

CURE Foundation

Violence against women in BiH

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<http://www.fondacijacure.org>

About CURE Foundation

Vision :

- **CURE Foundation advocates for gender equality and for a society without patriarchal norms which does not tolerate violence and discrimination and where women are recognized as the founders and responsible bearers of positive social changes and equally take part in decision-making processes in the society.**



Mission:

- **CURE Foundation works on the support, capacity building and creation of secure environments for the new generation of activists and feminists and for their responsible active participation in making positive social changes through educational programs, research, local and regional networking, engaged arts and activism and the building of an inclusive women's movement "**

Young women –agents of positive change

- In 2013 CURE Foundation implemented the project entitled „Young women-agents of positive change“;
- The project was implemented in BiH, Serbia and Croatia;
- The activities in the project were trainings, study visits, small grants for participants of the project, a regional conference for young women/new generation of activists and feminists;
- The topic of the trainings in all three countries were women’s human rights, activism, violence against women, types of violence, prevention, etc.
- The goal of the trainings and other activities was to empower and educate young women so they get motivated and active in their local communities in regards to women’s human rights, violence against women, prevention, etc.

Young women –agents of positive change

- During project implementation there were 9 grants given to participants in all three countries
- The women who received the grants organized street actions, round tables, trainings, etc. in their local communities on the topic of women's human rights.
- The topics discussed through project activities were:
 - Violence against women/Gender based violence;
 - Women's human rights;
 - Women's workers rights;





Regional conference

- The conference was titled “Sustainable strategy for young leaders, feminists and activists”. It was a conference for 90 young women from B&H, Croatia and Serbia.
- The conference was organized in the period from 10th to 11th of September 2013.
- The conference was organized for young women who were participants of the project in all three countries, and the topics discussed were:
 - Women’s movement in the Balkans;

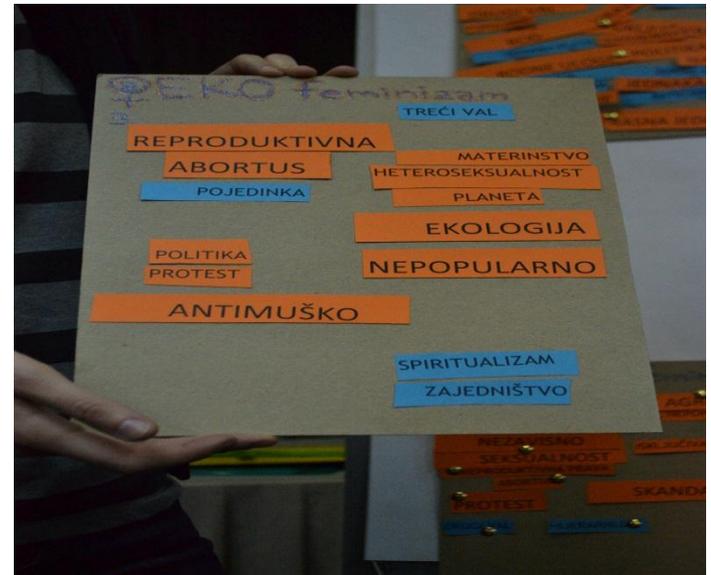
Regional conference

- Feminist activism in the post feminist era;
- Economic independence in the feminist movement;
- Problems young women face in the society and the focuses of work of the new generation of feminists and activists;
- The participants of the conference agreed that the patriarchy is the cause of the unequal position of women in

Regional conference

- Other issues women face are: unemployment, discrimination, violence against women, trafficking, etc.
- The conclusion of the conference is that women need to get more involved and start lobbying and advocating for the implementation of legal mechanisms which will regulate women's human rights in BiH and the region.





Regional conference in Sarajevo



Prevalence and the characteristics of violence against women in BiH

- The research of the prevalence of violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was initiated by the Agency for Gender Equality BiH, in cooperation with the Gender Centre of Republika Srpska (RS) and the Gender Centre of the Federation BiH (FBiH) and with support from UNFPA and UN Women.
- Violence against women has been defined in accordance with the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Istanbul, 11th May.
- According to the same convention **domestic violence means all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit between former or current spouses or partners.**

Prevalence (ct'd.)

- The goal of the research was to gain insight into: the prevalence of different forms of violence against women, both domestic and outside the household;
- To identify the main characteristics of different forms of violence against women;
- To identify key factors that influence violence against women.

Prevalence (ct'd.)

- According to the research findings, a little less than half of the number of women experienced violence in their lifetime
- 47,2%in FBiH, 47,3 in RS.
- Perpetrators of violence against women are most often former or current partners.
- Young women are more exposed to violence than older women.

Why do women stay in violent relationships?

- Women are not financially independent
- 50,47% of women are unemployed
- Women do not have their own properties and are dependant on their partners
- Women do not have the confidence in the legal system
- Women believe it is their fault and that they deserve the violence

Why do women stay in violent relationships? (2)

- Deep rooted stereotypical attitudes that domestic violence is a private matter
- Only physical violence with visible injuries is recognized by the institutions – it is more visible
- Emotional, psychological and economic abuse is not that visible nor recognized
- Sexual violence is rarely reported, and it is questioned by the authorities – survivors are blamed

Recommendations

- BiH shall develop a unified database on all forms of violence against women.
- BiH shall provide institutional support for the activities of NGOs in providing assistance and support to women survivors of violence;
- BiH shall ensure that all institutions offer protection of women from violence, especially the Center for Social work and the police; the public prosecutors and judges have to have a continuant access and an obligation to attend gender-sensitive education regarding the problem of violence against women.

Recommendations

- BiH shall harmonize entity laws on protection against domestic violence and ensure that domestic violence cases are prosecuted in criminal proceeding.

Activities of CURE Foundation regarding the topic of violence against women

- Education of young women on the topics of violence, types of violence, how to recognize violence, prevention, etc.
- Workshops in high schools in different cities in BiH on the topic of gender based violence
- Street actions where we distribute flyers and promo materials with statistic data on violence against women (Global campaign 16 days of activism)
- Lobbying and advocating for the betterment of legislative when it comes to gender based violence



Thank you for your attention!

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