

# STOP VIOLENCE

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WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

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# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Women's Law Centre and the National Platform of Women from Moldova, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, started the implementation of the 'Support for economic empowerment of women survivors of gender-based violence' project, implemented with the support of UN Women Moldova and the financial support of Sweden.

The programme aims to enhance the economic empowerment of survivors of gender-based violence by:

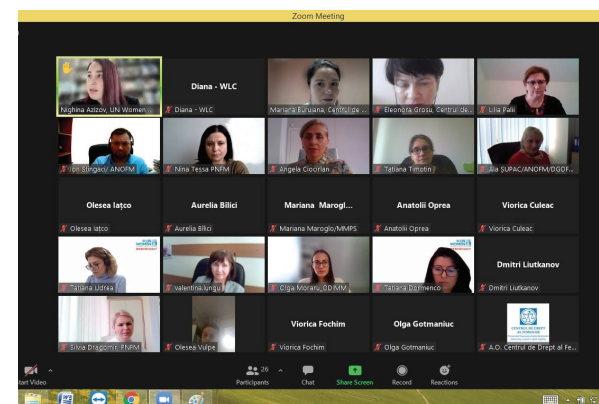
- developing 5 small-scale programmes of economic empowerment in partnership with public authorities, service providers and other stakeholders in Soroca, Balti, Hincesti, Telenesti and Stefan-Voda districts
- building capacities of the representatives of public authorities and other actors to provide a comprehensive support cycle to ensure the

economic empowerment of survivors and their integration with the labour market

- strengthening coordination and cooperation mechanisms between public authorities and other actors on employment and economic empowerment.

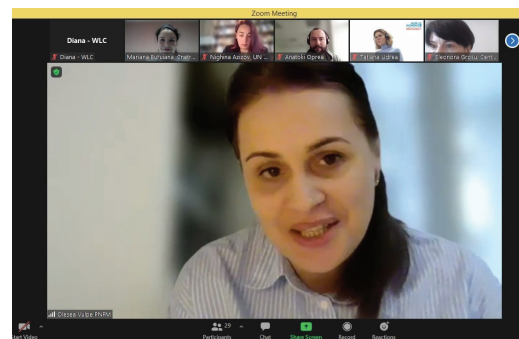
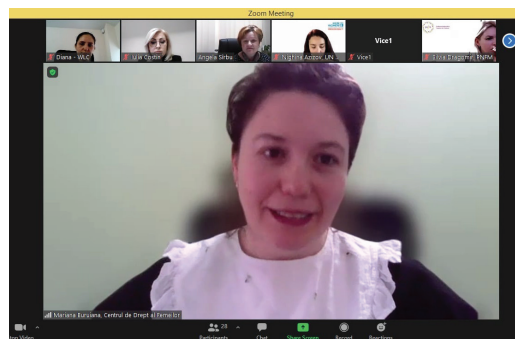
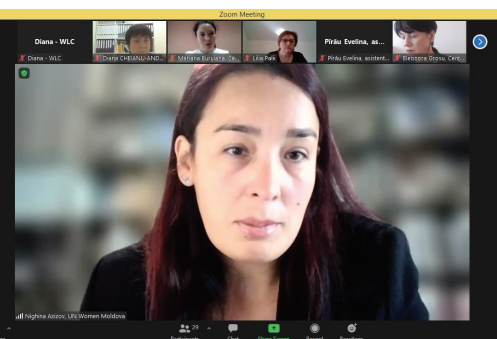
Those 5 economic empowerment programmes to be developed, will take into account the context of each district and will focus on the basic needs of women according to age, education and interests.

Some of them will have to learn to strengthen their decision-making capacities, to be involved in business planning and development, others will have to pursue a profession less characteristic of women, such as STEM. Another aspect would be writing project proposals and obtaining funding to be able to develop income-generating activities and last but not least to strengthen their capacities to partner, defend their rights and advocate.



