violence that occurs against women, girls and everyone who is different. The campaign was accompanied by an online campaign about which there will be more information in the section Social networks.

## **CURE PARTNERSHIPS**

*Using EU integration process for improvement of LGBT rights in the Western Balkans* - In 2016, CURE Foundation has been the partner organization to Sarajevo Open Center and organizations from Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Belgium in the implementation of the project. Some of the activities in the project were: research of discriminatory content in textbooks for high schools in Sarajevo Canton, 4 empowering workshops for 80 LGBTI persons from Mostar, Tuzla, Derventa and Prijedor, satirical comics regarding the content of the textbooks and a viral campaign for the promotion of research results. The overall program objective is to promote respect for and recognition of human rights of LGBT persons in Western Balkans, using the EU accession process as the focal point for targeted, evidence based advocacy relying on information gathered through documentation of cases and research. The project will be continued in 2017.

*Initiative Women citizens for constitutional reforms* in 2016 - The work of the Initiative is coordinated by the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka in partnership with CURE Foundation. During 2016, there were 39 activities in 15 local communities. The lobbying and advocacy work group had six meetings with 13 representatives of embassies, relevant commissions, gender mechanism and representatives of the Parliament. The media work group had 12 activities (TV and radio shows, media monitoring, press conferences, cooperation with journalists and publications of text on the blog). The public relations work group organized 21 event (4 round tables, 14 street actions, and three

meetings with the CSOs and one conference where 74 persons participated.) Currently, the Initiative has 26 members and 273 supporters from BiH.

***Peace with woman's face*** - „Empowering women in the process of dealing with the past “ - In 2016, CURE Foundation as a part of the project "Peace with woman's face" implemented by the Foundation "Lara" from Bijeljina and H. O. Horizons from Tuzla, organized 2 meetings with 25 participants (activists, pedagogues and politicians) who attended a workshop regarding peace building. A book and a movie "Remembering women victims of war" were created, and a marking of the Day of remembrance of women victims of war was organized.

#### **NETWORKS CURE FOUNDATION IS A PART OF:**

***Women's network BiH*** - In November 2016 - CURE Foundation organized a BiH Women's Network Conference on "Feminization of Poverty in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The Conference represents our efforts in raising the awareness on economy of violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and women's social and economic marginalization. The conference gathered #36 participants representing women's organizations from BiH, women from the academy and women politicians.

***Award for Local heroine Senka Zulum in Jajce*** - Women's Network BiH had a great pleasure to nominate its long-standing member, fighter for women's rights, human rights, peace and reconciliation, Mrs. Senka Zulum from Jajce. Also, CURE Foundation participated at the official award ceremony in Jajce.

***ERA Annual conference*** - In 2016, LGBTI Equal rights association for Western Balkans and Turkey held an Annual conference in Priština, Kosovo. The topics of the conference were the situation of LGBTI rights in every country, legislation, work with the community, position of lesbians and trans\* persons, social services for LGBTI persons etc.

***Initiative for monitoring the European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina*** - CURE Foundation is an active member of an informal coalition of the civil society which contributes to the monitoring of reforms and oversees the implementation of policies, laws and standards of the European Union, focusing on the issues of democratization, rule of law and human and minority rights. In 2016, we worked on recommendations, legal framework and action plans in Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet the conditions for equitable coexistence and the exercise of rights of multiply marginalized persons. We actively participated in the process of monitoring and reporting on the activities of relevant institutions in BiH.

***Peace building network*** - Activist of CURE Foundation became a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Network for Peace Building in 2016. During 2016, we conducted a couple of mutual activities that were in connection to the Peace-building week, the International Women's Day and the activities during the International Day of Human Rights, as well as activities related to the award for journalists for professional media reporting "Srđan Aleksić". In 2016, we participated on several internal meetings of the Network, and at the training Capacity building of members of the Governing Board of the Network for Peace building led by the Peace Nexus Foundation.



