

STOP VIOLENCE NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER

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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 September - December 2016.

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Domestic violence – how much inaction costs?



„The total cost of services provided by the state for each case of violence against women represents 64 288 lei, while the lack of such services for one woman costs our society 689 264 lei”, this data was presented at the launch of the report „Costing of domestic violence and violence against women in the Republic of Moldova.”

The report, the first of this kind in the Republic of Moldova, was elaborated by the Women's Law Center at the request of UN Women Moldova in collaboration with the WHO in Moldova and in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and evaluates three public sectors: social protection, healthcare and justice.

Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari, director of the Women's Law Center, declared that this report brings together all sectors and estimates the costs for all services provided in the field of domestic violence and violence against women in Moldova, and is the first report of this kind in the South-eastern Europe.

„We hope that the findings of this report and its recommendations will bring Republic of Moldova closer to the ratification of the European Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women

and Domestic Violence. We want the efforts of the government sectors and civil society organizations to result in sustainable financing of services of better quality, accessible in all regions of the country, and centered on the needs of victims and survivors of violence”, said Mrs. Zaporozjan-Pîrgari.

„Trust, dignity, hope are lost by survivors of gender-based violence in exchange of fear and pain. In many cases they pay with their lives. Improving the systems of assistance and support involve costs, however the

cost of inaction is unacceptable”, said Corneliu Eftodi, Program Manager, UN Women Moldova at the event.

Participants at the launch of the report have positively assessed the importance of data that demonstrate significant economic and social impact of domestic violence, and cost analysis can contribute to a more efficient use of the existing resources and involves greater responsibility of the state and non-state actors to end the phenomenon of violence in the Republic of Moldova.

Relevant data from the report:

- The highest costs for responding to cases of violence are borne by the healthcare sector, in particular, for hospital treatment of the victims
- In contrast, the lowest expenditures are borne by the social sector. About 87% of the costs are provided for accommodation services and food. Specialized services, such as psychological counselling, legal assistance and childcare remain severely underfunded.
- Private financial investment covers a large part of services that are not available or are only partially available in the public sector. Thus, 60% of social services necessary for victims are provided by the civil society organizations.
- Contributions of victims for covering legal services is 4 times higher than the state contribution. Victims prefer hiring private lawyers, despite the fact that the costs are 33,7 times higher than the state guaranteed legal aid. One of the reasons is the poor quality of state services currently provided.

Activities organized within the 16 days Campaign against gender based violence

This year we had a very special 16 days Campaign against gender based violence. The Campaign succeeded in bringing the gravity of the phenomenon into the front line and to strengthening the efforts of all organizations operating in this field. About 100 events were organized - discussions, working meetings, public lectures, the launch of a report on the costs of violence, public speeches, performances, signing of cooperation agreements, etc. During this period, local communities, state authorities, non-governmental organizations, and for the first time, survivors of domestic violence launched a joint message to the whole society - Domestic violence should not be tolerated!



Campaign activities:

1. Public discussion “10 years together against violence!” creates strategic partnerships to combat violence against women and domestic violence



On 30 November 2016, the common Platform of dialogue between women-Members of Moldovan Parliament and the National Coalition “Life without domestic violence” organized the public discussion “10 years together against violence!”

The purpose of the discussion was to raise awareness of public authorities about strengthening joint efforts,

as well as taking into account achievements and challenges in the field of domestic violence and violence against women. At the same time, development partners emphasized the importance of assuming public commitment to promote the draft law on signing and ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

2. Survivors of domestic violence participated at the Christmas Fair



Traditionally, every year, on the eve of the winter holidays, International Women's Club from the Republic of Moldova organizes one of the most beautiful Christmas Fairs. Beneficiaries of the Women's Law Center participated, along with the members of the National Coalition “Life without domestic violence”, at the sell-out exhibition organized at the event.

Women survivors of domestic violence have prepared small surprises for everyone. We had a tent full of goodies, including handmade articles and Craciunasi baked with love for the visitors.

We were particularly impressed by Ana, Women's Law Center beneficiary, who attended the fair with jewellery made by her. Ana can move only with the wheel-chair

and, therefore, she cannot get outside too often, either because there is no one to accompany her or because the stairs are not adapted. "I waited for this event six years. I hope I can come back again next year" confessed the girl.

3. "Do not shout at me" a play - document that brings the problem of violence in the scene



Also, during the Campaign "16 Days of activism against gender violence", the play "Do not shout at me"



was played for the first time. This play is inspired from the real life and speaks about the impact of domestic violence on couple relationships of the future generations.

The play, staged by director Ianoș Petrașcu, shows the trauma of children who witnessed the scenes of domestic violence and try during their lifetime to get out of this vicious circle. While the echo of scre-

aming and beatings follows them, they manage to find their own formula of happiness, without violence. Although this play is without sound, actors manage to convey the emotional message of the play by body language.

The play "Do not shout at me" was performed in 7 districts of the country: Drochia, Soroca, Cahul, Hincești, Balti, Tiraspol and Căușeni.



