

NEWSLETTER STOP VIOLENCE

WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

Contents:

The Government approved a National Programme to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence	2
Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari – new Executive Director of the Women's Law Centre	3
Ukraine crisis emergency response – the project that inspired us to be resilient and respond to the needs and expectations of refugees	5
By the side of refugees and host communities	6
Police officers ready to respond to cases of domestic violence	10
The case of C.M. and T.M. versus the Republic of Moldova remains under the supervision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe	11
WLC joined the awareness raising and mobilization campaign against sexual violence 'Prinde aripi. Set Free.'	12
WLC activity in figures	13
WLC team building and training activities	15
News in brief	17

The Government approved a National Programme to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence

Domestic violence is a frequent and serious phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova. Some 73% of women in our country have experienced at least one form of intimate partner violence at some point in their lives.

With the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the State has made a firm commitment to develop a system to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.

The program has the following goals:

- 1 Adoption by women and men from Moldova and responsible authorities of a zero tolerance attitude towards all forms of violence against women and domestic violence.
- 2 To strengthen the protection and assistance mechanism for victims of violence against women and domestic violence through a multidimensional approach, in line with the Istanbul Convention.
- 3 The justice system should ensure that all cases of violence against women and domestic violence are investigated, effectively prosecuted and brought to trial, with perpetrators held accountable and re-educated.
- 4 Public authorities, in cooperation with civil society, shall implement comprehensive policies to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, ensuring good coordination and monitoring.

The proposed activities are aimed at reducing the level of violence against women and domestic violence, increasing the number of cases reported to the police and the number of prosecutions and convictions for violence against women and domestic violence, early intervention and prevention of cases of violence, reducing the number of deaths from domestic violence, developing specialised services and strengthening the system of response to violence.

The National Programme to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence for 2023-2027 is developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova in collaboration with the Women's Law Centre, with the support of the Council of Europe, UN Women and UNFPA, and the financial support of Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The National Programme on **preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** for 2023 - 2027 will contribute to:



- **ensuring gender equality** and combating gender stereotypes;
- **zero tolerance** for all forms of violence against women and domestic violence;
- **an effective multidisciplinary response** to cases of violence centered on survivors, by developing sufficient social services appropriate to the needs of victims;
- **an effective response of the justice system** to cases of violence against women and domestic violence by ensuring the protection of victims as well as punishment and reeducation of perpetrators;
- **adopting legislation** and building the appropriate institutional and budgetary framework, as well as developing the capacities of all specialists for an effective response to cases of domestic violence.



> 63%

of women and girls aged 15-65 have experienced at least one form of violence in their lifetime

Source National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with UNDP, UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund, Domestic Violence against Women in the Republic of Moldova (2011)















Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari – new Executive Director of the Women's Law Centre

As of June 2023, the Women's Law Centre is headed by Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari. Many of you know Angelina, as she was the Founder and President of WLC during 2009-2018 and later served as Honorary President of WLC.

Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari holds a law degree and a Master of Laws degree from the European Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice, specialising in human rights and advocacy for the promotion of women's rights, with over 20 years of experience.

She established Moldova's first legal service for women survivors of violence; led the harmonization of national legislation with Istanbul Convention standards, including the introduction of new provisions on restraining orders, acts of stalking and sexual harassment; contributed to the development of the first national curriculum on effective police and judicial response to domestic violence; led the development of the first and second National Strategy for the prevention and combating of domestic violence.

In 2009-2010, she was part of the group of European experts involved in drafting the text of the Istanbul Convention and was actively involved in advocating for the ratification of the Convention by Moldova. On 1 June 2023 she was nominated as an expert from Moldova to the GREVIO Committee.

She has produced numerous reports on violence against women and domestic violence and pioneering studies in this area, such as 'IMAGES – Men and Gender Equality in Moldova' (2015), 'Estimating the Costs of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence in Moldova' (2016), among others.

Read about what the organisation's priorities are and how Angelina sees WLC's work in the interview below.



What is the WLC scope of work and why is the organisation's mission important?

The Women's Law Centre was established 14 years ago and coincidentally registered on 10 December 2009, the day Human Rights Day is celebrated internationally. WLC came into existence with a bold mission: to advance women's rights as human rights to freedom from violence by promoting

reform at the legislative and systemic level, and this can only be achieved by putting women survivors at the center of interventions to guide law reform.

