

STOP VIOLENCE

NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

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WOMEN'S LAW CENTER LAUNCHED THE REPORT ON MONITORING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS. LEARN ABOUT THE MANNER THE STATE PROTECTS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



The results of the Court Proceedings Monitoring Program revealed that some professionals from the justice sector understand the specific nature of hearing cases of domestic violence, sexual violence and trafficking in human beings, as well as the societal impact of these crimes. However, there are still many issues that need to be improved, both at legislative and attitudinal level, as explained in the Report on **Monitoring of Court Proceedings in Cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Trafficking in Human Beings**, launched by the Women's Law Centre on 20 September 2018.

The Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Moldova, Mr. Martin McDowell, mentioned during the kick-off event that domestic violence is a barrier obstructing the full participation of women in the social and economic life of the country. 'It is essential that victims have access to a fair, efficient and

transparent justice system that would respond promptly to cases of violence against women.'

As for the 158 criminal, contravention and civil cases monitored in the Chisinau Court of Appeals and the Chisinau District Court, the Report revealed a number of peculiarities in the conduct of court hearings and technical difficulties. 'None of the court premises included in the monitoring program have an adequate structure and the technical conditions are inappropriate; it is a usual thing for court hearings not to start on time; public access to court hearings is limited, and hearings are usually held in the judges' offices,' stated the Report.

'We are sorry that the monitoring went very fast. We will analyse the statements at the level of each monitored court and we will draw up an action plan for implementing recommen-



dations, bridging the gaps and establishing a good cooperation for the future,' said Alexandru Gheorghies, Member of the Superior Council of Magistracy.

The Report also stated that most victims experienced a discriminating attitude compared to the perpetrator; professionals treat them based on a stereotyped approach; they don't always benefit of legal aid during trials, as opposite to the perpetrators who availed of defense lawyers' services in the absolute majority of the cases.

According to Cheryl Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of Global Rights for Women from USA, such activities take place periodically in Minnesota too, where multiple legal amendments were implemented thanks to the monitoring. 'We hope that changes will be also made in the

Moldovan justice system – changes that will better protect violence victims and will raise the responsibility of those that are supposed to protect victims' rights'.

Legal amendments are needed for the victim to be able to obtain assistance, protection, rehabilitation and recovery that is commensurable with the damage caused by the acts of violence. 'The professionals from the justice system are encouraged to organise their activity in a way that puts first the safety of victims and to be ready to apply deterrent measures towards perpetrators, taking into account victims' vulnerability, legal provisions and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights,' stated Mr. Iurie Perevoznic, national coordinator and author of the Report.

The Report draws the attention of national authorities to the areas that need strengthening. It also includes a set of proposed legal amendment, as well as recommendations. The findings and conclusions discussed during the event will be used further in the training of police officers, judges and prosecutors, as well as to improve the relevant legal framework in force.

'The Monitoring Program allowed us identify some positive aspects in the attitude of judges to victims, but also gaps that obstruct

free access to justice for the victims of crimes subjected to monitoring. We hope that the recommendations from the Monitoring Report will help improve the quality of judicial examination of cases and adjust accordingly the legal framework,' mentioned Natalia Vilcu, Executive Director of Women's Law Centre.

Court proceedings monitoring took place during May 2017 – February 2018 and was carried out by the Women's Law Centre and Global Rights for Women from USA, in partnership with the Superior Council of Magistracy and with the support of the Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Section of the US Embassy in Moldova. This activity is part of 'Strengthening Capacities of Prosecution and Judicial Response to Domestic Violence in Moldova' Project, supported by the US Embassy in Moldova and implemented by the Women's Law Centre.



DOCTORS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WILL RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY TO CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



People affected by domestic violence will benefit of improved services provided by doctors and social workers. These professionals will intervene in a more efficient manner to identify, refer and solve violence cases based on new guidelines that were revised and adapted to the victim-centred approach and victims' right to live a life free of violence.

The sectorial guidelines that are going to be approved by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection were developed on the basis of the Global Standards and Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence (ESGs) and represent an important step towards aligning Government's response to this phenomenon in line with international standards and best practices in the field.

