



CENTRUL DE DREPT
AL FEMEILOR

*Promovind împreună drepturile femeilor
Advancing women's rights together*


ANNUAL REPORT

2018



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GREETINGS FROM WLC TEAM

It is with great pleasure that the team of Women's Law Centre presents to you the Annual Activity Report highlighting the key achievements in 2018.

During this year we continued to promote women's rights by ensuring gender equality and applying a victim-centred approach in the prevention of violence against women, criminal prosecution of perpetrators, protection of victims of gender-based violence, and development of policies and legislation in this area. We continue to believe that the major change can only be achieved with the involvement of all relevant professionals, decision-makers and the community. To promote this idea, we organised a public awareness event this year where professionals such as lawyers, police officers, social workers, forensic doctors, civil society representatives jointly with the development partners assembled a puzzle of unity convinced that 'Together we can stop domestic violence!'.

One of the key achievements in 2018 was the launch of the Report on monitoring court proceedings in cases of domestic violence, sexual violence and trafficking in human beings, which reveals important issues related to the implementation of legislation in the area of preventing and combating domestic violence, as well as

the attitudes and stereotypes the justice chain actors share.

The WLC made further efforts in its development as a role model and an agent of change. In 2018, our team managed to provide assistance to 411 domestic violence victims. They benefited from primary and qualified legal aid, psychological counselling, social assistance, and economic empowerment. In 2018, the WLC advocacy work focused on further promoting the reform in the area of domestic violence in Moldova. We are happy that the Government approved the National Strategy on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for 2018-2023.

We are also thankful to our development partners – OAK Foundation, Embassy of Sweden, US Embassy, UN Women, UNFPA Moldova, International Women's Club in Moldova for supporting our efforts to eliminate domestic violence from the lives of women and children in the Republic of Moldova.

We expect new challenges and new achievements in future. We urge you to stand by and persevere together for our cause!

Team of the Women's Law Centre

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE

WLC is a non-governmental organisation registered in 2009. WLC was founded by a number of women-lawyers from the Republic of Moldova in order to advocate for equal status between women and men in public life and within the family and to reduce domestic and gender-based violence. The WLC mission is to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and the prevention and combating of gender-based violence in the Republic of Moldova by raising public awareness, building the capacity of relevant actors, providing holistic services to assist and protect women, conducting research and analysis, monitoring the legislation and aligning it with international standards.

WHY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Violence against women and domestic violence is widespread in the Republic of Moldova. The estimates reveal that more than 63% of women and girls aged 15-65 have experienced at least one form of violence during their lifetime. Gender inequality, gender stereotypes and attitudes are deeply rooted in our society and make women accept and tolerate violence. According to the data of IMAGES¹ survey, only 8.4% of the abused women reported the cases to public institutions because to the low degree of satisfaction with the actions taken. This means that thousands of women and their children live in a traumatic environment, depend economically on the perpetrator, do not have a support network and as a result, they perpetuate violence from one generation to another.



¹ The Report 'Men and Gender Equality in the Republic of Moldova'.

TEAM OF THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt



As many as 41 national consultants and 3 international consultants worked together with WLC in 2018. Together we developed reports and strategic documents for the area of domestic violence, we organised workshops and public discussions, trainings for 1842 professionals from different areas.

HOW DO WE ACT?

WLC advocates for a holistic approach to the domestic violence phenomenon. To this end, the activities we carry out target several dimensions:



legal, psychological and social assistance services to domestic violence victims



information and awareness-raising campaigns for the general public



training the representatives of law enforcement, social workers and health professionals



monitoring the manner the law is applied



promoting legislation amendments to ensure the observance of the rights and interests of victims of domestic and gender-based violence



preparing analyses, researches and surveys relevant for this area



expertise on good intervention practices in domestic violence cases and adjustment of the national legislation to international standards

WHAT SERVICES DO WE OFFER?

The WLC
services are
victim-centred.
Depending
on the needs,
we provide:

Primary and qualified legal aid:

- Information on the protection measures provided by law
- Assistance in preparing applications and complaints
- Counselling during the case management
- Representation in court

Psychological assistance:

- Psychological counselling
- Group therapy

Social assistance:

- Support during the crisis period
- Information and facilitation of access to social services, as required
- Career guidance and counselling
- Assistance in the process of economic empowerment

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

6 IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

FOCUS GROUPS, PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, WORKSHOPS

192 participants

63
ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC AWARENESS EVENTS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

- 200 participants
- 181 persons attended

CAPACITY BUILDING

434
investigative
officers

315 police
officers

79 judges
and
prosecutors

132 forensic
doctors and health
professionals

16 journalists
from written and
online media



Approval of the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for 2018-2023



Piloting of sectoral instructions on the intervention of social workers and health professionals in cases of domestic violence