In 2009, the Republic of Moldova had a law on preventing and combating domestic violence, but not a single protection order was issued! The Women's Law Centre came up with concrete solutions then, by establishing the first center providing free legal advice for women victims to obtain legal protection and hold perpetrators accountable. At the WLC, we listen carefully to what women survivors tell us as they recount what happened to them when they sought help from the competent authorities. Because our work changes the system, we are able to impact a large number of women's and children's lives. How do we do this? When a police officer, judge or prosecutor responds to a case of domestic violence in a gender-sensitive manner, rather than blaming or intimidating the victim, and applies the necessary protective measures provided by law, this is how

Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari – new Executive Director of the Women's Law Centre

that professional affects not only the life of one woman and her children, but also the lives of hundreds of victims of violence in the course of their professional work, and this is what we call SYSTEMIC CHANGE. The work of the WLC team impacts countless lives and is a long-term investment of resources, experience, knowledge and unwavering persistence that through dedication will change the fates of the many women and children who seek our help.

What do you think are the priority directions of WLC?

WLC priorities are part of the organisational Strategic Plan, which is developed by the whole team every 4 years. In the near future, we will start preparing a new document in which we will outline the priority areas of action, which, as usual, will focus on four pillars: prevention, protection, prosecution and integrated policies. As a priority direction, I will single out WLC's institutional growth area, where we will be thinking about strategies to strengthen the financial sustain-

ability of our organisation. I also want as many women as possible to benefit from the services provided by the center's professionals, so we will focus on promoting the Lotus app for women, as well as continuing to build the capacity of professionals who are on the front line of responding to cases of violence against women. I wish we could reach the most vulnerable women in remote corners of the country. We will also focus on preventive measures aimed at primary identification, as well as programs for women's economic empowerment. In addition, we will continue to support the process of reforming the legislative and policy framework in line with the recommendations of the GREVIO Committee, and at the same time continue to monitor the implementation of legislation by the authorities and analyse the phe-



nomenon of violence against women in order to see the effect of the actions already taken.

What would you like to do along with the WLC team in the next years?

For WLC, I want it to continue to grow and become a financially sustainable organisation, I also want WLC's services to reach as many women in Moldova as possible, and I want our actions to help prevent the deaths of dozens

of women in their families every year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing women who are part of the WLC team and who contribute every day to creating a society where women live freely and without violence, as well as all our partners, donors and supporters, without whom WLC's work would not be possible. Together with the WLC team, our partners and supporters, we will reach new heights and push reform further.

Ukraine crisis emergency response – the project that inspired us to be resilient and respond to the needs and expectations of refugees

For almost a year, the project 'CARE FOR UKRAINE - Emergency Response to the Crisis in Ukraine' has focused on helping and supporting refugees by creating safe and friendly spaces in 5 libraries across the country and implementing 5 community initiatives in as many communities.

THE PROJECT WAS IMPLEMENTED IN THE LIBRARIES OF

Soroca, Ialoveni, Hârbovăț (*Anenii Noi*), Cărpineni (*Hâncești*) and Boșcana (*Criuleni*)

THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES WERE IMPLEMENTED IN

Căușeni, Șoldănești, Calfa and Gura Bîcului (*Anenii Noi*) and Ialoveni

The focal points and refugees received guidance and orientation on preventing abuse, discrimination, gender-based violence, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and other social dangers increased by the Ukrainian crisis. The project has reduced potential vulnerability and inequality through psychological group support, social, cultural and religious cohesion activities, access to integrated services and humanitarian support. The five libraries were staffed with an appropriate amount of literature in Ukrainian, English and Romanian.

The final conference of the project brought together national and international human rights experts, representatives of government agencies, non-governmental organisations and the direct beneficiaries of the project – librarians and refugees. During the event, the participants discussed the results of the project as well as the benefits that more than 4,000 refugees in 10 communities have received during its implementation.

Watch a video about the results of the project: [click here](#)



This project was implemented by the Women's Law Centre and funded by CARE through the SERA Romania Foundation, CARE France and FONPC.