The first consultations started in February and were attended by the representatives of state institutions, UN Women, WLC, NPWM, ODIMM and non-governmental organisations working in the field. We were joined by officials of the territorial social assistance structures, territorial subdivisions of the National Employment Agency and local actors providing services for victims of gender-based violence and creating opportunities for employment and economic empowerment.

Consultations took place at the district level in those 5 pilot regions: Soroca, Balti, Hincesti, Telenesti si Stefan-Voda.





## SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR WOMEN REFUGEES AND THEIR CHILDREN

Since the beginning of the refugee crisis, we have strived to provide emergency support to people who we could reach. Women and children, mainly, needed water, food and safe shelter to sleep quietly and gain strength.

Over the last few days, more than 60 people have been accommodated in Soroca and Ialoveni, and 150 families have been provided with hot meals.

Thanks to the financial support from The Sigrid Rausing Trust, it was possible to intervene quickly during the crisis, to identify the basic needs and ensure the essentials.

Together with social workers from Costesti, Ialoveni district, we have identified the needs and how we can help refugees in the community. The preparations took several days.

We made the procurements, packed and distributed the goods by age and sex and finally, all things reached the destination. We have visited two centres in Costesti hosting refugees from Ukraine. This time 155 packages of underwear sets were distributed to 76 women and 79 children (girls and boys).

Together with our colleagues from the National Coalition 'Life without Violence' we are going to reach other communities that demand support.

We thank our donors, UN Women Moldova and Sweden for responsiveness and involvement. Thanks to them we are able to respond promptly to the basic needs of women refugees and their children. Which is why we are grateful to them!





# WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FACING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The freelance school was officially launched in Tiraspol. Around 70 women attended the school opening, including women refugees from Ukraine.

The school programme was developed by Ассоциация креативных индустрий Приднестровья [‘Association of Creative Industries of Transnistria’], in partnership with the Women’s Law Centre and Digital Park, under the ‘Women Economic Empowerment’ initiative, with the financial support of Sweden and Great Britain, under the project ‘Development of export capacities on the banks of the Dniester’ (AdTrade), implemented by UNDP Moldova.

The school will help women from the left bank access new digital knowledge and skills, to learn current online professions ensuring their financial independence and stability. This is important given that the pandemic reduced significantly entrepreneurial opportunities for women.



## WHAT PROFESSIONALS CAN HELP YOU?

If you are experiencing domestic violence, this video is for you!

Find out step by step which professional can help you and how. Why it is important to receive support of both the police officer, social worker, forensic doctor, state-guaranteed lawyer and the family doctor.

Thousands of women from Moldova will relate to Maria’s story. Therefore, the video aims to come up with solutions, to explain in a simple and accessible way what services can access people experiencing domestic violence.

The video spot was developed by the Women’s Law Centre under the ‘Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova’ project implemented by UNDP Moldova with the financial support of Sweden.

The video can be accessed here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qfu7D\\_9izl&t=27s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qfu7D_9izl&t=27s)



## BEST PRACTICES OF POLICE RESPONSE TO CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Police sub-officers of the MIA subdivisions participated in a series of trainings on best practices of police response to cases of domestic violence. Participants have been involved in interactive activities, discussions and debates on cases of everyday practice for five days in order to strengthen their understanding of the phenomenon, dynamics and forms of domestic violence.

The representatives of law enforcement bodies were guided by trainers on how to ensure a proactive response to the prevention of domestic violence, identification and combating acts of violence:

- what types of services do victims of violence need and what is the referral procedure
- how is an emergency restraining order issued
- what are the tactics to investigate the crime and who are responsible actors to provide a coordinated response to victims of domestic violence.



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Moreover, WLC with the support of UN Women Moldova, developed a training material comprising all needed information on this topic to ensure the continuity of the training process. The training material was distributed to training participants and would be available online at the library of the Integrated Centre for Law Enforcement Training.

The training was organised by WLC in partnership with JLETC and the financial support of The Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation.