***Cultural gender practices network*** - The platform was created from the need to open a free and safe space for theoretical, activist, artistic and cultural production, which will contribute to the visibility of different feminist practices and technologies of resistance. It brings together regional women, feminist, queer festivals, media portals and initiatives that belong to the continuity of feminist practice in the nEXt Yugoslavia region. In 2016, we participated in the regional meeting in Belgrade where decisions regarding further action platform and planning projects were made, consideration of how much will be a platform have to expand and accept new members, how next calls for projects will look like etc. At the meeting there were 15 members from nine organizations.

## STREET ACTIONS

*Street action for the 8<sup>th</sup> of March* - CURE Foundation organized an activist walk/march on the occasion of the International Women's Day under the slogan "Today we have no reason to celebrate", with all interested individuals, organizations and formal/informal groups joining in and with members of the Women's Network as part of the walk. The march was attended by about 50 people, and the message we conveyed is that we do not have a reason to celebrate. The country is impoverished, and our common future depends on international aid and opportunities for return of sizable loans. The whole country is sold and privatized. Our nature is destroyed, and the production is minimal.



***OUR LIVES EXIST OUTSIDE FOUR WALLS, FOR THESE ARE OUR STREETS!*** - A street action was organized by Sarajevo Open Center and CURE activists have joined this performance in one of the main squares in Sarajevo. This performance was held by activists on the occasion of 11<sup>th</sup> of October, the International coming day, and the action involved sharing of flowers and leaflets to passers through which they could get more information about what is coming out. The aim of the campaign was to make people see that the lives of LGBTI people exist outside the four walls, and that is precisely the reason why these activists bravely decided to stand for an hour in the streets with messages written on banners that were opened and closed like a closet.

***International day for the elimination of violence against women*** - This year CURE Foundation again marked the International day for the elimination of violence against women and the start of the Global campaign 16 days of activism against gender based violence (25.11.2015.). The slogan of the street action was "Do you approve?" and it was organized to raise awareness about discrimination and violence against women in BiH because a life without violence is a right and a responsibility of all of us! There were 30 persons present at the action who wrote message of why they do not approve of violence.

***International day of women with disabilities*** - On the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, the Network of women with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina ,within the Campaign 16 days of activism against gender based violence, organized peaceful street actions in the center of Banja Luka and Sarajevo, and thus contributed to the campaign "No woman invisible!". Activists of CURE Foundation supported this action in Sarajevo. There were around 30 participants.

***Day of remembrance of the suffering of women in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina*** - Peace activists from women's NGOs from Bijeljina, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Mostar, Bratunac, Višegrad, Modriča, Bihać, Zenica, Grahovo and Banja Luka agreed that, from 2015, the Global campaign 16 days of activism against gender based violence will also include the 8<sup>th</sup> of December as a Day of remembrance of the suffering of women in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Twelve women's NGOs organized street actions and other events to remind the public of different forms of suffering of women during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were around 30 persons at the street action. The street action in Sarajevo was marked as a part of the Conference "Gender and transitional justice" which was held in Sarajevo, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. We organized the administrative and logistical support for this street action. We gave leaflets and participated in the walk to the monument to Sarajevo's children victims of war.

***International Human Rights Day*** - In 2016, several organizations headed by the Sarajevo Open Center, Foundation CURE and Civil Rights Defenders in Sarajevo, organized the protest walk together with activists, citizens, to point out *the violation of the rights and dignity of all of us, the lack of work of institutions and the country which as a signatory to the Universal declaration is obliged to provide protection, services, answers and solutions to its citizens on the brutality with which we live from day to day.* The march was attended by more than a 100 people.

#### **OTHER CURE ACTIVITIES:**

***Meeting with the American head of the Tactical mission to Mars - Dr. Zainab Nagin Cox*** - CURE Foundation has organized a social event with dr. Zainab Nagin Cox, engineer of NASA, the famous American head of Tactical missions to Mars with the spacecraft Curiosity (Scientific laboratory for exploration of Mars). This visit of dr. Zainab Nagin Cox in BiH was organized by the US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a part of the "Week of space exploration." The gathering was attended by over 20 people where we discussed space exploration and the importance of participation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and we also talked about the exceptional importance of self-reliant security courses for women.