Launch of the Report on monitoring of court proceedings in cases of domestic violence, sexual violence and trafficking in human beings



Institutional assessment of the coordinated community response in cases of domestic violence



Analysis of legislation in the area of sexual harassment at the place of work and studies

SUPPORT AND PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

LEGAL AID



411

domestic violence
victims availed of
primary legal aid

56

qualified
legal
aid



protection orders
issued **95**



12

conviction
sentences

A moral damage amounting
to MDL **125.000** was recovered

10 victims were referred
to NFLAC



PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

215 victims received
psychological
assistance



10 women were
included in the
support group

57 psychological assessment reports
were issued: **51** for adults and
6 psychological assessment reports
for the children of victims.



6 women received long-term
psychological assistance

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND EMPOWERMENT



88 victims received social
counselling on issues related to
benefits, pensions, allowances or
material aid granted by the state

10 victims
received carrier
guidance

38 victims were
facilitated access
to other services
provided by the state
or other NGOs

12 victims
were placed in
a specialised
centre for
domestic
violence
victims

13 victims received
emergency support,
including food for
children



68 beneficiaries
attended **8 creative**
workshops

SOCIAL PROFILE OF THE WLC BENEFICIARIES

RESIDENCE AREA

- 311 victims – from urban areas
- 100 women – from rural areas

AGE

- 113 women aged 25-34
- 92 women aged 35-44 and 65 and more
- 42 women aged 45-54
- 46 women aged 55-64

EDUCATION

- 298 women – secondary and incomplete secondary education
- 88 women – higher education
- 9 women – postgraduate education

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

- 251 women – unemployed or on maternity leave
- 160 women – employed
- 28 women – with disability degree

DEPENDENT CHILDREN

- 269 women – minor children in care
- 142 women – one child
- 89 – 2 children
- 38 – 3 and more children

FORMS OF VIOLENCE

- physical/psychological 178 cases
- physical/psychological/economic 163 cases
- physical/psychological/sexual/economic 9 cases
- physical/psychological/sexual 7 cases
- physical/psychological/spiritual/economic 5 cases
- physical/psychological/spiritual 3 cases
- physical/sexual 2 cases
- physical/economic 1 case
- psychological/sexual 1 case
- physical/psychological/spiritual/sexual/economic 1 case
- psychological 35 cases
- physical 3 cases
- economic 3 cases

THE WLC ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS SUPPORTED BY:



Due to this support WLC strengthened its institutional functionality, had the opportunity to be vocal as civil society actor and was able to diversify and improve the quality of services provided to victims of domestic violence. In addition, during the year, WLC:

- participated in meetings with CPA & LPA representatives in order to adjust the current practices of responding to domestic violence cases
- took part in tripartite consultations on establishment of the Human Rights Council
- advocated against the liquidation of the Inter-Ministerial Council to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence
- participated in meetings of the Advisory Group of the General Police Inspectorate's Strategic Council
- took part in consultations organised by the MHLSP on the report to the CEDAW Committee
- submitted three applications to the European Court of Human Rights
- submitted three complaints to the Council on Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality. The Council acknowledged the presence of discrimination based on sex, gender and disability in all three cases

We share knowledge and best practices:

- we participated at two symposiums organised by the Forensic Medical Centre
- we shared experience with the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan
- we took part in national, regional and international conferences on the access to justice for women victims of violence
- jointly with the Centre Partnership for Development we prepared and launched the report on analysis of the legislation on the sexual harassment

PROJECT RESULTS IN 2018



Sweden
Sverige

PROJECT TITLE: **Enhancing access to justice, legal aid and psychological support to women in detention**

Key achievements:

Legal aid 299 Beneficiaries

- **252 women** received legal services
- **22 women** were informed about their rights
- **15 women** were released on parole
- **6 beneficiaries** were referred to state-guaranteed legal aid
- **2 beneficiaries** managed to recover the ownership of their dwelling
- **2 women** were assisted in the process of revision of their cases on deprivation of parental rights

Psychological assistance 95 beneficiaries

- **28 women** received psychological counselling
- **42 women** attended the Reading Club
- **25 women** joined the group sessions of Art Therapy

Social assistance 29 beneficiaries

- **16 women** received identity papers
- **8 children** visited their mothers in Rusca Penitentiary
- **3 children** without parental care received guardianship
- **2 mothers** reconnected with their children