Women's Law Center has organized in collaboration with strategic partners a series of training seminars for key stakeholders responding to domestic violence cases



In December, the Women's Law Center (WLC), in partnership with the National Institute of Justice and the General Police Inspectorate, conducted a series of training workshops for key stakeholders responding to domestic violence cases.

Thus, over 40 prosecutors, judges and lawyers and about 50 chiefs of public security police sections attended two-days training workshops. The purpose of this activity was to strengthen the capacities of professionals working on the front line in the area of domestic violence and to have an exchange of best practices in responding to domestic violence cases.

During seminars, participants had the opportunity to discuss the psychological aspects of domestic violence - causes, trauma, profile of the victim and perpetrator and the adjustments made to the legislation in this area and how to act in accordance with the new legal provisions.

Participants at the training seminars noted their usefulness and quality, and assessed seminars as a good way of incorporating theoretical aspects in the process of solving specific cases of domestic violence.

Seminars were organized with the financial support of the US Embassy in the Republic of Moldova, the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the OAK Foundation.



New procedures of intervention in cases of gender based violence were presented during a regional workshop



A set of Global Standards and Essential Services for women and girls subjected to violence and a set of Standard Operating Procedures on gender based violence were presented and discussed on 18 November 2016, during a regional workshop, organized by the Women's Law Centre (WLC).

The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize WLC strategic partners with the two sets of global and regional instruments of intervention in cases of violence. Participants reviewed the major challenges faced by the Republic of Moldova and agreed upon priorities, stages and responsibilities of each institution in the process of elaborating new instructions.



„We would like to launch discussions on adjusting these procedures to the national context and formulate a series of recommendations for successful implementation of the

multi-sector intervention model”, said Angelina Zaporozjan-Pirgari, Director of the Women's Law Center during the workshop.

It should be noted that on 28 July 2016, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted a new law introducing amendments in this framework mechanism of responding to the cases of domestic violence, and the workshop aimed at supporting the efforts of key Ministries, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and civil society in launching the process of reviewing the existing national framework based on Regional Standard Operating Procedures.



Women's Law Center expands its activity in Chisinau suburbs



Victims of domestic violence in Ialoveni will be able to access the services of the Women's Law Center. In this regard, in December, Women's Law Center signed a collaboration agreement with the Ialoveni Police Inspectorate.



Angelina Zaporozhan - Pîrgari, Director of the Women's Law Center, said at the meeting that this partnership aims to be long-lasting and with impact for residents of Ialoveni. "At our center, victims of violence can have access to specialized services and guidance for the settlement of their case," said Mrs. Zaporozhan-Pîrgari.

In the same context, Mr. Pavel Damaschin, head of Ialoveni Police Inspectorate, stated that domestic violence is not an alien phenomenon is wide spread for the community where he works.. "For us it is extremely important to act in time, to intervene at the first sign of abuse, and for the victim it is important to feel protected,

and be able to benefit from services provided by the state," said Mr. Pavel Damaschin.

At the same time, Women's Law Center has undertaken commitment to organize a training session for the police and other stakeholders involved in preventing cases of violence. The workshop will address the legal issues related to violence against women; will put into discussion the manner of how each stakeholder involved in resolution of violence cases is carrying out its duties and what adjustments are necessary for a better functioning of the system.

Context data:

On 8 November 2016, WLC updated the cooperation agreement with

the Buiucani Police Inspectorate of PD Chisinau, which aims at enhancing efficiency of the mechanism of intervention in cases of domestic violence. In the last six months of this year, Buiucani Police Inspectorate referred 18 victims of domestic violence to the Women's Law Center, while during 2015 – victims in approximately 300 cases from Chisinau received advice and support from the Centre.

It is important to note that this model of cooperation with Police Inspectorates began in 2012, when the number of victims increased and there was lack of support services for women and children subjected to domestic violence. Thus, in 2015, cooperation agreements with all five police inspectorates in Chisinau were concluded.



NEWS BRIEF

During two days, representatives of the governments of beneficiary states, institutions of initial and continuous training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers, human rights experts from the Member States of the Council of Europe, representatives of regional and international organizations have participated in six sessions of debates where achievements in the promotion and observance of women's rights were discussed; existing barriers and challenges in ensuring gender equality were reported and best practices in ensuring women's equal access to justice were shared.



During the session "Ensuring women's access to justice", Director of the Women's Law Center, Ms. Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari, described Women's Law Center experience in ensuring access to justice for victims of domestic violence. During 2012-2016, approximately 600 victims of domestic violence and their children have benefited from holistic support provided by the Women's Law Center, which includes: primary legal advice, representation in court on civil and criminal cases, individual psychological sessions, group therapy, economic empowerment, social and humanitarian assistance and placement in shelters.

Experience of American police in combating domestic and sexual violence was discussed at a recent workshop organized in Budapest by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police and International Police Academy in Budapest.

For the first time, besides employees of the law enforcement agencies, Republic of Moldova was also represented at the event by representatives of civil society. Women's Law Center



and International Centre La Strada had the opportunity to share their working experience in this field and to enhance cooperation with the law enforcement bodies in order to ensure protection of the victims of violence.