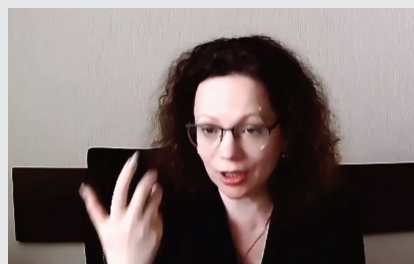


# ISTANBUL CONVENTION AND ITS APPLICABILITY

Around 50 judicial assistants, court reporters and prosecutors' consultants participated in the workshop 'Access to justice for women – peculiarities of the applicability of the Istanbul Convention provisions' organised by the Women's Law Centre in partnership with the National Institute of Justice.

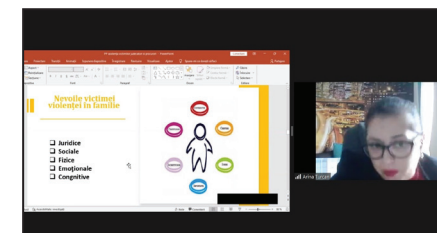
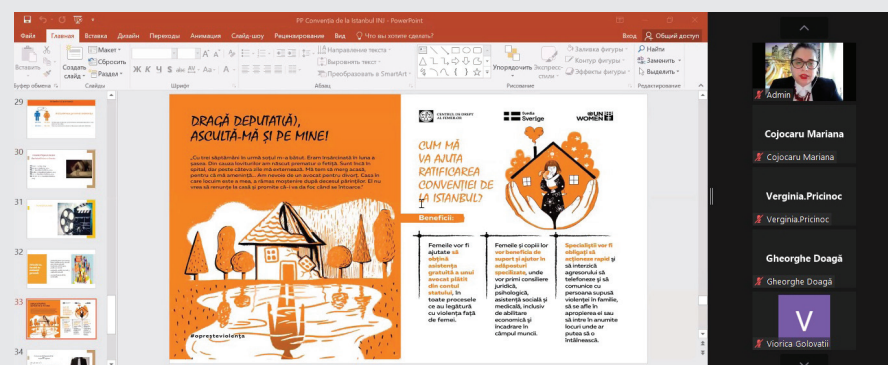
Thanks to NIJ trainers, Mariana Gornea și Turcan Arina, participants were able to find out more about:

- myths about the Istanbul Convention
- four pillars of the Convention: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Coordinated policies
- monitoring mechanisms
- protection measures and criminalisation of the main forms of violence, efficient sanctions



- safety and needs of victims of gender-based violence at the centre of the protection mechanism

The workshop was organised with the financial support of The Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation.



## TRAININGS FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

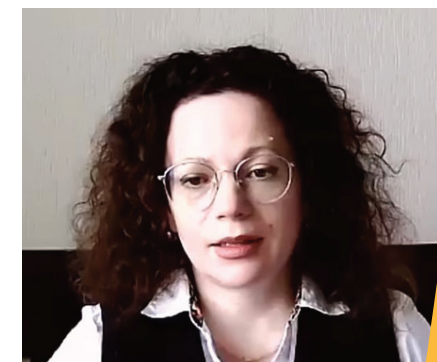
Judicial assistants, court reporters and prosecutors' consultants from the Republic of Moldova have participated in a training course on peculiarities of examining cases of domestic violence and violence against children.

For two days, participants have deepened their knowledge on some topics such as:

- Causes of domestic violence and psychological portrait of a victim and a perpetrator;
- Trauma and needs of domestic violence victims;
- Legislation of the Republic of Moldova in the area of domestic violence;
- Criminal law aspects on preventing and combating domestic violence;
- Investigation of domestic violence cases;
- Legislation of the Republic of Moldova on domestic violence: aspects of civil law and civil procedural law;
- Peculiarities of examining civil cases involving domestic violence;

- Application of protection measures in cases of domestic violence;
- Problems during court trials of domestic violence crimes;
- Protection of and assistance to domestic violence victims;
- ECHR case-law on domestic violence.