'We need to develop a sustainable system to help domestic violence victims. Similar guidelines are adapted in a number of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and are part of the UNFPA global effort to prevent and combat gender-based violence,' said Nurgul Kinderbaeva, Gender Program Specialist, UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

It became imperative to revise the guidelines because of the legal amendments adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova over the last years, once the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was approved.

'It was necessary to develop the guidelines following the implementation of the new law the Parliament adopted in July 2016. They aim at improving the quality of doctors' and social workers' response in cases of domestic violence. The guidelines were reviewed and adapted based on the victim-centred approach and their right to a life free of violence,' said Natalia Vilcu, Executive Director of Women's Law Centre.

The event, aimed at presentation and public discussion of guidelines, was organised by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MHLSP) in partnership with Women's Law Centre, with the support of United Nations Reproductive Health and Rights Agency (UNFPA).

JOURNALISTS LEARNED TO REFLECT PROFESSIONALLY CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Domestic violence and the role of journalists in covering correctly this issue in the media was the main topic of discussion during the training ‘Domestic Violence – Sensation vs. Fairness’, conducted during **12-13 July** by the **Women’s Law Centre** in collaboration with the **Independent Journalism Center**.

The event was attended by 16 Moldovan journalists from printed and online media, who have developed their skills to write about domestic violence. The purpose of the training was to strengthen journalists’ skills to properly get informed and present fairly the abuse cases to the public.

Eleonora Grosu, Program Coordinator at the Women’s Law Centre (WLC), said that over the years, WLC made a lot of efforts to help victims of domestic violence overcome the problems they encounter. ‘However, for some time now, we understood that we also need journalists’ help in order to make sure that this topic is fairly discussed in the media, without sensationalism and shocking titles. We are confident that such a reflection of abuse cases would also contribute to

changing the way the society perceives this phenomenon.’

Over the two days of training, participants analysed the issue and learned what is behind cases of physical, psychological or emotional abuse; they learned how to communicate with the victim, but also with the perpetrator, and practiced writing materials about domestic violence. The discussions also focused on stereotypes and gender inequality, which often generate domestic violence.

The expert **Alina Radu**, Director of Ziarul de Garda (ZdG) weekly, acknowledged that journalists’ mission is complicated, as they need to raise both the authorities’ and the society’s awareness of this issue. In the opinion of ZdG Director, a journalist has the



duty to be aware of the existing problem and, using the available means, must help decrease violence. *'All they have to do is write and quote the sources correctly, come back to this topic once in a while and ensure the anonymity of the victims, if the latter request it. This is what responsible and high-quality journalism means'*, emphasised Alina Radu.

With the support of **Lidia Gorceag**, psychologist at the Centre for Assistance and Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence, participants developed the socio-psychological profile of a victim and a perpetrator, trying to understand the reasons that make the perpetrator violent, but also the circumstances that make the victim accept the abuse. *'It is proven that aggression is genetic. Therefore, it depends on your environment if this gene manifests itself or not. Abused women have either been subjected to or witnessed violence in their childhood,'* said Lidia Gorceag.

WLC lawyer **Arina Turcan** highlighted the legal aspects of domestic

violence, specifying the steps that victims should take to obtain proper protection from the authorities. The lawyer believes that *'Domestic violence has no excuse'*.

The second training day was rather practical. The participants wrote titles, inserted opinions of lawyers and psychologists, determined the costs of violence and found the reporters' and editorial teams' role in approaching the domestic violence in a systematic manner. Also, in order to better understand what domestic violence victims go through, participants tried to put themselves in victims' shoes, trying to determine the steps they should make if they were 'mayor's wife', 'Police chief's wife' or 'minister's daughter-in-law' who are abused by their husbands.

Livia Lupascu, reporter at the public television channel Moldova 1, stated that the training was very useful, even for the journalists with extensive work experience. *'We learned many new things, including the latest changes in the national legislation, which regu-*



late domestic violence; we learned what sources to use and what institutions to talk to when we cover such cases. The role I played as a violence victim was an eye-opener for understanding what these people are going through, since they are often helpless and not heard by state institutions,' said Livia Lupascu.