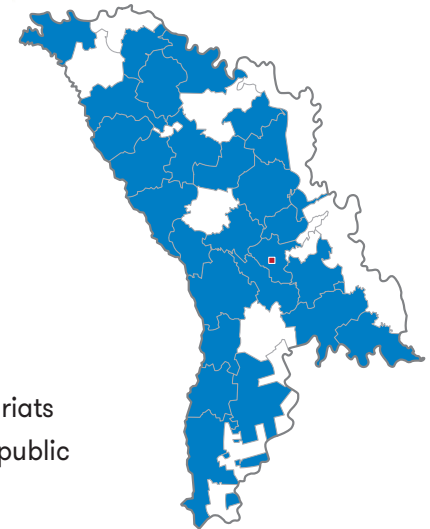


PROJECT TITLE: **Strengthening capacities of Prosecution and Judicial Response to Domestic Violence in Moldova**



Key achievements:

- A public awareness event **‘Together we can stop domestic violence!’**
Representatives of public institutions, international community and civil society put together a puzzle with an image representing joint efforts in ending domestic violence
- Launch of the **Report on monitoring of court proceedings in cases of domestic violence, sexual violence and trafficking in human beings**
- **4 training workshops** for:
 - ⇒ **26** judges
 - ⇒ **31** prosecutors
 - ⇒ **10** criminal investigative officers
 - ⇒ **15** court secretaries
 - ⇒ **19** judicial assistants
 - ⇒ **2** heads of court secretariatsfrom over 20 districts of the Republic of Moldova







MOLDOVA

PROJECT TITLE: **Sexual and Reproductive Health**

Key achievements:

Exhibition

'Do Not Blame Clothes!'

aimed to raise public awareness about the real reasons behind acts of sexual violence



The summing-up meeting to validate sectoral guidelines on the response of health and social assistance professionals to domestic violence cases



Analysis of the data collection system in the healthcare area and presentation of a list of recommended statistical indicators on gender-based violence



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

The National Coalition 'Life without Domestic Violence'

was established on 29 April 2014 with the aim to respond effectively to the needs of domestic violence victims. Currently, 22 non-governmental organisations and public institutions active in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence are members of the National Coalition. WLC has been holding the secretariat of the National Coalition 'Life without Domestic Violence' for three years and provided support in implementing the activities.

Meetings of the General Assembly and Administration Board

Strategic and coalition team building workshop

Workshop on identifying the needs for institutional development with the participation of donors

Advocacy efforts to amend legislation on accreditation of social service providers

13 member organisations received small grants in the total amount of MDL 800,000

A data collection system was developed and tested and a Statistical Report for 2017 was prepared

National Coalition members took part in a study visit to Sweden

The member organisations Stimul Centre and Vesta Association from Gagauzia visited WLC for exchange of experience

Training sessions for psychologists from member organisations



PROJECT TITLE: Economic empowerment and support in crisis situations for women victims of domestic violence

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



7 women included in the economic empowerment program in 2017 received further support in 2018

An iron and ironing board were purchased for a young entrepreneur who makes clothes for pre-term new-borns

A mother of three continued to develop a small hen farming business, and in 2018 she received material aid consisting of non-perishable goods

A student of Technological College received sewing materials and textiles for carrying out the graduate work

A young woman attended massage training courses and received a set of oils necessary for her work and a baby massage guide

A woman decided to invest in English classes and continued her studies at the following levels, and grammar books and dictionaries were purchased

A young woman with physical impairments attended other seven individual handmade courses and a table for exposing and selling the hand-made stuff was purchased for her

A victim of violence received support for purchasing construction materials in order to overcome the crisis situation after the perpetrator set her house on fire



BUDGET IN 2018: USD **544.196,69**

389.672,31

PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

165.972,49

PREVENTION COMPONENT

58.185.49

PROTECTION COMPONENT

102.298,23

PROSECUTION COMPONENT

53.001,52

POLICY COMPONENT

10.214,59

ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT

154.524,38

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

VISIBILITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE:

- 8 participations in TV shows ■ 5 online platforms ■ 1 radio appearance ■
- 570 monthly visitors of the WLC website ■ 1970 followers on Facebook ■
- 2 public awareness events with national media coverage in over 15 media sources ■

WLC PARTNERS

GOVERNMENTAL:

Superior Council of Magistracy
General Prosecutor's Office
National Institute of Justice
Ministry of Health, Labour and Social
Protection
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Justice
General Police Inspectorate
National Administration of Penitentiaries
Centre of Forensic Medicine

NON-GOVERNMENTAL:

Members of the National Coalition
'Life without Domestic Violence'
Gender Equality Platform
East Europe Foundation
SOCIOPOLIS Investigation and
Advisory Centre
Partnership for Development Centre
Institute for Family and Social Initiatives
Reproductive Health Training Centre
Global Rights for Women
Women Against Violence Europe

DONORS:

OAK Foundation
Embassy of Sweden in Moldova
United States Embassy in Moldova
UN Women Moldova
UNFPA Moldova
International Women's Club of Moldova

