

STOP VIOLENCE NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER

No. 6 (2016)

Quarterly newsletter lists the activities of the Women's Law Center in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women within the period of May - August 2016.

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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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ASSISTANCE OF THE WLC IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES



88

persons

benefited from primary legal aid

dintre care

24

persons

received qualified legal, psychological assistance and were referred to other services, including to placement following physical, psychological, sexual and/or economic violence



+40%

of beneficiaries

learnt about WLC services from police officers



25%

from relatives and friends



2 x

protection orders

issued by courts in comparison with previous periods

2

hours

the shortest time for examination and issuance of a protection order by the Center District Court in Chisinau, after a request is submitted

Preventing and combating domestic violence - a priority for the Ministry of Interiors

The discussion of 29 June 2016 between WLC representatives and the Minister of Interiors, Alexander Jizdan, concluded with extension of the partnership between the WLC and the General Police Inspectorate and organization of more training for police on preventing and combating domestic violence.

“Unfortunately our citizens, mostly women and children, daily suffer because of this negative phenomenon, which starts first of all from the way of thinking and perceiving life. Preventing and combating domestic violence remains a priority field for us. This social scourge must be stopped”, said Minister of Interiors during the meeting.

Head of the Center, Angelina Zaporozhan-Pîrgari, reiterated readiness to continue supporting the efforts of the Ministry, especially



after adoption of the draft law that establishes additional responsibilities for police in preventing and combating domestic violence. She mentioned that during this cooperation between the Ministry of Interiors, Police Inspectorates from Botanica, Buiucani and Centre of the Police Department from mun. Chişinău and WLC, more than 1500 police officers were trained during 2014 – 2016 and the num-

ber of victims referred by police increased three times compared with previous periods.

The last trainings “Best practices of police response to cases of domestic violence” took place in May 2016, where 72 district police officers and criminal investigators improved their skills in effective and prompt investigation of cases of domestic violence and referral of victims to the relevant organizations.

NEWS BRIEF

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On 25 May 2016, the European Network of non-governmental organizations in preventing and combating violence against women in Europe launched the international campaign “WAVE Step Up!” that will last for two years in 46 countries. During this



CAMPAIGN ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR CHILDREN TO ACCESS SUPPORT AND PROTECTION

Campaign, a number of non-governmental organizations from the country will organize a series of activities to raise awareness of the authorities about the need to ensure access of victims to specialized services, particularly victims of sexual violence.

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On 20 May 2016, the working group responsible for elaboration of the National Strategy and initiating the process of signing the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women agreed at the

first working meeting to initiate public consultations together with international organizations and civil society and also agreed upon the necessary technical assistance. The group includes: the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, WLC and representatives of development partners (UNFPA, the Swedish Embassy in the Republic of Moldova, OSCE Mission to Moldova and UN Women Representation in Moldova). National Coalition members will participate as experts in the process of elaborating and promoting the strategy.

More effective protection measures for victims of domestic violence and tougher penalties for offenders

On 28 July 2016, Parliament unanimously voted a draft law on amending and supplementing certain legislative acts in preventing and combating domestic violence. The draft law was elaborated three years ago by the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, WLC and other members of the National Coalition "Life without Domestic Violence" and was promoted both by the National Coalition and by the Gender Equality Platform.

Mrs. Zaporojan-Pirgari, why amendment to the Law on preventing and combating violence was necessary?

Women's Law Center has identified the need to amend legislation back in 2012, when the Report on Monitoring Implementation of the Legislation of the Republic of Moldova in the field of Domestic Violence was launched in partnership with American colleagues, Advocates for Human Rights. The Report identified several gaps, such as: inefficiency of the mechanism of urgent application of protection orders and their execution; administrative sanctioning of cases where protection orders are violated; lack of obligation of local public administration to finance centers of assistance and protection for victims of domestic violence. At the same time, based on the Report on Compatibility of Moldovan Legislation with the European Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), elaborated by the WLC in 2013, a number of recommendations for adjusting legislative framework were formulated, the fact that will allow ratification of the Convention by the Republic of Moldova in the shortest



period of time.

At the same time, Recommendations of the UN Committee for Women's Rights in 2013 and the National Action Plan for implementation of the Association Agreement Moldova - European Union in 2014-2016 have also focused on the need to adjust national legislative framework in order to strengthen the mechanism of state's response to cases of domestic violence, especially for prevention, protection, investigation, trial, punishment of perpetrators and protection and assistance of victims.

What was the involvement of the civil society in the process of elaboration and promotion of the draft law and why active participation of civil society in this process was so important?

Involvement of Women's Law Center, as well as of other key organizations, members of the National Coalition "Life without Violence", and the International Centre La Strada, Promolex, Gender Centre, Association against Violence "Casa Marioarei", etc. ensured, on the one hand, access to expert opinion and practical experience of lawyers and

professionals working on cases of domestic violence, and, on the other hand, a constant pressure to fulfilling its commitments. I must mention that the process of promoting the draft law was cumbersome and lengthy, the first draft on amending the legislation was submitted at the end of 2013 and at the beginning of 2016 the draft law was still in the process of being finalized. At the same time, support of the Gender Equality Platform in the period March to August 2016 was crucial in promoting adoption of the draft law, therefore, during this period, a number of events were organized to promote the draft law: meetings with the leadership of MLSPF and meeting with the Prime Minister, Pavel Filip. As members of the National Coalition, I have also actively participated in the Political Forum "Women Can Do It" (organized with the support of UN Women) in March 2016, when we managed to have an open and direct dialogue with representatives of all parliamentary parties who have committed to support the draft law. We have also actively participated in all meetings of parliamentary committees, in debates held during Parliament's session in the first and

second reading.