'Albeit the violence cases discussed during the training seem to be taken from movies, they unfortunately are part of our reality. That is why the journalists' mission is to write convincingly about them, to make authorities and society as a whole take an attitude. This training taught us to address violence topics ethically and, at the same time, to analyse the costs of domestic violence, paid from taxpayers' money,' said **Svetlana Bogatu**, journalist of Radio Moldova.

For **Cristina Cucuș**, from the Suntparinte.md portal, the participation in this training was a way to think more about domestic vio-

lence. 'One of the values promoted by the Suntparinte.md platform is non-violence and non-discrimination of women. We haven't written about specific domestic violence cases so far, but rather about the negative impact of violence on children, about violence in schools/ kindergartens, in hospitals, etc. The training was very useful, particularly because one of the upcoming projects of the Suntparinte.md plat-

form is going to focus specifically on any type of violence against girls and women. Therefore, it was important to learn how to write correctly about such cases, in order not to traumatise even more the victims of abuse. We also found out about services for perpetrators, which we will surely discuss in the following materials on our platform,' mentioned Cristina Cucos.

During the training, participants had access to a number of resources that would help them get informed about violence-related topics in a fair and ethical manner.

The training program is organised by the Women's Law Centre in collaboration with the Independent Journalism Center. Founded by Sweden and OAK Foundation.





NEW PROJECT TO ENSURE PREVENTION AND COORDINATED RESPONSE TO CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Women's Law Centre in partnership with the General Police Inspectorate and justice sector institutions will implement a new project aimed at building the capacity of state authorities responsible to intervene in domestic violence cases. The project is about developing a joint national framework of response to gender-based violence, on the basis of Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model.

For this purpose, in September, experts in the area of human rights and violence against women from Global Rights for Women (GRW), USA, and the Women's Law Centre organised a number of focus groups with lawyers, survivors of domestic violence, police officers, judges, probation counselors and decision makers in law enforcement authorities, as a first stage of assessing the way the stakeholders interact in the system, in order to ensure prevention and coordinated response to cases of domestic violence. On the basis of the obtained results, the GRW team will develop an institutional assessment report, following which workshops will be organised for each group of professionals.

This activity is part of the 'Ending Violence Against Women' Project, implemented with the support of UN Women Moldova.





POLICE OFFICERS IN THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY – NOW BETTER AT RESPONDING TO CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On 6-7 September, the Women's Law Centre organised trainings in the southern region of the country for police officers from the Police Inspectorates of Cahul, Leova and Cantemir. In his opening remarks, Ed Cronin, Senior Law Enforcement Advisor at the US Embassy, spoke about the experience of the US law enforcers in reducing domestic violence. He mentioned that among the biggest challenges were the stereotypes in society about domestic violence. *'Your work is invaluable. Your dedication inspires a lot of people and I'd like to wish you to stay as involved and motivated about bringing a change in the society. The response of the police has often a decisive role, which is why it is important to be always informed and act as efficiently as possible.'* he added.

The President of Cahul District urged the police officers to participate actively in discussions and learn from the best practices in order to ensure an efficient protection of domestic violence victims.

The 30 participants were trained in areas such as: psychological aspects of domestic violence, myths and realities, causes and psycho-

social portraits of the victim and of the perpetrator; services provided to victims and domestic violence perpetrators; coordinated community response and interdisciplinary solving of cases of domestic violence; new methodological guidelines and the involvement of the police and of the prosecution officers in solving cases of domestic violence.

'This training was very useful. I felt that the experts were knowledgeable. They always had examples to share with us. I liked that we were allowed to make comments during the theoretical part. Thus, we were able to share the cases we actually had to deal with in our work. We also appreciated the amendments included in the new guidelines that will help us rate more accurately the severity of the act of domestic violence and respond in accordance with the law.' said Adriana Bancila, Head of Police Section in Cahul Police Inspectorate.