By the side of refugees and host communities

Project 'Power of libraries to make a difference in people's lives during refugee crisis'

The safe spaces in libraries have become places of refuge and peace for refugees. From April to June 2023, refugee and host women and children participated in 120 recreational activities, 28 psychological support groups and 7 information sessions led by a lawyer and a vocational counsellor in 10 libraries across 8 districts. Here are some of those activities:

- Beadwork classes were organised in the safe space of the **Iulian Filip District Public Library of Drochia**. The participants socialised with each other, shared valuable tips and created real works of art with dedication.
- At the **public library of Palanca village, Ștefan-Vodă district**, women and children made decorations, talked about Easter traditions in their homeland and what customs they discovered in Moldova. In the

district libraries of Drochia and Fălești, children made Easter cards under the guidance of librarians, and in the **children's library 'Grigore Vieru' from Cahul**, children and their mothers painted Easter eggs.



- Family Day was celebrated in the **district public library 'Mihai Eminescu' from Fălești**. Six families participated in an interactive recitation contest. Teamwork was a key element in this activity.
- Refugee and local women meet regularly in the safe space of the **district library 'Alexandru Donici' from Orhei** to create. Whether crocheting, knitting or embroider-



ing, the ladies manage to make genuine handmade works of art, socialise, escape from routine and relax.



- On 18 May, the **public library of Palanca village, Ștefan-Vodă district** turned into a center of Ukrainian culture and brought to the forefront the Vyshyvanka – a traditional Ukrainian shirt. The wife

of the Ukrainian Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova came for a visit. Mrs Shevchenko, together with refugee women, spoke about the dearest traditions and customs of their homeland. While children created a collage with characteristic elements of Ukrainian culture, women made Ukrainian flower wreaths known as 'vinok'.



- Another guest of honour of the Palanca village library was the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu. The librarian introduced Ms Sandu to the local women's space and told her about the regular activities organised for Ukrainian beneficiaries and community members.

By the side of refugees and host communities



- ✓ Refugee and local women were trained in public libraries on preventing and combating gender-based violence and human trafficking. The information sessions were led by lawyers who provided practical advice and legal support.
- ✓ Meetings with a vocational counsellor were held in the safe spaces of the libraries to help women strengthen their financial independence, identify their interests and find stable employment. The refugee women learnt how they can legally get a job in Moldova, what training courses they can attend for free, what rights they have and what temporary protection status is.
- ✓ Support group meetings were held regularly in the 10 libraries, where refugee women received psychological support. Under the guidance of professionals from the Institute for Family and Social Initiatives, the women learnt how to manage their emotions, find themselves, and overcome traumatic experiences.

Such events are being held in 10 libraries in 8 districts across the country as part of the project 'Power of libraries to make a difference in people's lives during refugee crisis', implemented by WLC in partnership with ABRM and supported by IRC.



By the side of refugees and host communities

Project 'Protecting refugees and host communities from gender-based violence on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River'

In 5 district libraries of the Republic of Moldova we organised information sessions and various recreational activities for both Ukrainian refugee women and local women. The information sessions were held with the participation of a legal adviser, a psychologist or a vocational counsellor.

5 LIBRARIES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

- ✓ City Public Library 'M. Eminescu', Cimişlia
- ✓ 'Ion Ungureanu' District Public Library, Căuşeni
- ✓ Hîrtop Territorial Public Library, Taraclia
- ✓ Crihana Veche Territorial Public Library, Cahul
- ✓ Ermoclia Territorial Public Library, Ştefan Vodă

Between February and June we carried out: **25 recreational activities** and **25 information sessions** attended by **425 refugee women and children** and **725 local women and children**.



- The sessions, led by WLC lawyer Daniela Josanu, taught women how to prevent and combat gender-based and domestic violence. They received the necessary legal support and useful information to better integrate into the host community.



- During the meetings with WLC vocational counsellor Tatiana Timotin, the women learned and practised effective communication skills, techniques for a successful presentation and the structure of a public speech. They also reflected and communicated on self-awareness, self-image and self-esteem. The women were given practical exercises and various techniques to get to know themselves better, learn to set goals and objectives, and identify their abilities.