In conclusion, on 28 July 2016, Parliament unanimously voted the draft law that was developed and promoted by the civil society. I believe that finally, even if it lasted about three years, this is a success story that shows the success of civil society to consolidate in order to promote reforms in preventing and combating domestic violence. This way, I would like to thank all those who were actively involved, first of all WLC, colleagues from the Coalition, colleagues from the Gender Equality Platform, but also partners who

have supported the whole process, Directorate on Equal Opportunities and Prevention of Violence in the MLSPE, Public Security Department in the General Police Inspectorate (GPI) of the Ministry of Interiors, Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Interiors, OAK Foundation, the Swedish Embassy, US Embassy, UN Women, UNFP.

What will follow after promulgation of the draft law? What should be the actions of the state and civil society to ensure effective implementation of the law?

Women's Law Center will moni-

tor implementation of the new provisions. At the same time we will assist colleagues from police, social assistance, judicial system, doctors to train them on the new intervention mechanisms and will strengthen their prompt and efficient response to each case of domestic violence. Also, the authorities concerned will have to revise their departmental normative acts in order to adjust them to the new provisions. On the one hand, we will be checking the compliance with the new provisions and, on the other hand, we will continue lobbying for the soonest ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

„Fundraising“- new challenges

American organization Lawyers for Human Rights, with the support of Open Society Foundation and Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation organized training in June 2016 in Sofia, Bulgaria for organizations working in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence on the most effective methods and strategies of fundraising campaigns. Women's Law Center was represented by Eleonora Grosu and Nicoleta Muntean.

What does “fundraising” mean and what are the benefits for an organization that initiates fundraising?

Eleonora Grosu:

Fundraising is both a known and unknown field for non-governmental organizations. On the one hand, we, as representatives of non-governmental organizations, are already familiar with fundraising by participating in various projects where applications are submitted for receiving funds. On the other hand, we are scared of fundraising, because it is based on the principle of “Knock and it shall be opened, ask and you shall receive”. However, it is difficult for us to accept this principle, because many of us feel somewhat embar-

assed to ask for money, because this is associated in our society, as we all know, with begging.

However, trainers have repeatedly insisted during training that “Nobody gives you anything unless you ask for”. Representatives of other organizations from the Central Europe, participants in the training, who implemented small fundraising campaigns, reiterated that this way of thinking, which exists also in their societies, began to slowly change and each fundraising campaign gathers increasingly more supporters. “Persons who have provided financial contributions actually feel good when their assistance, regardless of value, contributes to the desired change and our role is to motivate people towards good deeds and give them the opportunity to contribute either with their time or money. Receiving resources is an honourable task and it represents an opportunity to inform the society about the problems we are trying to solve and to make them participate.

How do we begin fundraising?

Nicoleta Muntean:

Fundraising is not necessarily a quick solution. For this reason,

ideally, organizations should have some strategies and work plans and fundraising should derive from the strategy and should be focused on a particular purpose.

The starting point should be to understand what funds we need and what funds we are lacking, i.e. determining financial needs. A good working plan for fundraising also involves strategic thinking at the level of costs and initially we must ask ourselves if our efforts are greater than what we can achieve, is such a fundraising worthy or not?

A detailed plan should follow where we should define the purpose, the list of donors, persons, organizations who believe in our organization and are ready to support us, the way of operating, approaches of these organizations/persons, informational platforms that we will use, fundraising strategies and techniques.

Usually, a successful plan for “fundraising campaign requires new, interesting and innovative ideas”, and fundraising is a natural, necessary, permanent and creative activity where all members of the organization can participate.

Every sixth woman in Moldova has been subject to a form of domestic violence in her lifetime

On 29 July 2016, the United Nations, in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics, presented statistical profiles of 10 groups of girls and women in the Republic of Moldova.

Profile concluded that in Moldova violence affects in particular

women, due to the persistence of stereotypes and convictions concerning patriarchal traditional gender roles in the family and society.

The study can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.statistica.md>



Analytical note of the group of women affected by violence reveals that approximately:

- **60%** of women have experienced psychological violence in their lifetime,
- **55%** – forms of psychological violence oriented to social isolation,
- **every tenth woman** suffered from economic violence at least once,
- **40%** of women have experienced physical violence at least once,
- **19%** of them - sexual violence.
- **12,3%** of women have experienced various cumulative forms of violence in their lifetime: psychological, physical, and sexual violence from their husband or partner.

A map of support services for women survivors of violence from 46 countries in Europe was published

The European Network of non-governmental organizations "Women Against Violence Europe" (WAVE) published the "Report on the role of specialists of support services from Europe available for victims of violence", 2015.

The Report includes a map of support services available for women survivors of violence from 46 countries in Europe, including in-

formation on helplines for women, on shelters and intervention centers and establishes the route for victims to access specialized support services. For the first time, the report presents examples of good working practices and training in preventing domestic violence and violence against women carried out by specialized NGOs. Additionally, information is provided

on governments' policies and their funding of the strategic national plans related to preventing and combating gender-based violence.

The report can be accessed at the following link:

http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf

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