



Newsletter – July 2005

In the following newsletter, we will be presenting both European and International V-Day news followed by current global news stories concerning violence against women.

V-Day Europe News

Jour V in Brussels – April 2005

On the 19th April 2005, the very first **European Jour V** took place. It included a unique European benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues* in Brussels at the prestigious Flagey and was a huge success, making 42,780 Euros for 4 beneficiary organisations: Solidarités et Refuges Femmes Battues asbl, Garance asbl, the Rape Crisis Network Europe and The Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI, V-Day 2005 Spotlight).

The performance brought together 38 actresses, singers, politicians and sportswomen from 9 European countries all onto one stage. At the end of the show, Playwright and V-Day Founder Eve Ensler, along with the V-Day Europe co-founders Tamsin Larby and Marie Cécile Renauld, honoured three very special women for their immense hard work and determination; **Yanar Mohammed**, Chairperson and founder of the OWFI, **Eliza Moussaeva**, head of the regional branch of The Human Rights Organization Memorial in Nazran, Ingushetia and **Lissy Gröner MEP**, (Socialist Group) member of the Committee of Women's Rights and Gender Equality at the European Parliament.

Our partners for this event included: La Communauté Française de Belgique, Institut de l'Égalité des Chances, La Commune d'Ixelles, Amnesty International, the European Women's Lobby (EWL), MamaCash, *ELLE* Belgium, La première, Le Soir, Asticus Europe, Just Campagne, Lefranc Ferrant, Pierre Marcolini, Dior, Toni&Guy, Ruinart, A. Mouchart, Théâtre de la Toison d'Or and Fnac. We would like to thank each and every one of our partners for making this event possible.

For more info: info@vdayeurope.org

V-Day Europe
info@vdayeurope.org
www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



V-Workshop in Brussels – April 2005

The European benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues* concluded a two-day workshop led by Eve Ensler and organised by the V-Day Europe team in Brussels on 18th and 19th April 2005.

This workshop gathered activists from more than 18 European countries and gave them the opportunity to meet and share ideas on ways to put an end to violence against women. They also had the opportunity to discuss their V-Day productions with Eve Ensler.

The Tuesday morning session was a roundtable of activists: Colette de Troy (European Women's Lobby), Françoise Guillitte (Amnesty International) and Tamsin Larby (V-Day Europe co-founder) shared their experiences of advocacy work for women's issues on a European level. Ingrid Bellander Todino (Daphne Programme) presented the European Commission's Daphne Programme.

Special guests **Yanar Mohammed** (Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq) and **Eliza Moussaeva** (head of the regional branch of The Human Rights Organisation Memorial in Nazran, Ingushetia) talked about the situation for women during war in Iraq and Chechnya. Finally, Sophie Hoffenberg and Claude Boucher (Platform against Human Trafficking) presented their campaign against trafficking.

For info, contact info@vdayeurope.org

V-Day 2005 Spotlight campaign- Women of Iraq under siege

Since the US occupation and regime change in Iraq, Iraqi women have lost more freedom than they have gained. Following incidents of rape and abduction by organised gangs, fear of sexual violence in Baghdad has rapidly increased. Armed conservative religious groups have pressurised women and girls to wear the veil under the threat of acid attacks or abduction. The situation in Iraq has become remarkably difficult for women and girls and despite hostile treatment and even death threats, there are numerous women's groups fighting for the fundamental right to women's representation and protection. As part of the V-Day spotlight campaign this year we have been supporting **OWFI**, The Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq. A percentage of all proceeds from all V-

V-Day Europe
info@vdayeurope.org
www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



Days worldwide has been donated to this cause.

V-Season Roundup 2005

During V-Season 2005, 1120 groups organised 2500 V-Day Benefit productions of *The Vagina Monologues* over the course of the three months. These V-Day benefit events were presented by volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls, raising over 4 million dollars for organisations and charities around the world.

V-Days took place all over Europe- in universities, in community groups, in political groups, in theatre groups, women's groups, they took place in France, Spain, Lithuania, Uzbekistan, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Finland, in the Czech Republic etc.

More V-Days take place in the UK than anywhere else in the world outside of North America. This year, we estimate that over 70 V-Day events took place in the UK, raising an astounding £83,000 for refuges, help lines, crisis centres and many other causes.

A performance of *The Vagina Monologues* took place this year at the prestigious Sydney Opera House, Australia on the 16th February. Celebrities from all over Australia took part in this intimate performance.

A year of firsts

The first Vagina Friendly President hosted a V-Day and was publicly recognised in Iceland.

Wabash Community College USA was the first men's college to have a V-Day.