By the side of refugees and host communities



- Various recreational activities were organised such as sewing workshops, book clubs, cookery workshops, scenic tours, Easter-themed workshops, sewing get-togethers, and various crafts workshops. In addition to developing creative skills, the workshops are a good platform for discussion and mutual support for women.

- In the libraries, refugee women received emotional support to cope with their situation. Together with women from host communities, they found support, made connections, and shared their experiences, feelings and concerns. Under the guidance of OSCE psychologist Valentina Oanța, the women explored topics such as techniques and strategies for effective communication, self-awareness, harmonious relationships with others, personal development, mental balance and personal values.



These activities are implemented within the framework of the project 'Protecting refugees and host communities from gender-based violence on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River', funded by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and implemented by WLC.

Police officers ready to respond to cases of domestic violence

55 police officers from different localities of the Republic of Moldova participated in a training course on best practices in police response to domestic violence cases.

Through these trainings, we aim to contribute to changing the attitude of the police towards domestic violence, understanding its origins and transforming the thinking of professionals. At the same time, we aim to promote a cross-sectoral approach to domestic violence cases, cooperation and communication between professionals in their response and

referral of identified cases to specialised services.

Over the course of five days, the participants engaged in interactive activities, discussions and debates aimed at deepening their understanding of the phenomenon, dynamics and forms of domestic violence.



Under the guidance of trainers, the law enforcement representatives learned

- how to provide a proactive response in preventing, identifying and counteracting domestic violence;
- what types of services victims of violence need and what is the procedure for referring them;
- how to issue an Emergency Restraining Order;
- what are the techniques for investigating an offence and who are the entities responsible for providing coordinated care to victims of domestic violence.



The trainings were organised by WLC in partnership with the Integrated Law Enforcement Training Centre of the Academy 'Ștefan cel Mare' of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the financial support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust and thanks to a project funded by the Programme to Combat Domestic Violence in Moldova, supported with funds from the Oak Foundation. This program is implemented in Moldova through a partnership with the Association for Community Relations from Romania.

The case of C.M. and T.M. v. the Republic of Moldova remains under the supervision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Ministers will continue to monitor the situation of domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova on the C.M. and T.M. group of cases.

The European Court of Human Rights found that this group of cases concerns the failure of the authorities to take effective measures to protect the victims and ensure that the perpetrators are punished, despite their awareness of the dangers of domestic violence and its collateral consequences for minors; and the tolerance of discriminatory attitudes towards women.

The Committee of Ministers welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the measures taken to bring domestic legislation into line with its requirements and encouraged the authorities to vigorously pursue all necessary measures for its implementation.

In order to assess the authorities' effectiveness in preventing and combating domestic violence, the Committee of Ministers requests the authorities to:

- examine the problem of low prosecution rates compared to the high

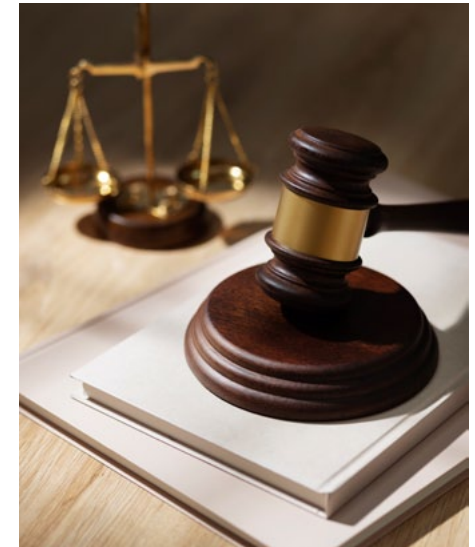
number of complaints and inform the Committee of their findings; provide updated statistics for the period 2023-2024;

- provide detailed information on the practical application of protection measures and examples of relevant judicial and administrative decisions;
- provide information on how the authorities assess the dangers and safety risks faced by the victim and whether standardised procedures have been developed in this regard.

The CoE Committee of Ministers have decided to re-examine this group of cases at one of their meetings in 2024.

WLC will continue to provide legal assistance in this case and will continue its participation in monitoring the enforcement of the ECHR judgments in the case of T.M and C.M. v. Republic of Moldova. It is important that every woman and child affected by domestic violence receives adequate protection from the authorities.

Decision of the Committee of Ministers [here](#)



WLC joined the awareness raising and mobilization campaign against sexual violence ‘Prinde aripi. Set Free.’