This training took place under the **'Strengthening Capacities of Prosecution and Judicial Response to Domestic Violence in Moldova'** Project and was organised in partnership with the General Police Inspectorate and with the support of the US Embassy in Moldova.

NEW PROGRAMS OF READING AND ART THERAPY FOR WOMEN IN RUSCA PRISON

In 2018, the Women's Law Centre launched new therapeutic activities for women in Rusca Prison. Besides the individual meetings for legal and psychological counselling conducted in 2017, the WLC team organised new therapeutic programs. Their purpose is to improve detainees' wellbeing by enhancing their resilience to the shock of being in detention, helping them recover their psychological and emotional balance and develop the capacity to understand and express what they feel.



The reading and art therapy programs take place on a weekly basis and have a specific format depending on the activity. In case of art therapy program, 12 participants take a course which consists of 8-12 thematic workshops. When it comes to reading, attendance is open to everyone. Thus, during half a year, more than 60 women attended the reading therapy activities. We are happy to see that more and more women join in.

'We like it a lot. Here we discuss about everything – dreams, disappointments, fears, pain and the importance of learning how to forgive our own mistakes.' –one of the participants in the reading activities told us. Though simple at the first glance, the feeling of guilt becomes extremely difficult to handle when it invades your soul.

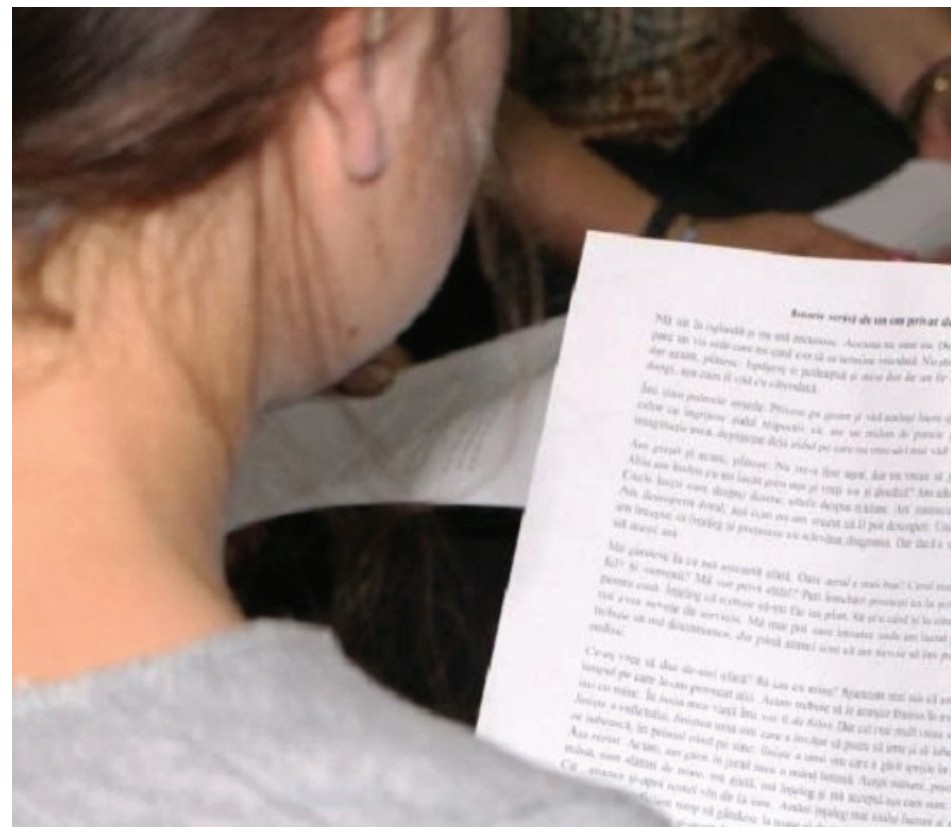
Thanks to the carefully selected materials – texts about different life aspects, stories of people who dealt with difficulties – the facilitators Victoria Captari and Cristina Balan invited each of the women to share their feelings and overwhelming experiences. The participants encouraged each other and found flashes of hope in each of the shared life experiences. This makes them more open to communication, to know each other better, to see the needs of the others, and to understand that everyone has memories, dreams, regrets and stories waiting to become alive.