***Exhibition on the International Museums Day*** - Cure Foundation and the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina presented heroines of the ex YU space, in order to draw attention to the involvement of women in our community and beyond. Historical Museum and CURE Foundation in the framework of the International Museums Day 2016 once again stressed the importance of social engagement of women in the various segments of society. By exhibiting portraits of Bosnian heroines of World War II, the Historical Museum talks about continuity and the challenges of fighting for the rights of women in our society.

***Public forum "Twenty-six on the 26<sup>th</sup>: who are the women candidates for the head of municipalities of the local elections in 2016"*** - The Delegation of the European Union, the Heinrich Boell Foundation, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and CURE Foundation organized a public forum attended by about 30 people. The aim of the forum was to raise the visibility and promotion of women candidates for heads of municipalities in the upcoming local elections. Out of the 417 candidates (men and women) for heads, from 144 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only 26, or 6.8% were women. The goal of this event was to provide a forum within which the candidates had the opportunity to present themselves, their goals, priorities and political platform to the media, other colleagues from the political parties, as well as the general public.

***CURE activists attended the marking of the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica*** - Members of CURE Foundation expressed their deep respect for the victims of genocide. Every year with our presence we provide support to survivors and solidarity with the mothers of Srebrenica. Our peace and feminist activism is directed towards the establishment of lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, respect for human rights for all, building peace and tolerance and the culture of memory and anti-militarist action.

***Distribution of New Year's gifts***- As part of the campaign "Children helping children 2016/2017" organized by the humanitarian organization ADRA, CURE Foundation has distributed # 70 New Year's gift boxes to children from families in need. The boxes were divided as follows: Pale: large families, mothers of 5+ children; Bijeljina: large families, mothers of 6+ children; Vareš: families of women survivors of violence; surrounding areas of Sarajevo Canton: mothers and families of children with disabilities, families living below the poverty level. Within the distribution of gifts, activists of CURE Foundation had #10 home visits to families that due to various reasons live in social isolation.

***Visits to CURE Foundation*** - In 2016, CURE Foundation registered about 50 visits that included more than one person per visit. The total number of people that have visited the CURE Foundation is more than 70 people. Visitors were mostly interested in topics such as activities of CURE, the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, violence against women and the position of women in BiH. society. We want to highlight the following visit: A visit to us by Ms. Muna Namura, wife of the Ambassador of Palestine to BiH. With Ms. Namura, activist for women's rights, we talked about the first Palestinian CEDAW Shadow Report, women's engaged art and the importance of networking of all women in the world to improve the quality of life of women and girls and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women. We also had a visit by a group of students from the University of Denver and we talked with them about the rights of Roma women and other marginalized groups.

## **OUR CONTRIBUTION**

***Volunteer and Contribute*** - This activity is organized by the association INFOHOUSE each year, and CURE Foundation as part of the 9th social day supported the project Volunteer and Contribute. Students Merima Pribinja and Alisa Pačavar from the Center for Blind and Visually Impaired Children and Youth Sarajevo had their first work experience. In the morning, they met with the press and cameramen from the N1 and BHT 1 televisions, and recorded a short video for the news, and then talked about the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

***Seminar "Women's rights in the context of EU accession"*** - On the occasion of International Day against Violence against Women, November 25<sup>th</sup>, as a contribution to the campaign "16 days of activism against gender-based violence," the EU Information Center organized a seminar on "Women's rights in the context of EU " in which one of the speakers was a member of CURE Foundation. The aim of the seminar

was to support a constructive discussion on the situation of women in modern society, and to explore the possibilities of improving women's rights in BiH through the process of EU accession.

***The workshop "Feminism-Activism"*** - Volunteer of CURE Foundation, Jovana Boljanić, held a workshop on the topic of feminism-activism as a way of life and shared her experiences with the participants of the youth camp organized by the "Center for youth mobility and education ELEMENT" from Sarajevo. Four-day camp for teens gathered around twenty young people from across the country. Evaluations showed that the workshop was very interesting and instructive. Participants had the opportunity to watch a film about the 16 days of activism, about gender-based violence and to get acquainted with the activities conducted by CURE Foundation, as well as projects in which she herself participated in.