On the eve of the world day of solidarity with victims of sexual assault – Denim Day – the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Republic of Moldova in partnership with the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the International Centre ‘La Strada’ and the Women’s Law Centre, launched an awareness-raising and social mobilisation campaign against sexual violence ‘Prinde aripi. Set Free’.



The campaign aims to inform the public about this problem, promote the services available for people who have been subjected to sexual violence, and mobilise the actors involved in preventing and combating this phenomenon.

‘Violence against women is a horrifying reality in the Republic of Moldova. 6 out of 10 women experience some form of violence in their life-

time, be it sexual, physical or psychological. Sadly, sexual violence is the third most prevalent and one of the least reported forms of violence. There are many reasons for this: stigma, mistrust of authorities, lack of adequate services for victims of sexual violence across the country.

According to a survey conducted by the Women’s Law Centre, 40% of men in our country believe women



are guilty of rape, and if a woman has a bad reputation or does not resist, such cases cannot be considered rape. These realities highlight the need for urgent action on the part of the state and society at large. The time has come to take action. No violence can be justified. It



is important that the voices of survivors are heard. It is important that those who commit such crimes are brought to justice,’ said **Eleonora Grosu, WLC Program Coordinator**, at the event.

More than 100 participants, including doctors, psychologists, social workers, police officers, volunteers, representatives of the central authorities and diplomatic corps, gathered in the square of the Chișinău Opera and Ballet Theater ‘Maria Bieșu’ for a public event to convey words of support to survivors of sexual violence.

Video of the launch event: [click here](#)
Photo/video credit: UNFPA Moldova

WLC activity in figures

In the first 6 months of 2023, WLC provided support to **538** people. Women request help in **99%** of cases.

Beneficiaries' social profile

Area of residence: **277 victims** were from urban areas and **261** from rural areas.

Age: most victims are aged 35-44 (207 women), followed by those aged 25-34 (157 women), 55-64 (64 women) and 45-54 (62 women). There were also victims aged 65+ (23 women), 18-24 years (22 cases) and 0-17 years (3 cases).

Nationality: **527 victims** are citizens of the Republic of Moldova, **11** are citizens of Ukraine

Level of education: of the total number of beneficiaries, **332 victims** had secondary education (including incomplete secondary or specialised secondary education), another **173** had higher education and one victim had postgraduate education.



Occupational status: **304 victims** were employed and **133** were unemployed. Moreover, **49** people were on maternity leave, **30** were retired, and **8** victims worked abroad.

ASSISTANCE IN THE PROCESS OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

164 beneficiaries

- ✓ **106 victims** received vocational counselling
- ✓ **50 victims** involved in occupational therapy activities
- ✓ **8 victims** who were economically empowered

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

214 beneficiaries

- ✓ **133 victims** received individual counselling
- ✓ **44 victims** were provided with long-term psychological assistance
- ✓ **37 psychological** evaluation reports were drawn up

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

310 beneficiaries

- ✓ **256 victims** received counselling and access to other services
- ✓ **48 victims** received material aid
- ✓ **6 victims** placed in a placement centre

PRIMARY LEGAL AID

285 cases

- ✓ **285 cases** – drafting of applications, complaints to law enforcement agencies or appeals
- ✓ **110 protection** orders issued

QUALIFIED LEGAL AID

25 cases

- ✓ **13 criminal** cases
- ✓ **5 civil** cases
- ✓ **2 contravention** cases
- ✓ **1 case** filed with the ECHR

WLC activity in figures

Initial assessment of beneficiaries

Relationship of victim to perpetrator:

416 registered cases where the victim was a cohabitant/ex-cohabitant/wife/ex-wife.

Violence between relatives:

- In **22 cases** the victim was parent/mother/father;
- In **28 cases** the victim was son/daughter;
- In **24 cases** the victim was sister/brother;
- In **10 cases** the victim was sister-in-law/aunt/son-in-law;
- In **38 cases**, the victims were not related to the perpetrators.

Type of violence identified: Most of the women referred were victims of domestic violence, which occurs in combination.