The training was organised by the Women's Law Centre in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, with the financial support of The Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation.





## NEW CASES SUBMITTED TO ECHR



The European Court of Human Rights is currently examining three new cases on state inaction in cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence. The victims are beneficiaries of the Women's Law Centre and are represented at the High Court by the lawyer Violeta Andriuta. The Government shall submit to ECHR the state position towards these three cases:

- Vieru V. vs Moldova
- D.R. and A.C. vs Moldova
- Covganeț vs Moldova

Articles invoked by plaintiffs refer to:

- authorities' passivity towards the examination of tens of complaints on domestic violence
- inefficient investigation of complaints on domestic violence and failure to punish perpetrators
- gender-based discrimination during the examination of complaints on domestic violence.

### 1. VIERU V. v. Moldova, Application no. 17106/18

For four years, the plaintiff's sister has repeatedly experienced domestic violence from her ex-husband. It happened that the woman called the police three times a day. Despite numerous protection orders, one day, after a new act of violence, the woman threw herself off the fifth floor and died in the hospital a few days after. The plaintiff complained to the Court under Articles 2, 3, 6, 8 and 14 of the Convention.

### 2. D.R. and A.C. v. Moldova, Application no. 35558/18

The WLC beneficiary has been subject to many acts of violence in the presence of her minor daughter. Even though a criminal case was filed, the perpetrator was not punished. As for psychological violence experienced by the child, the authorities stated that the child suffered from parents' separation and not because of domestic violence, i.e. these sufferings are not covered by the definition of psychological violence stipulated by law. The plaintiffs complained to ECHR under Articles 3, 8 and 14 of the Convention.

### 3. Covganeț v. Moldova, Application no. 26765/21

On 24 August 2016, the plaintiff and her husband had an argument when they assaulted each other. As a result of the violence act, criminal cases were filed against both the WLC beneficiary and her husband, but they were closed after a while. The prosecutor justified the termination of the criminal case by the fact that the wife had provoked her husband to be violent, and he just defended himself. The plaintiff is complaining under Articles 3, 8 and 14 of the Convention on the failure of the authorities to investigate the case of violence she was subject to.



■ The platform of women entrepreneurs from the left bank of the Nistru River is the beneficiary of the 'Women Economic Empowerment' project aiming to provide opportunities to its members to develop and improve their digital skills and learn new IT professions, increasing competitiveness and cooperation potential.

Under the project, the Women's Law Centre will coordinate and support the analysis of the professional development needs of Platform's members during the COVID-19 pandemic and will share its experience in developing policy and advocacy documents on gender equality.

'Women Economic Empowerment' is part of the project 'Development of export capacities on the banks of the Dniester' (AdTrade) implemented by UNDP Moldova with the financial support of Sweden and Great Britain.

■ The 40th review session of the Republic of Moldova took place at the beginning of this year, in January, and it was carried out by the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council.

The Women's Law Centre together with civil society partner organisations contributed to the development of one of those 7 reports on improving human rights in the Republic of Moldova.

The issue of domestic violence and gender-based violence was one of the addressed subjects upon which the professionals provided recommendations to improve the response of the legal system.

The review of the Republic of Moldova takes place once in 5 years. The Republic of Moldova received 218 recommendations in 2016.



■ The Women's Law Centre has signed a partnership agreement with the Public Institution Centre of Excellence in Economics and Finance.

Together we will carry out information activities on gender equality, gender stereotypes and the specifics of the domestic violence phenomenon, adjusted to the needs of students and employees of the Centre of Excellence in Economics and Finance.

The first meetings have also been planned engaging class masters. It is equally important for teachers to be informed on this subject.







You have  
the right to  
live safely!

## WHO ARE WE?

**WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE (WLC)** is a non-governmental organisation founded by a group of women-lawyers from Moldova. WLC advocates for equality between women and men in the public and family life and helps prevent and combat domestic violence and gender-based violence against women.

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## PARTNERS:

