# The HRSI HERAL

## **Human RightS Initiative**

## January/February



### Annual production of The Vagina Monologues at CEU

HRSI invited the CEU community for the 8th performance of Eve Ensler's award-winning play "The Vagina Monologues", staged in the Auditorium on February 25/26. Based on interviews with more than 200 women, the piece celebrates women's sexuality and strength with humor and grace and raises awareness about the issue of violence against women and efforts to end it.

Through the event, and through selling dozens of vagina cupcakes, HRSI raised around 295 000 HUF. All proceeds are donated to Let's Help Refugees Together, a grassroots organization that develops specific activities for refugee women and girls.



Cast | Hair, Zsofia Suba | The Flood, Marja Green | The Vagina Workshop, Freyja Jonudottir Barkardottir | Vagina Happy Fact, Hanna Manoilenko | They Beat The Girl Out Of My Boy... Or So They Tried, Simona Gamonte, Zsofia Suba, Moniek van den Boogaard, Hanna Manoilenko, Laura Marie | Because He Liked To Look At It, Joanne Wood | Not-So-Happy Fact, Tamara Stupalova | My Angry Vagina, Giavana Margo | My Vagina Was My Village, Moniek van den Boogard | My Short Skirt, Danielle Breslin, Sydney Sheedy | The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could, Simona Gamonte | Reclaiming Cunt | Giavana Margo | Six-Year Old Girl, Tamara Stupalova, Marja Green| The Woman Who Loved To Make Vaginas Happy, Andrina Hargrave | I Was There In The Room, Lauren Apple | My Revolution Begins In The Body, Ursula Sanchez | Rise Dance Disrupt, Nilofer Khan Habibullah | Narrator, Tamara Stupalova.



#### About V-Day

V-Day is a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues" and other artistic works. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sex slavery.

Fundraising Workshop As part of HRSI's Capacity Building Program, on March 5 a one-day workshop about fundraising for NGOs was organized. It was open for 20 CEU students interested in learning about practical fundraising methods as well as people already working for civil society organizations and wishing to boost their fundraising potential.

The workshop was led by Agnes Doka, a communications consultant with 20 years of experience in public relations and capacity building. She has worked as a trainer, election observer and press officer of international missions in 20 elections in the Balkans, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.





LGBT History Month On the occasion of LGBT History Month in February, Háttér Society and Labrisz Lesbian Association in cooperation with Human RightS Initiative invited the CEU community to two evenings of movies and discussion. On February 2 and February 3, there were screenings of the documentaries "Rainbow Song", "LGBT Monuments" and "Elderly Finnish LGBT", each followed by discussions with Bill Schiller, a Swedish LGBT activist from the civic organization International Lesbian and Gay Cultural Network.

#### Exhibition/Panel Discussion: "Azerbaijan -Doubling Down on Repression" Azerbaijan,

Europe's oil-rich "strategic partner," has taken a great leap backwards in its already dire human rights record. With almost a hundred political prisoners – nearly twice as many as in Russia – the country has emerged as the region's worst jailer of dissident voices.

Prague-based NGO People in Need launched an exhibition highlighting ten cases of people who have been imprisoned for exercising their fundamental civil and political rights and standing up for democratic values. Among them there are human rights defenders, journalists, and political activists. Two CEU alumni, Ilgar Mammadov and Rashadat Akhundov, were among those who ended up in prison for exercising their fundamental civil and political rights. However, recently we found out that Rashadat Akhundov was released.

From February 8 to February 15, Human RightS Initiative hosted the exhibition at CEU. The stories of political prisoners in Azerbaijan were displayed in the Octagon and Laptop Area of Nador 9.

Opening the exhibition, HRSI organized a panel discussion with Necmin Kamilsoy, civic activist and Emin Huseynov, human rights defender, who shared their perspective on the possible ways of democracy and human rights development in Azerbaijan.

#### **Menstruation campaign:**

**Menstruation and Health | Menstrual hygienic products and Environment** With its monthly
Menstrual Hygiene Day campaigns, *HRSI* is addressing
menstruation from a human rights perspective by bringing
different dimensions of this subject to the CEU community's
attention. The focus of the third teaser campaign in January
was menstruation and health. It looked into the functions of
menstruation as well as causes and consequences of
irregularities that might occur. The fourth teaser campaign,
launched in February, drew the attention to the impact of
different menstrual hygienic products on the environment and
to alternatives to tampons and pads.

Find the posters and more information at:

https://hrsi.ceu.edu/news/2016-01-21/menstruation-and-health-teaser-campaign-iii

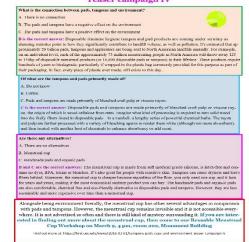
https://hrsi.ceu.edu/news/2016-03-01/tampons-pads-cups-and-environment-teaser-campaign-iv

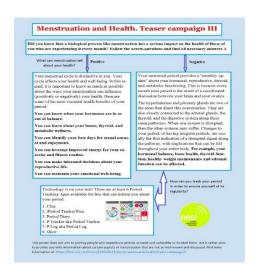
#### Clothing Donation Drive for Let's Knitwork!

Between February 10 and February 21, *HRSI* organized a donation drive for *Let's Knitwork!* The collected donations were used for the *Let's Knitwork!* Charity Swap and Auction on February 27, the proceeds of which were offered to a brand new kindergarten in Beregszasz (Ukraine) for the purpose of equipping and sprucing up its garden and playground.



#### Tampons, pads, cups and Environment Teaser campaign IV





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Nador street, 9, Faculty Tower, 1st floor, passage way to OSF/Oktober 6 building