***From ministerial conclusions to creating gender equality policies in the Euro-Med region*** - Activist of CURE Foundation participated in this conference with the topic of women's rights, which was organized in November 2016 in Beirut, Lebanon. Activist from CURE presented the analysis of school textbooks in terms of stereotypes as part of the session: "Education reform, challenging the stereotypes and social discourse".

***Professional development and networking addiction prevention in youth work in BiH*** - CURE Foundation activist was involved in the project Juppo 2014 to 2016 implemented by the Association NARKO-NE Sarajevo. Through this project, the activist has expanded and developed a range of methods effective in practical work with young people, with a focus primarily on prevention of addiction, and cooperation with the governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to lobby for policies and strategies that enhance addiction prevention, the promotion of healthy development and empowerment of children and young people.

***Cooperation with qSPORT Sarajevo*** - CURE Foundation, during 2016, has cooperated with the organization qSPORT Sarajevo and enabled the initiative to hold their activities on our premises. CURE Foundation supports the initiative of the organization to include and motivate LGBTIQ persons in BiH to become actively involved in sports and participate in sporting activities of LGBTI sports associations worldwide.

## **WHERE WERE WE IN 2016?**

***Belgrade Pride, Montenegro Pride*** - In 2016, members of CURE Foundation have attended Pride marches in 2 cities of the region. Belgrade and Podgorica again this year held successful marches, with the smallest number of policemen ever, a longer march route and with almost no violence.

***School of political studies of the Council of Europe in BiH*** - In 2016, member of CURE team participated in a 4 modul seminar which was organized by the Council of Europe in BiH, and which dealt with the political processes in BiH, EU integrations, culture of dialogue, electoral process and the overall political situation in BiH and in what way it can be improved.

***5th symposium against discrimination of LGBTI persons Ankara*** - In 2016, member of CURE Foundation was invited to speak about the issue LGBTI persons face in BiH and the social services offered for them. In the panel, next to our representative, spoke also persons from Macedonia, Albania and Italy.

***Balkan Pride Initiative*** - A member of CURE Foundation team has attended a seminar which took place in Thessaloniki (Greece) where the topic was the Balkan Pride Initiative which would gather activists from the Balkans region in a Balkan Pride

**Participation at the WAVE conference** - One of the members of the CURE Foundation participated at the 18<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference, 2016 in Berlin, Germany called "Step out! Europe - Unite to end violence against women and children ". This year's conference brought together a wide range of practitioners, members of political structures, representatives of state universities and experts of EU and the UN and discussed the pressing issues relating to violence against women and children across Europe, including effective measures that could prevent it and the status of women and racism in Europe. The event was attended by about 400 participants, mostly women who came from over 100 countries and who tried to take this opportunity to engage in a course of feminist discussion, exchange of best practices in the field work and exchange of ideas about the problem of violence against women and providing assistance services in Europe. The conference made a platform for discussion and interaction.

**Training for Peace building "PEACE IS NOT BUILT IN THE LIBRARY .."** - An activist from CURE Foundation team participated in October 2016 at a ten-day program in the field of peace-building in Ulcinj, which is organized by the Center for Nonviolent Action Sarajevo/ Belgrade. Working in a group of 20 participants of different sex and age structure from the territory of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Croatia contributed to the opening of topics which deeply touched upon the various segments of society. Through intense work, the participants had an opportunity to question, give a critical review of topics related to violence, understanding of conflict, dealing with the past, peace-building, discrimination and the connection between national and other identities.