Victims subjected to 2 forms of violence:

- **145 cases** of physical and psychological violence;
- **26 cases** of psychological and economic violence;
- **6 cases** of psychological and sexual violence;
- **3 cases** of physical and economic violence;
- **2 cases** of physical and sexual violence.

Victims subjected to 3 forms of violence:

- **100 cases** of physical, psychological and economic;

- **11 cases** of physical, psychological and sexual;
- **10 cases** of physical, sexual and economic;
- **6 cases** of physical, psychological and spiritual.

Victims subjected to 4 forms of violence:

- **10 cases** of physical, psychological, spiritual and economic;
- **7 cases** of physical, psychological, sexual and economic.

As a separate form of violence, **211 cases** were recorded, including: psychological violence – **146 cases**, cyber violence – **27 cases**, physical violence – **17 cases**, economic violence – **14 cases**, sexual violence – **7 cases**.

Source of referral:

- Government agencies/institutions or other service providers. - **168 cases**;
- Repeated referral to the WLC - **123 cases**;
- WLC hotline (**0 800 80000**)- **112 cases**;
- Other NGOs or member organisations of the National Coalition - **56 cases**;
- Acquaintances/relatives or former WLC beneficiaries. - **36 cases**;
- WLC website, brochures, social media or other internet sources - **24 cases**.

Professionals trained to combat domestic violence

In the first 6 months of 2023, criminal justice representatives strengthened their capacity to ensure effective enforcement of the legislation on preventing and combating domestic violence to ensure a victim-centred response.

81
police officers

44
judges and prosecutors

41
heads of prosecution units

32
criminal investigation officers

34
court clerks, paralegals and prosecutor's advisers



WLC team building and training activities



We had the opportunity to test our team spirit outside the office, get to know each other from a different perspective and re-energise ourselves for a long time to come. It was



a team building activity aimed at creating a sense of group cohesion and defining a common understanding of performance at an individual and organisational level. Through various activities and games we reflected on everyone's role and contribution in the organisation, we learned what the pillars of motivation are and how we can overcome certain barriers and provide support to each other. We would like to thank our guest from Romania, Silvia Mişu, trainer and consultant with more than 15 years of experience in areas such as training of trainers, organisational management, with whom we had a unforgettable experience.

This activity was financially supported by the Sigrid Rausing Trust and the OAK Foundation (through ARC).



WLC team building and training activities



Our colleagues Tatiana Timotin, WLC career guidance specialist and Evelina Pîrău, WLC communicator, discovered the secrets of the coaching profession in the most professional, creative and dynamic environment together with 12 other colleagues from the National Coalition 'Life without Violence'.



This is a specialised training program for the development of professional skills specific to the coaching profession, conducted by the Inovatrium team and the trainer Sile Moldovan, which took place in Timișoara (Romania).

Over the course of one week, the participants developed skills in facilitating adult learning, conflict management skills, understanding the impact of different presentation methods and techniques, effective communication, working with an adult group to select/develop the most effective methods of working. And at the end they took an exam, practising their skills as trainers in a 20-minute training session.

Tatiana and Evelina organise and run occupational therapy classes at WLC



for women affected by domestic violence. They say they will put the methods, tools and skills they have learnt on the course into practice to pass on the knowledge, skills and values to the women who will benefit from the personal development classes and creative workshops.



The Training of Trainers course, 3rd edition, was organised by the National Coalition 'Life without Violence' and the Women's Law Centre and funded by CARE through the SERA Romania Foundation, CARE France and FONPC.

NEWS IN BRIEF ■ NEWS IN BRIEF ■ NEWS IN BRIEF



411 teenagers/students together with teachers and social workers from Căușeni and Ungheni districts participated in trainings on tolerance, empathy and non-violent communication. The activities aimed to enhance social cohesion and promote positive changes in attitudes and behaviour of the local

population for successful socialisation with displaced persons from Ukraine. Cognitive and educational activities were organised on mutual recognition, appreciation through listening, observing or understanding the feelings, sufferings and experiences of others.

The activities were carried out in the framework of the project 'Supporting Moldovan communities in hosting Ukrainian refugees', funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the German International Cooperation Agency and the Women's Law Centre.



It was a bright day full of smiles and good mood for the women and children from a temporary accommodation centre in Chișinău and beneficiaries of the Women's Law Centre.