Activities help women explore their life experiences and to also develop a positive scenario for their life after they get out of prison. During the ten art-therapy and reading sessions, we were happy to notice that the drawings became gradually brighter, the sculptures began to smile, they all started to talk about love, self-development, the image they had of themselves changed and they began to perceive others positively too.

In 2018, the WLC continued the individual counselling program. Thus, about 300 detainees from the Rusca Prison were counselled by the WLC lawyers and found answers and solutions to their problems. They addressed with the lawyer issues like domestic violence, divorce, preparation for case representation in the court, preparation of the release file, preparation of the divorce file, etc. A major problem for the women in detention is the lack of communication with their own children. Most of the times, either former husbands, relatives or other family members do not ensure the children's right to visit their mother.

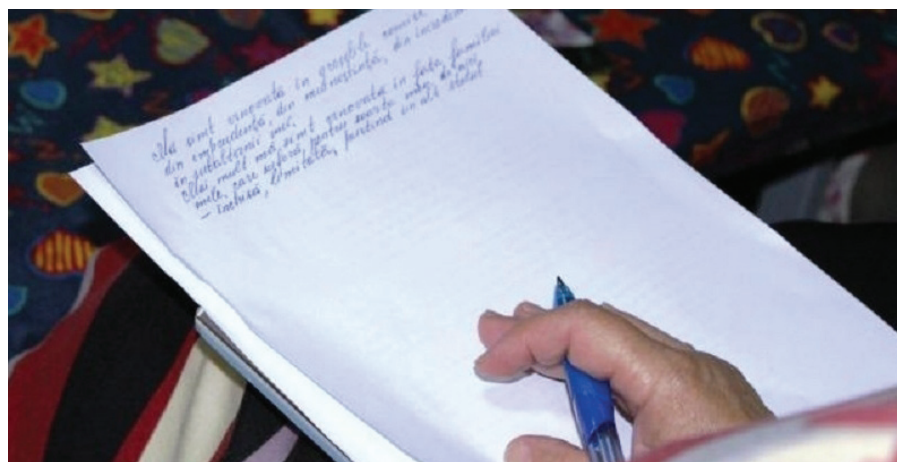
In the first six months of the year, with the support of WLC lawyer:

- **6 women** were released on parole;
- **6 women** were referred by the WLC lawyer to state-guaranteed legal aid;
- **4 children** visited their mothers in prison;
- **18** adetained **women** received identity papers.



The WLC psychologists counselled 27 women in Rusca Prison. This support helped them overcome multiple traumas, disappointments and prolonged states of sadness or pain. These women began to rethink their past and look into the future with more confidence and courage.

The activities carried out in the Rusca Prison are part of 'Enhancing access to justice, legal aid and psychological support to women in detention' Project, implemented in cooperation with the Department of Penitentiary Institutions and founded by Sweden.





The Council on Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality accepted the complaint filed by Women's Law Centre and issued a decision that found gender-based discrimination in access to justice and in ensuring equal protection by the law in the case of a WLC beneficiary.

DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF GENDER IN TERMS OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE. A CASE REPRESENTED BY WLC

The WLC beneficiary has been involved in a property dividing process for several years. Her former husband has abusively taken control of the place where they lived and threatened to kill her if she entered the rooms he occupied. Back in 2016, the beneficiary filed several complaints with the police. However, the first protection order was issued in September 2017 after the WLC lawyer got involved. Thus, the Council presumed that the police did not take any action at all to protect the victim of violence until the lawyer got involved.

