




**Women's Human Rights Training Institute- New perspectives for Continuous Capacity Building and Strategic Litigation**

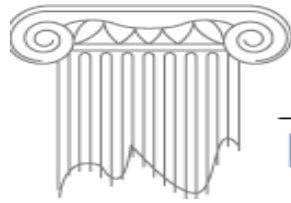
***Genoveva Tisheva- Bern, 15- 16 October 2015***

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- *“ A lot of my ideas and principles regarding law and equity were influenced in a positive manner by what I have learned or experienced during WHRTI which has contributed to my personal development and education. ”*



*“It was a university for me”*

*“ Since now I feel I have more profound knowledge in the area of women’s rights, and my professional activity will always be performed through the prism of gender equality.”*



# WOMEN'S

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human rights training institute

**The Institute** - a unique initiative, initially founded by the three partners in 2004, the first-of-its-kind programme aimed at building and developing the capacity of young lawyers from Central and Eastern European and the Newly Independent States (CEE/NIS) for litigation on :

**violence against women, reproductive rights, employment discrimination**


is expanding in terms of issues covered and geographical areas.

- The programme implemented by the **Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation /BGRF/- Sofia**, in partnership with the **Center for Reproductive Rights /CRR/** and the **Network of East- West Women /NEWW/** is continuously attracting new partners- like ECPI- Romania, WG on Women and ESCR, the AHR from Minnesota, AIRE Centre.
- The Institute has already successfully completed four rounds: WHRTI 2004-2006, WHRTI 2007-2009, WHRTI 2009-2011 and WHRTI 2011-2013 and trained more than 80 lawyers. A Fifth round is currently under completion with a new group of 25 lawyers. Over 20 countries were represented up to now.

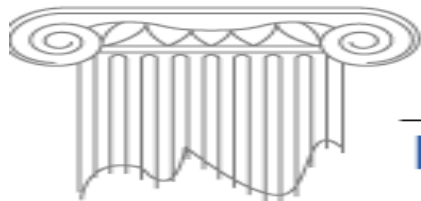


The WHRTI provided up to now:

- advanced and in-depth knowledge on women's human rights protection in the 3 thematic fields, with focus also on intersectionalities and gender stereotypes
- practical skills and development of strategic litigation through the use of regional fora as the ECtHR, also the Optional Protocol to CEDAW on VAW and RR
- Practical skills for using the EU standards and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.



Alumnae of the Institute include over 80 lawyers from **Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland (observer), Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Currently- Slovenia is represented, and we have an observer from Zimbabwe.**



# WOMEN'S

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- Examples of international litigation undertaken by fellows through the support of the BGRF and of the WHRTI : *V.K. v. Bulgaria, Jallow v. Bulgaria, V.P. P. v. Bulgaria, Carreno v. Spain*/ all under the OP CEDAW/. And also *D.J. v. Croatia, A. v. Croatia, R. R. v. Poland, Meirelles v. Bulgaria, C.Z. v. Bulgaria*, before the ECtHR in Strasbourg.
- We propose our cooperation under the WHRTI as a *sui generis acquis* in the field of capacity building for access to justice for women.

## *Networking and Alliance building*

- Establishing the Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based violence - the first registered union of women's NGOs in Bulgaria, in existence since 2009
- The Alliance established in 2011 the Academy for Prevention of Violence- a training institution for professionals dealing with VAW and violence against children
- Importance of initiatives of civil society and of international partnerships for education and capacity building, linking with advocacy
- Linking educational initiatives of CSO with universities



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ИСТАНБУЛСКАТА КОНВЕНЦИЯ СЕГА!



**THANK YOU !**