## CURE PUBLIC REACTIONS

CURE Foundation has independently and as part of various networks in 2016 responded nine times on the violations of women's rights and has sent demands to amend laws in BiH, emphasizing:

- Women's Network of BiH forwarded a public statement saying that no laws in BiH define what are religious characteristics, and it is also evident from the speeches of the members of High Prosecutorial Trial Chamber that to them this conclusion applies primarily to the so-called. hijab (headscarf) worn by women. Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as a large number of citizens with voting rights have a reason to say that they are at the least astonished by such a decision of a state institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- "NO discrimination against maternal rights in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" - Association of Women for Women in cooperation with HUG Women of Trnovo, has launched a campaign of "NO discrimination against maternal rights in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", and public reactions were joined by the CURE Foundation in which we advocated for legislation that would solve the problem of uneven maternity benefits and the establishment of a domestic fund from which would carry out payments of maternity benefits.
- Women's Network BiH has forwarded a letter of support to the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, created by the Commission for Gender Equality of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly which is, at the proposal of the Sarajevo Open Center and the Agency for Gender Equality. The proposed Law on Amendments to the Law on the Council of Ministers, which stipulates that the composition of the Council of Ministers has to have at least 40% of both sexes, is headed into the parliamentary procedure.
- Public response of CURE Foundation to the decision of the Municipal Court in Sarajevo about the eviction of Ana Kovačna, the Bosnian sculptor.
- Statement regarding the attack on the Art Cinema Kriterion: "The prosecution must URGENTLY prosecute homophobic attacks" that took place on 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 against staff and visitors Art Cinema in Sarajevo.
- The Coalition for the fight against hate speech and hate crimes on the occasion of the incident of the attack on Bakira Hasečić that occurred on 05.07.2016. in Višegrad, the Coalition for the fight against hate speech and hate crimes issued a public statement in which they condemned the incident that happened in Višegrad where a couple of bullets were fired in Bakira's direction, close to her estate.
- The release of the Network for Peace Building following the verdict to Radovan Karadžić, which states that more than 20 years after the end of the war, we witness the verdict to the person who was on one of the most responsible political functions of the time. This judgment is a chance for all of us and the possibility of turning a new page for the BiH society, as well as for the entire region.
- CURE Foundation is forwarded to a public statement which strongly condemned physical and verbal bullying by the representative Rasim Smajić towards Sabina Čudić and Predrag Kojić in the Cantonal Assembly where decisions are made on issues of crucial importance for all citizens of the Sarajevo Canton. No matter to whom the violence is addressed, there is no justification for violence, and the violence has no place in the legislative institutions, violence has no place in those places in which decisions are made to improve the lives of citizens.
- Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina has forwarded a public statement condemning the verbal attack on Lejla Colak by the member of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mirza Džidić from Zenica who publicly, through social network Facebook, demanded

rape of Lejla Colak and he personally promised to "pay" to those persons who commit it, while Sabina Salković and Erna Potter Selimović called for "hitting her with a car", "gently pouring gasoline on her" and "burning her".

- Reaction to fylofascistic phenomena in our society - The latest example of this is marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Croat community of Herceg-Bosna, whose political and military leaders were sentenced at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for the joint criminal enterprise and war crimes committed by the armed forces and community. This anniversary is part of the continuing fascization of our society within which schools and streets are named after fascists, celebrating war criminals and are marked by events that are in the service of war inciting policies.

#### **AWARDS FOR CURE FOUNDATION TEAM MEMBERS**

*Activist Selma Hadžihalilović* was the winner of the prestigious Clyde Snow Award in 2016 for social justice as assigned by the Oklahoma University in the USA. Every two years, this award distinguishes persons or groups whose work contributes to the rehumanisation of victims whose human rights were violated, and this year they recognized the activism of Selma Hadžihalilović in promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls, the right to conscientious objection and the constant commitment and strengthening the visibility of socially marginalized groups . In March 2016, at the University of Oklahoma for her work in defending human rights of women she was awarded for life social engagement.

*Activist Jadranka Miličević* was awarded with the Peace Prize, as a part of the celebration of the International Human Rights Day, organized by the Peace Building Network and the Coalition for fighting against hate speech and hate crimes. Jadranka's activism and commitment to peace and tolerance and protection of women's rights is an inspiration to us all. The purpose of the awards was to recognize outstanding creative achievement in the promotion of tolerance. The emphasis was on working to achieve results in the processes of peace building.