Having analysed the file materials, the Council established also that:

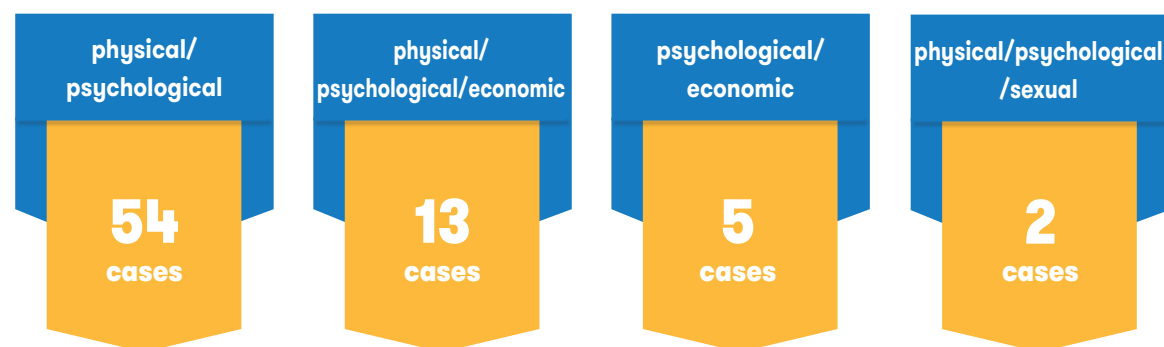
- the police officers did not take appropriate action with regards to the monitoring and execution of the protection order. The criminal files for the violation of the protection order were opened on the basis of the complaints filed by the victim.
- the WLC beneficiary did not enjoy any real protection not even when a third party, prompted by the former husband, has abusively entered the apartment and refused to leave

- the measures taken by the police were inconsistent and were qualified as intimidation of the domestic violence victim, which had the effect of making her even more vulnerable.

The Council also found that the 'police response was inefficient, showing an attitude of tolerance towards the perpetrator and an indirect incentive to use violence again'. Thus, the Council members decided that the WLC beneficiary was discriminated on grounds of gender in terms of her access to justice and equal protection by the law. The Decision will be sent to the Service of Internal Protection and Anti-corruption of the MIA for disciplinary action to be taken on the ground that the police officers acted in a discriminatory way. Since the Council's decision can be appealed in court, we will continue to monitor the case to make sure that the right to equal protection by the law is observed.

WLC ACTIVITY IN FIGURES. FIRST QUARTER OF 2018

During July-September 2018, the Women's Law Centre provided support to 99 victims of domestic violence. In 95 cases, women were victims of psychological violence, 72 suffered from physical violence, 23 reported economic violence. Sexual violence from life partners was noted in 10 cases, and spiritual violence was identified in 3 cases. Most of the times, domestic violence has a complex form, so the following was recorded:



✓ Provided services:

- The victims received **primary legal aid** in 93 cases, which included the drafting of applications, complaints to law enforcement bodies or appeals against decisions of the official examiner. 25 protection orders were issued.
- In 8 cases the WLC lawyers provided **qualified legal aid** by representing the interests of the victims in court in 4 criminal cases, 2 contravention cases and 2 civil cases (divorce, establishing the domicile of minors, collection of alimony).
- 31 victims received **individual psychological assistance**, 18 victims were issued psychological assessment reports.
- 40 victims were provided **social assistance** and career counselling and guidance.

✓ Beneficiaries' social profile:

Area of residence: 68 victims are from the urban area and 31 from the rural one. Most of them have their domicile in Chisinau municipality, but people from other districts also asked for help, specifically from: Anenii Noi, Orhei, Calarasi, Cantemir, Cimislia, Falesti, Hincesti, Orhei, Soroca, Vulcanesti.

Age: Most domestic violence victims are 25-34 years old (27%), followed by +65 years old (26%) and 34-44 years old beneficiaries (20%).

Level of education: 72 victims have secondary education (including incomplete secondary or specialised secondary), while 25 have higher education.

Occupational status: 56 women are either unemployed or are on childcare leave. 43 women are employed, while 75 are mothers taking care of their minor children.

The victim-perpetrator relationship: in 84 of the recorded cases, the victim was the (former) partner/wife. In 7 cases, the victim was the parent – mother/father, while in 4 cases the victim was the child – daughter/son.

