



Newsletter – September 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

Launch of 2006 Campaign

On 4 October 2005, a special Cheque giving presentation will be 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 pour 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

Our partners for the Jour V event included: La Communauté Française de Belgique, Institut pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, 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, IdeB, 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.

New Website www.vdayeurope.org

We are delighted to announce that our website has been re-designed, updated and uploaded. Our old features are still available alongside several new additions such as links to other V-Day Europe websites (information available in Icelandic, Polish and Lithuanian) and a brand new mailing list.

A Spanish version of the site is currently being developed which will be yet another new addition to the site. The website is already available in English, French and partly in German.

You can visit the site at
www.vdayeurope.org

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Let us know what you think!

V-Day Europe Campaign for the protection of the Daphne Programme

V-Day Europe supports Lissy Gröner MEP, member of the Women's Rights Committee in her campaign against the merging of the Daphne Programme with an Anti-drug programme and calls for the maintenance of the Daphne Programme against violence against women.

A decision of merging these two programmes could have serious implications for the work against violence against women both in the European institutions and for grass roots projects like ours that benefit from the Daphne programme.

We believe that the Daphne Programme is an essential tool to promote the work against violence against women and children and to encourage groups to develop partnerships and projects to stop this violence.

For more information, contact:

Lissy Gröner MEP: lgroener@europarl.eu.int

or info@vdayeurope.org

V-Day launch of the Karama Program and the Opening of Bayat Hawa, the First Safe House for Women in Cairo

On July 17 2005, V-Day launched the Karama Program, envisioned by V-Day Special Representative, Hibaq Osman, in Cairo, Egypt. Karama, the Arabic word for "dignity," is a partnership with nine countries of the Middle East and North Africa: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Sudan. Through women's organisations and inter-regional agencies such as the Arab League and the African Union, Karama will bring together women, men, governments, activists and artists to examine the impact violence makes on women's health, education, and economics, and to come up with campaigns at the national, regional, and international levels to end violence against women, tailored to the cultural realities of the target country. Headquartered in Cairo, Karama will work closely with organisations working in different sectors and on different issues in each society, such as education, health, religion, art, economics, and policy.

V-Day's staff attended the launch and activities in Cairo including Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler, Executive Director Jerri Lynn Fields and V-Day Europe representative Marie Cécile Renaud. As part of the launch, V-Day met with an NGO

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roundtable of national and regional partners, donors, and women leaders representing five of the nine affiliated countries across the region. The attendees included: Nancy Bakir, Chief of the Social Affairs in the Arab League; Fahima Hashim of Sudan; Afaf Jabiri of Jordan; Rugia Makki Arab Women's Investors Association; Nadine Abu Zaki of Lebanon, and numerous activists from NGOs in Egypt. Karama's website will launch in late August.

More information: <http://www.vday.org/contents/vday/press/release/0508171>

V-Day Europe 2006

V-Season 2006 – Plans

Serbia

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

Contact

Sandra Ljubinkovic (Serbia) atc@beotel.yu

Jelena Djordjevic (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

Frankfurt

V-Day Frankfurt will take place on 4 and 5 of March 2006 in Frankfurt.

Contact: vday@traceygrey.com

Another major event will take place in Frankfurt at the initiative of Tracey Grey, our German V-Day partner: a bread bag campaign against violence against women will also be organised in cooperation with the Women's Shelter in Frankfurt.

This campaign is planned for the first 2 weeks of V-Season. The group intends to distribute ca. 10 000 bread bags in those 14 days and have a big launch for TV and press at one of the bakeries on the first day.

The V-Day cast will also take part in the campaign.

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Contact: vday@traceygrey.com

More information about the bread bag campaigns in Germany:

<http://www.vdayeurope.org/events.htm>

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-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 the end of September at

vday.org/signup

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Roundup of International and European news

Mexico: Truth and justice for the murdered and abducted women of Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua (V-Day Spotlight 2004)

At a meeting with Governor Reyes Baeza and the Prosecutor Patrizia Gonzalez, Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Khan welcomed the willingness of the State government to address the cases of killings of women. However Ms Khan expressed disappointment at the lack of concrete action and the limited advances in many cases making it difficult for families to have confidence in the process.

<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGAMR410302005>

UK: FEM 05: 5 November 2005, University of Sheffield Union of Students, Western Bank, Sheffield. S10 2TG

FEM 05 will feature inspiring talks and workshops by leading women's rights organisations and activists. There will be a particular focus on: 1) Violence Against Women 2) Multiple Identities 3) Feminism 4) Women in the Workplace. FEM 05 will run parallel to an evening-based event - FemFest - celebrating female art and music.

<http://www.femconferences.org.uk/>

Finland: New guidebook to help migrant women victims of violence

MONIKA, which offers and develops services for immigrant women and children who have experienced domestic violence in Finland, has compiled a guidebook for social and health care professionals explaining the many forms of violence and how to recognise them as well as legislation and crucial basic and special services.

<http://virtual.finland.fi/stt/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=9709&group=General>

Germany: Fair-Sex: Campaign against women trafficking

A campaign against sex trafficking targeting clients at the occasion of the football worldwide championship 2006 in Germany is being launched in Frankfurt.

www.fair-sex.info

Belgium: NGOs joins Amnesty International to call against domestic violence

Amnesty International and other Belgian organisation such as Garance asbl are urging the Belgian authorities to take action against domestic violence and propose principles and

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priorities.

<http://www.amnestyinternational.be/doc/article5638.html>

France: New Campaign against sex trafficking in Paris

The Platform against trafficking in human beings has launched a new poster campaign against sex trafficking: “Esclaves à vendre”

To see the poster and for more information

http://busdesfemmes.free.fr/modules/news/article.php?item_id=48
plateformecontrelaite@yahoo.fr

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