#### **CURE PUBLICATIONS**

**Manual for working with children in primary and secondary schools which is aimed at preventing violence in intimate partner relationships and bullying, "GENDER EQUALITY AGAINST VIOLENCE IN YOUTH RELATIONSHIPS",** by the authors **Feda Mehmedović and Dajana Cvjetković**. The manual is designed to work with students in primary and secondary schools on issues of gender-based violence, violence in youth relationships and bullying.

Analysis "A view from a different angle: Textbook policies and policy analysis of the representation of stereotypes in textbooks of secondary schools in Canton Sarajevo", by the authors **Medina Mujić** and **Saša Knežević**. This research on stereotypes and prejudices in textbooks in Sarajevo Canton is made in order to create school textbooks that will work to promote equality.

CURE Foundation has launched an initiative which seeks to empower women activists and women active in politics to look at social and political issues as a whole from a woman's perspective. Within the project we published four advocacy platforms in which we analyzed the current situation and presented a woman's perspective. **The following advocacy platforms were created:**

***"Economic opportunities for women from small communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina"***, written by the professor **Marija Knežević**, through which we promote the economic empowerment of women in small communities and the change of traditional and stereotypical attitudes towards women.

***"The right to parenthood and parental rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina"*** by **Almina Satrovič** - women's rights and the right of women to parenthood are closely linked. The right of women to parenthood is in accordance with the right on free choices for our bodies and is the basis for the realization of all other women's rights.

***"Access to health care services and the right to health for women in Bosnia and Herzegovina"*** - written by **Tanja Mandić - Đokić** - Health services in BiH is unadjusted for any kind of diversity and inaccessible to the extent that the liability for the inability of the service is transferred to the service users. Users of the service are declared inadequate, instead of the health services being adapted to the needs of users. An effective health system includes the maximal usage of medical services that have better health outcomes, the maximum number of preventable diseases and the satisfaction of those who use the systems.

***"The feminist advocacy platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina"*** by **Masha Durkalić**, which offers answers to the question why it is important to be a part of feminist efforts and actively participate in all processes and at all levels of decision-making on the quality of life of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

***The publication "The war is not one gendered"*** which was created as part of the Peace with a woman's face and in which CURE Foundation participated, is dedicated to women who died in the war in BiH and contains authentic stories of 17 girls and women who were killed in the war. Stories that are presented in the book were created on the basis of interviews with members of the family or close friends of killed women and are divided into five chapters, based on the years and the way they were killed.

Activists of the CURE Foundation participated in the writing of the *Alternative CEDAW report 2013-2017.*, *Alternative report on the progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016*, and through the Initiative Women citizens for constitutional changes it was submitted to the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina on the constitutional reform process and the need of gendering the Constitution for the purpose of writing the EU report Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2016.

## CURE PRODUCTION

Through many years of work, we met a lot of young women who bring about positive social changes. In 2016, we created the video stories and interviews with them as bearers of positive social changes that have resisted patriarchy. Video stories and interviews can be viewed on [www.fondacijacure.org](http://www.fondacijacure.org) and the YouTube channel of CURE Foundation and shared and promoted through social networks using the hash tags #onemijenjajusvijet #budihrabra #budisvoja #agentica #fondacijacure.

## MEDIA VISIBILITY

In the period from January - December 2016, members of CURE Foundations had 296 media appearances, and registered approximately 30 hours in 25 different BH radio and TV media. In regards to printed media we documented 13 articles, TV and radio 81 appearance, and online 202 posts, but this is not the final number because we are not subscribed to any professional agency for media monitoring, so according to our possibilities we followed printed electronic and online clipping.

**Online platform** - One of the priorities in 2016 was to create more visibility to the web page of CURE ([www.fondacijacure.org](http://www.fondacijacure.org)). In 2016, published 118 texts. CURE web portal had 18.954 visits from various IP addresses, while we registered 39,917 page views. We published 118 texts ; another web site administered by CURE Foundation, the web portal of Women's network BiH, had 45.875 visits, 194.499 page views, and 237.961 hits, while we published 60 articles in BHS and 6 in English; Our YouTube channel had 3126 views on CURE social - advocacy documentary videos.