In the handicraft workshop, everyone created their own picture using thread. This technique, which is not as simple as it seems, turned out to be to everyone's liking. The women enjoyed the creative process, socialising with each other and having a great time with their children.

The creative workshops are held monthly and aim to harmonise the state of mind by developing skills of self-expression and self-discovery. It is also a place for women to socialise and support each other.



This activity was financially supported by the Sigrid Rausing Trust and the OAK Foundation (through ARC).

In an interview with Ziarul de Gardă, Daniela Josanu, coordinator of the specialised service for victims of domestic violence at WLC, spoke about what domestic violence is, what are the forms and manifestations of this phenomenon, and what help is available to victims of domestic violence.



'In addition to protective measures, victims also need a safety plan. This plan covers the physical and mental safety of the victim and her children, the safety of identity papers and documents, money, luggage and valuables belonging to the victim. After the victim leaves the abuser, he will try to bring her back into the toxic relationship, and if he fails physically or emotionally, he will try to do so by depriving her of her identity papers, documents or preventing her from using jointly acquired property,' said Daniela Josanu. Read the full interview [here](#)

An ad-hoc meeting of the GREVIO Committee of the Council of Europe was held in Paris on 19-20 June 2023.

Our colleague Angelina Zaporozhan-Pîrgari participated as an expert from Moldova.



After the Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence on 1 May 2022, our country was included in the monitoring procedure of the Group of Experts. The GREVIO Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by the countries that have ratified it and preparing recommendations and evaluation reports.

More details on GREVIO's work can be found [here](#)



On International Children's Day, we brought gifts – small joys – to the children of the Women's Law Centre's beneficiaries. 18 children received gift certificates from toy, stationery and book shops. Together with their mothers, they could choose a gift to their liking.

The initiative was financially supported by the OAK Foundation (through ARC).

On 13 May, the Women's Law Centre participated in the Fair of Civil Society Organisations at the European City in Chişinău. We celebrated Europe Day, told visitors about the services we provide to victims of domestic violence, about the activities and projects we organise. We organised a quiz and gave away useful gifts.



The event was organised within the project 'Partnerships 4 Women Leadership and Good Governance', implemented by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Moldova and Institutum Virtutes Civilis NGO, with the financial support of the European Union in the Republic of Moldova and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.



As part of the DenimDay campaign, marked annually in April, we wear jeans as a visible form of support for rape victims and as a symbol of protest against stereotypes in society. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of sexual violence, which is a serious violation of human rights and a consequence of gender inequality, discriminatory social norms and prejudices.

In this context, at the invitation of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs 'Ștefan cel Mare', Daniela Josanu, lawyer and coordinator of the specialised service



for victims of domestic violence of WLC, gave a public lecture on the topic 'The legal framework on sexual harassment in the workplace', aimed at the managers of police institutions.

The event was attended by Liliana Creangă, PhD in law, university lecturer, member of the Department of Public Law, Border Security, Migration and Asylum of the 'Ștefan cel Mare' Academy of MIA.

Through education and awareness raising we can help prevent and combat sexual violence.



Continuous training is an important factor in the development of professional skills.

After six months of training, exchange of ideas/experiences and practical exercises, a group of trainers: school psychologists, social workers, teachers, civil society representatives from the districts of Ungheni, Ștefan Vodă, Căușeni and Chișinău municipality, gathered to tell about what it was like, what they learnt, what new knowledge they gained and how they apply it in their daily professional work. They discussed the novelty and usefulness of psychosocial support programs by participating in a reflective exercise with Sergiu Toma, a systemic

psychotherapist working with families and couples. They shared their experiences on how they manage to provide psychosocial support to target groups in refugee centers, schools, social institutions and how they integrate psychosocial aspects into their relationships with beneficiaries.

The training sessions were organised by the Women's Law Centre within the project 'Supporting Moldovan communities in hosting Ukrainian refugees', implemented by the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ Moldova) with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

www.cdf.md

We invite you to read the WLC 2022 Annual Report, which summarises the most important achievements in favour of women in the Republic of Moldova, achieved together with our partners. This is another step towards a society more sensitive to the problem of domestic violence, with improved legislation, better trained professionals, and victims of domestic violence receiving help when they need it. Thank you for your trust, encouragement and support!

The report is available *here*



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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