Victims contacted the WLC being referred by police officers, social workers, lawyers, psychologists, maternity centres staff, other organizations working in the field, former WLC beneficiaries, or by email.

Since 2012 and so far, 1701 domestic violence victims received support.

CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES AND TO OUR BENEFICIARIES



We went to Zubresti, Straseni District upon invitation from Maria Manoli, the Mayoress, who wanted to have a meeting for the village women on the topic of domestic violence. Although this village is home to a bit more than 3000 people, this topic is, unfortunately, relevant for it. We were happy to tell them about the domestic violence phenomenon, about the right police response, about the laws protecting them and about the WLC services. Although such cases are addressed in their village by a multi-disciplinary team, it is important that more people become aware of what they can do in cases of domestic violence, who can help and why aggression shouldn't be tolerated.

On a warm and bright September day, we discussed the issue of domestic violence with librarians from the library network – Novateca Hancesti. Mariana Placinta, member of the Police Women's Association, mentioned the protection measures available to victims of domestic violence and how police should respond in cases of abuse. 'I urge you not to keep it to yourself. Tell people you interact with every day, tell them why tolerating domestic violence is not OK. Tell them not to be afraid or ashamed. Word will spread anyway, but the woman will be left with her problem and suffering.'

The WLC lawyer, Violeta Andriuta, spoke about the legal, psychological and social assistance services they can avail of, and highlighted the importance of not being indifferent about the acts of violence.

The visit to Hancesti was part of a series of awareness-raising activities initiated by the Women's Law Centre in partnership with the Association of Women in Police and the network of libraries, supported by Sweden and the OAK Foundation.





Did you know that handiwork is beneficial for our body and mind? Its effects are similar to those of meditation. It alleviates the symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression. This is also the purpose of the craft workshops we organise for the WLC beneficiaries. Women get together every month to create something for their own pleasure. 'It has been long since I made something this simple and beautiful. I forgot about worries, pain, time, and I was pleased to spend time with you', said a beneficiary.

This time, they mastered a new technique of glass decoration. Under the guidance of Natalia Shevchenko, who inspired confidence and courage into them, they created fairy-tale-like ornaments. The colours helped them understand themselves better. They made them think about their future. The handicrafts will be a beautiful reminder of an activity that brought them a little closer to themselves.

The crafts workshops are carried out with the support of Sweden and the OAK Foundation.



STUDY VISIT TO SWEDEN. WHAT PRACTICES COULD MOLDOVA TAKE OVER AND IMPLEMENT IN FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Daniela Josanu, Coordinator of the specialised service of assistance to domestic violence victims at the WLC, together with several members of the 'Life Without Domestic Violence' National Coalition, went on a study visit to Sweden in September. To find out about the Swedish experience and approaches in this area, read the interview below.



Photo credit: National Coalition "Life without Family Violence".



What was the purpose of your trip?

The purpose of this visit was to learn from the Swedish practices as regards the assistance provided to victims of gender-based violence. On this occasion, we visited several institutions and had discussions with various specialists involved in the protection of this category of victims.

What new, peculiar, interesting things did you learn?

Sweden is a country that supports and invests a lot in the emancipation and empowerment of women in the political, economic, social and legal areas. You can see that by looking at the policies they promoted and implemented over the last years. Swedes have been concerned about gender-based violence since the 1970s. As this is seen first as a social problem, victims of gender-based violence are provided a range of social services according to their needs. I was impressed with the fact that 90% of the expenses incurred by service providers in assisting victims are covered by the Government. The Swedish Government provides about 4.4 billion euros for services provided to victims of gender-based violence.

How are the centres providing assistance to victims of domestic violence set up?

There are two large umbrella organisations working in Sweden (UNIZONE: www.unizon.se and ROKS: www.roks.se). They comprise more than 200 placement centres and day-care centres that provide specialised services to victims of gender-based violence. They

work as NGOs. The difference between these large organisations is of conceptual nature. The ROKS organisations tackle gender-based violence only as a manifestation of aggressiveness, power and control by men against women.