**Social media** - Facebook (FB) group of CURE Foundation/Fondacija CURE counts 2.950 members, FB Group PitchWise has 1800 members. Our PR team is posting on daily basis information of women's movement in B&H and in the world, information on activism, feminism, and LGBTIQ population, promotion of various events and activities in B&H and the region. We are proud to state that our FB page is the most numerous page in BiH, that is led by a non-governmental organization working on women's rights issues.

## **DIRECT AND INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF CURE FOUNDATION IN 2016**

We estimate that in 2016 we had about 117.350 indirect participants: We estimate that there were at least 30.000 persons who viewed our 296 media appearances (every post was viewed at least 100 times). Through our social media we had 7.922 indirect participants. On our web site we had visits from 64.830 persons, on the blog we had visits from 4.466 persons. There were 3.130 views on our YouTube channel. We shared our promo material to at least 5.000 persons. Through conferences, panels, workshops we were talking about our programs with at least 2.000 persons.

**Through our activities, indirect and direct channels, CURE Foundation has informed and educated over 4.130 participants.**

**BiH Women's advocacy actions:** 30 women politicians and women active in politics, 6 advocacy meetings (120 participants);

**Gender based violence: View from a different angle: Violence in youth relationships** - 2 FEM Camps (36 participants), 14 workshops in high schools(192 students), Meeting of the Network of young women activists (15 activists), 1 workshop with professors (22 participants), 2 focus groups (15 participants) and 1 round table(10 participants);

**Work with volunteers** - 8 meetings (15 participants);

**Gender and sex through the educational system** - 13 workshops in high schools (134 students);

**How to stop gender based violence** - Training for trainers (20 participants) and 6 artists, promotion of art work (150 participants);

**Creation of safe space for LBT\*Q women** - 2 workshops (25 participants);

**Legal empowerment of LGBTI persons in BiH** - 1 workshop (16 participants);

**Work with marginalized groups** - 10 workshops (31 child), 2 round tables (35 participants);

**Activists build peace** - 5 workshops (41 participants);

**SWAN Day** - performance (30 participants);

**PitchWise festival of women's arts and activism in BiH** - through the whole program there was 70 artists, 300 participants of PW festival and around 600 participants at concerts and exhibitions;

**Marking of the International day of Women** - Human library and the exhibition of art work by LBTQ women (40 participants);

**IDAHOT month of equality** - Human library (15 participants);

**Using the process of EU integrations in improving the position of LGBT rights on Western Balkans** - 4 workshops for LGBTI persons (80 participants);

**Initiative Women citizens for constitutional changes** - 1 conference (74 persons), 4 round table, 3 meetings (36 members and 273 supporters);

**Peace with a woman's face** - 2 meetings (25 participants), street action (20 participants);

**Women's network BiH** - 1 conference (36 participants);

**Street actions** - March for 8<sup>th</sup> of March (50 participants), 16 days of activism (30 participants), International day of persons with disability (30 participants), Day of remembrance of women victims of war (30 participants), International day against violence against women (30 participants), International human rights day (100 participants);

**Other CURE activities- *meeting*** with the American head of the Tactical mission to Mars - Dr. Zainab Nagin Cox - (20 participants), Public forum (30 participants and 13 women politicians), distribution of New Year gifts (70 children), distribution of lunch boxes for members of the march(1000 packages);

**CURE informal Network of young women activists** - 150 participants;

**Visits to CURE Foundation** - 70 persons.

***DONORS:***

Kvinna till Kvinna; Global Fund for Women; Die Feministische Friedensorganisation CFD; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; OAK Foundation, Trag Foundation, Heart and Hand Fund; Heinrich Böll Stiftung BiH; ISCOS Emilia Romagna - The Trade Unions Institute for Development Co-operation; ASTRAEA - Lesbian Foundation for Justice; Municipality Centar Sarajevo; American Embassy Sarajevo, Državno tajništvo SAD, Austrian Embassy, Westminster Foundation; Mediterranean Women's Fund.