Efforts and challenges of the civil society and governmental actors in fighting phenomenon of violence were discussed at a roundtable organized by Julie Stufft, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of United States in the Republic of Moldova. Women's Law Center participated in discussions focused on identifying joint efforts aimed at preventing and reducing the phenomenon of domestic violence and ensuring a future without gender-based abuse.



This activity took place in the context of the 16 days Campaign against gender based violence.

During November and December 2016, the Women's Law Center held a series of meetings in various districts of the country to discuss the phenomenon of domestic violence. Roundtables in Bălți, Ruseștii Noi, Lozova and Gura Galbenei were attended by re-

presentatives of local authorities, social workers, teachers, residents of these regions, as well as victims of violence. They discussed the forms of domestic violence and how they are manifested in the community. During discussions, a number of measures that can be taken by the competent authorities to protect persons subjected to domestic violence were identified.

Women's Law Center in partnership with the Ministry of Health has developed Guidelines for professionals in the healthcare system on effective response to cases of violence against women. Victims of abuse are often asking for medical care, even if they do not recognize that they have been subjected to violence. In this sense, health professionals have a key role to play by providing information and adequate support in critical situations to women and children suffering from the consequences of violence for many years. These guidelines present practices and international standards and is based on an understanding of violence against women from a gender perspective focused on human rights and safety of victims. The publication provides the specialists from medical system with useful information and instruments for a multidisciplinary response to cases of domestic violence.



GHID

pentru specialiștii din sistemul de sănătate
privind intervenția eficientă în cazurile
de violență împotriva femeilor



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Joint Statement by UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP on the draft law on child sexual abuse

Ankara, 21 November 2016 - UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP in Turkey are deeply concerned by the draft Bill submitted to the Parliament during the legislative debates on 17 November which may lead to some kind of amnesty for child abuse perpetrators on the condition that the perpetrator marries the victim.

If adopted in its current form, the draft Bill would weaken Turkey's ability to combat sexual abuse and child marriage. It would create a perception of impunity in favour of perpetrators of such child rights violations. In addition, it would increase the risk for further victimization of the child by marrying the perpetrator of the sexual abuse.

Turkey is a state party to both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. While acknowledging Turkey's commitment to child rights and the multiple efforts carried out in the past decades to realize them, it is essential that the legal framework continues to be strengthened and stays aligned with international standards to guarantee that children are protected against all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, including child marriage.

Any forms of sexual violence against children are crimes which should be punished as such. In all cases, the best interest of the child should prevail.

We call on all Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly to do their utmost in ensuring that all boys and girls in Turkey are better protected from all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation, including child marriage and other forms of harmful practices.

We remain committed to continue working with the Turkish Government and other institutions on protecting and realizing children's

and women's rights, and in particular, their right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse.

The Republic of Moldova will take into account the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and will incorporate them into the National Action Plan on Human Rights

At the UPR International Conference, held recently, a number of recommendations targeting observance of human rights were presented.

In total 26 countries made 29 statements that included 51 recommendations in the following fields: family violence, domestic violence, gender based violence, violence against women and/or sexual violence. The recommendations were divided into five major areas:

Policies - a generic area that includes 16 recommendations and 6 major measures, such as signing and ratification of the Istanbul Convention, elaboration of regulations, standards, strategy or new legislation in the field of family violence

Prevention - includes five recommendations that provide measures for organization of trainings for professionals from various fields of activity and awareness raising campaigns

Protection - legal, social, psychological, rehabilitation and shelter for victims of domestic violence

Criminal prosecution - implementation of legal provisions, especially those provided in the Criminal Code on domestic violence, protection orders, emergency order of restraint.

For the next five years, Republic of Moldova agreed to take the following measures to combat the phenomenon of domestic violence:

* to sign/ratify to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;

* combat all forms of violence against women and domestic violence, through:

- promoting the rights of women and combating stereotypes;
- elaborating a comprehensive strategy on preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence;
- promoting awareness raising campaigns against domestic violence, especially in rural areas;
- providing specialized and effective support to victims of domestic violence, in rural areas;
- training of specialists in the field of justice, healthcare and social assistance;
- efficient sanctioning of offenders in cases of domestic violence;
- improving provisions of the Criminal Code in respect to the gender-based violence.

Istanbul Convention: A vital opportunity to end violence against women!

European Coalition Women against Violence Network (WAVE) made a public appeal asking for:

- Member States of the EU and the Council of the European Union to sign and ratify in 2017 the Istanbul Convention with the widest possible powers;
- European Commission to develop a comprehensive EU strategy for preventing and combating of all forms of violence against women;
- EU institutions to integrate the Istanbul Convention in the EU legislation; to establish a relevant framework for monitoring.

On December 15, 2016 the President of the Republic of Moldova has signed the decree on the signature on the Istanbul Convention. At the same time, members of the Parliament have publicly undertaken this commitment within a number of official events.

„Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

*May the Christmas season
 fill your home with joy,
 your heart with love
 and your life with laughter.*

*On behalf of the Women's Law Center
 warmest thoughts and best wishes for a
 wonderful Holiday
 and a Happy New Year!*



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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