Therefore, only women and girls can be beneficiaries of their services. The other organisations, belonging to UNIZONE, regard gender-based violence as an act that both women and men can become victims of. UNIZONE organisations argue that in dealing with domestic violence, one should work both with the victim and the perpetrator. For these reasons, behavioural rehabilitation services are provided to perpetrators too.

We also had the chance to visit the only organisation that works with adults that were sexually abused in their childhood by a family member. Rise has more than 30 years of experience and provides support services and psychological assistance to victims of sexual abuse. Their focus is mostly on rehabilitation and treatment of the post-traumatic stress disorder.

Most of the centres providing counselling services to perpetrators are private and the fees have to be paid by the beneficiaries. They believe that the only way for an perpetrator to get rid of aggressiveness is for them to first acknowledge it and see a specialist of their own will. Nevertheless, at national level, the Swedes intend to launch in 2019 a free telephone line meant for counselling domestic violence perpetrators.

How does Sweden support domestic violence victims?

An act of gender-based violence is regarded as an offence. It does not matter how serious it was. Once identified, the victim can access the services via the social worker. The social authority has a mecha-

nism to assess the degree of risk that the victim is exposed to. A range of services available in the community is then proposed, depending on the assessment result. If the victim first contacts the police officer, then the latter should refer the victim to the social assistance service, according to their joint agreements.



Photo credit: National Coalition "Life without Family Violence".



I had the opportunity to learn about the experience of one of the oldest placement centres – ‘All Women’s House’, which is a UNIZONE organisation. The center provides placement services to victims and their children for about 12 months. There are several rehabilitation and recreation services, individual or group psychological assistance, artistic activities for parents and children. This is how most of the placement centers in Sweden work.

The law enforcement bodies get in touch with the victim only when it comes to the criminal trial in which the victims are the injured party, the appropriate protection measures being taken. During the criminal prosecution stage, the prosecutor has the power to issue the protection order, and during the trial of the case – the court.

The state-guaranteed legal aid system provides primary and qualified free legal aid to victims of gender-based violence. The law enforcement agencies facilitate access to this service. In most cases, NGOs only provide primary legal aid for information or representation before law enforcement bodies.

What practices could Moldova take over?

We must acknowledge that victims of gender-based violence in Moldova are provided a wide range of services that respond to their needs – placement services, psychological assistance, legal or social aid. The difference is that, in our country, most of the services are supported by foreign donors. Currently, there is no clear and explicit mechanism whereby the Government would pay for such services. I believe that Sweden’s experience in developing services funded by the Government is a necessary practice to ensure the continuity of services. Also, the extent and the manner of involvement of the social assistance services in helping victims are a good practice in Sweden that we could take over, too.

What feature of Sweden as a country, culture and society made the biggest impression on you?

Sweden is a country that inspires you with the feeling of freedom and democracy as soon as you step on their land and breath in their air. The weather is totally unpredictable. At any time, the sun can be screened behind clouds or it can rain. People live their daily routine quietly, they smile. The society is kind and open to communication and exchange of experience.



Photo credit: National Coalition “Life without Family Violence”.



THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS!



MDL 9 189,70 is the amount collected out of the **2%** of the income tax granted by individuals. The money will be used to support domestic violence victims in their efforts to overcome the crises and break the violence circle.

Keep watching us to stay up to date with our plans.

Thank You!

The WLC Team

WHO ARE WE?

Public Association “Women’s Law Center” (hereinafter – WLC) is a non-governmental organization, established in 2009. The purpose of WLC is to ensure women’s rights from gender perspective, both in the process of elaboration and implementation of the law.

WLC carries out activities aimed at preventing and combating domestic violence, provides direct legal and psychological assistance to the victims of domestic violence. WLC advocates for equal opportunities among men and women in public and private life, is a credible partner of the government and civil society and participates in elaboration of public policies.

WLC ensures Secretariat of the National Coalition „Life without Domestic Violence (hereinafter National Coalition). National Coalition comprises 18 non-governmental organizations and public institutions active in preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women.

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