The V-Day secretariat opened in Cairo, Egypt to move V-Day throughout Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

This year, the V-Day movement was born in Uganda, Ecuador, Taiwan and Uzbekistan and it kept going strong in 76 countries worldwide.

Thanks to these people, we are one step closer to making changes for the women of Iraq and all our campaigns for women worldwide.

V-Day Europe
info@vdayeurope.org
www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



V-Day Europe 2006

Launch of 2006 Campaign

On the 4th October 2005, there will be a special Cheque Presenting Ceremony held in the European Parliament in Brussels, the heart of the European Union. At this ceremony, hosted by Lissy Gröner (MEP), the proceeds raised at **Jour V Brussels** in April will be presented to our four beneficiary organisations, **Solidarités et Refuges Femmes Battues asbl**, **Garance asbl**, **Rape Crisis Network Europe** and our Spotlight Organisation **OWFI** (The Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq)

For info: info@vdayeurope.org

V-Season 2006 – Plans

Serbia

Another V-Day Gala Performance will be taking place in Serbia in 2006, organised by the Anti Trafficking Centre in Belgrade.

Contact

Sandra (Serbia) atc@beotel.yu

Jelena (UK) jelenadjordj@yahoo.com

Finland

Apart from the multilingual V-Day in Helsinki, 2006, a V-Day exhibition will be organised from February 13 to March 12 2006 in Helsinki, gathering diverse artists around the issue of violence against women.

Info: vdayhelsinki2006@yahoo.co.uk

Do you have any plans for V-Day 2006 ? Please let us know so you can be in our next newsletter !

info@vdayeurope.org

V-Day Europe
info@vdayeurope.org
www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



V-Season 2006- Organise your own V-Day

V- Season lasts from 1st February to 8th March every year.

If you would like to put on a benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues*, you will be able to sign up from September!

Once you have registered you will receive a script and an information pack to help you with your production.

It is not only a fun and inspirational experience, but you will also be raising vital funds for charities that work to prevent violence against women!

Sign up from September at

vday.org/signup

V-Day Europe
info@vdayeurope.org
www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



Roundup of International and European news

First Daphne Conference -3rd June 2005 in Brussels

The first Daphne conference was organised in Brussels on 3rd June 2005 to gather project coordinators of all current Daphne funded projects. Speakers included Ute Marschner (Daphne Programme financial advisor), Olivier de Bribosia (Transtec Executive Director), June Kane (Expert on the Daphne programme) and Roland Mayerl (Fonder of the Daphne Toolkit).

V-Day Europe representative Emilie Danel attended this conference.

The Daphne Programme was created in 1997 by the European Commission to fund projects against violence against women and children. This year 59 projects are being funded, including the 2005 V-Day Europe project.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm or www.daphne-toolkit.org

Major Conventions by European Council

The European Council's Ministers Committee adopted three major conventions concerning the fight against terrorism and trafficking in human beings.

<http://www.neww.org.pl/en.php/news/news/1.html?&nw=1232&re=2>

New Family Law in Serbia

In Serbia, a new Family Law, which introduces protective measures for victims of domestic violence, has come into force as of 1st July 2005.

<http://www.stopvaw.org/31May20053.html>

New Turkish Penal Code enters into force

The new Turkish penal code was put into force on 1st July 2005. It contains a wide range of new amendments improving sexual equality and measures against violence against women.

<http://www.feminist.org/news/newsbyte/uswirestory.asp?id=9071>

Japanese Educational Minister Nariaki Nakayama denies existence of comfort women

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) strongly condemned Japanese Educational Minister Nariaki Nakayama for his claims that "comfort women" for the

V-Day Europe
info@vdayeurope.org
www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



Japanese army never existed.

http://english.people.com.cn/200506/17/eng20050617_190684.html

[Afghanistan: Women Still under Attack](#)

Amnesty International releases a report highlighting the failure of Afghan authorities to protect women from violence.

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engasa110072005>

[Brazil trying to stop sex slavery](#)

Brazil is on a mission to end its status as Latin America's largest supplier of sex slaves. In recent months the government has joined international sting operations, passed a new law and launched a media campaign.

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/2342/context/cover/>

[Members of Congress in the USA reassert their commitment to ending violence against women](#)

A group of senators introduced legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The VAWA of 2005 also introduces the sexual Assault Services Act.

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=48568>

[Domestic violence in Nigeria](#)

Amnesty International has published a report "*Nigeria: unheard voices – violence against women in the family*" on domestic violence in Nigeria

In Nigeria, 2 out of 3 women are victims of physical, sexual and psychological violence in the family without any government intervention.

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engaf440042005> or www.amnesty.org

If you would like to unsubscribe from the V-Day newsletter mailing list, please contact us at info@vdayeurope.org

V-Day Europe
info@vdayeurope.org
www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)