

NEWSLETTER STOP VIOLENCE

WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

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A National Agency for Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Domestic Violence will be created in the Republic of Moldova

In the Republic of Moldova, violence against women is a serious violation of human rights and a consequence of gender inequality.

Given the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the stronger aspirations of the Republic of Moldova for EU integration, the institutional framework on preventing and responding to violence against women and domestic violence requires strengthening.

A model of institutional organization is needed to increase the interaction capacities at the central and local level, and to improve cross-sector cooperation in promoting policies that put the rights of the victim at the center of all measures.



An important step that would contribute to the development of the system for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is the creation of a **National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**.

In this context, on 28 September 2023, public consultations were held on the extended platform of the Inter-ministerial Coordination Council in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, in order to

present and analyse the Concept of the Agency.

More than 70 individuals participated in the meeting: representatives of central and local authorities, civil society, development partners and the donor community. The concept is to be improved and adjusted following public consultations and recommendations from key anti-violence stakeholders. Everyone's contribution is essential in this process and shapes our desire to create a safer and more equitable future for all women in our country.

A National Agency for Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Domestic Violence will be created in the Republic of Moldova



"Today's meeting is an example of an unprecedented commitment to align both state authorities and civil society. It is a historic moment because together we are laying the foundations of a new institution that has never existed before." states **Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari**, Executive Director of WLC, leader of the team that developed the Agency's concept.

The new entity will operate as a central administrative authority, subordinated to the Government of the Republic of Moldova, in charge of implementing, coordinating, and evaluating the

implementation of policies in the field of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

According to the concept, the Agency will have the mission to implement public policies on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, to ensure the implementation at the national level of the Istanbul Convention and other relevant international instruments that promote the protection of women's rights against any form of violence and promotes the non-violent environment in the family, through



activities of coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of policies to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, development of public sector cooperation with the non-commercial sector and civil society, improving the dialogue with the development partners.

The consultation meeting was held by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in partnership with the Women's Law Centre, with the support of UN Women.

A year of involvement and care: how libraries became safe spaces for Ukrainian refugees

www.cdf.md

One year ago, in the summer of 2022, we launched an ambitious project to help refugee women from Ukraine and their children. After more than a year of project implementation, we are reaping the fruits, we are enjoying the impressive impact of the activities carried out and we want to share with you everything we have achieved.

"Power of libraries to make a difference in people's lives during refugee crisis" is a project based primarily on the needs of refugee women from Ukraine and their children. Our goal and that of our partners – the International Rescue Committee and the Association of Librarians from the Republic of Moldova, was to create a space where the beneficiaries can feel safe, free from fear, despair and uncertainty.



The project took place in 10 partner libraries in the country, located in: Chişinău, the districts of Faleşti, Ungheni, Orhei, Stefan-Voda, Drochia, Cahul, Palanca village (Stefan-Voda district) and Zagarancea village (Ungheni district).

Each of the libraries was equipped with children's furniture, interactive toys, board games, office supplies and books in Romanian, Ukrainian and Russian. Because many children are of school age and need constant access

to information, we equipped the spaces with IT equipment: tablets and notebooks. Thus, film evenings, painting and handmade creations workshops, reading sessions and various workshops were organized in the safe spaces of the libraries.

For our beneficiaries, we have organized a series of activities aimed at their personal development and emotional well-being. The women participated in art therapy workshops, Romanian

A year of involvement and care: how libraries became safe spaces for Ukrainian refugees



language lessons, information sessions on gender-based violence, economic empowerment and their health. But the most important thing is that the women found peace, made friends




with the local women, were listened to, received psychological help and integrated into the community.

"We left Ukraine at the beginning of the war. It was sad, I was afraid and I couldn't see the light. When we got here and found out about the safe space, I found that everyone was receptive to us and I felt that the light was close," one of the beneficiaries told us.

Our project ended in September, but we believe that beautiful things will continue to happen in the safe space and that it will bring a lot of joy to the beneficiaries.



DURING ONE YEAR OF THE PROJECT:

		
724	11 205	10
ACTIVITIES	REFUGEES	LIBRARIES
carried out	and people from the host community were assisted	have been provided with books, equipment and furniture

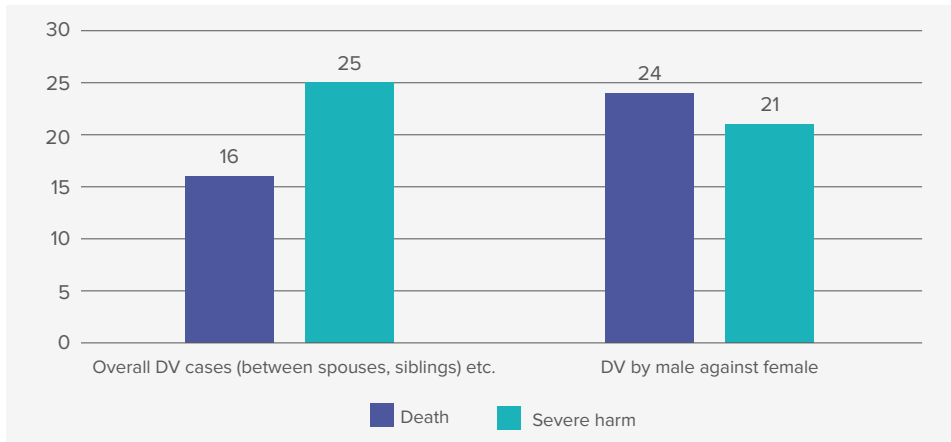


The project "Power of libraries to make a difference in people's lives during refugee crisis" was implemented by the Women's Law Centre in partnership with the Association of Librarians from the Republic of Moldova, with the financial support of the International Rescue Committee.

Launch of the fatality review report on cases of domestic violence resulting in victims' death or severe harm to bodily integrity in 2022

In 2022, 86 cases resulting in death or serious bodily injury were analysed by a specialized Commission, created by the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the aim of preventing such cases and improving the system's response. In the context of the Commission's activity, a situation analysis report was made.

Cases of domestic violence resulting in victims' death or severe harm to bodily integrity

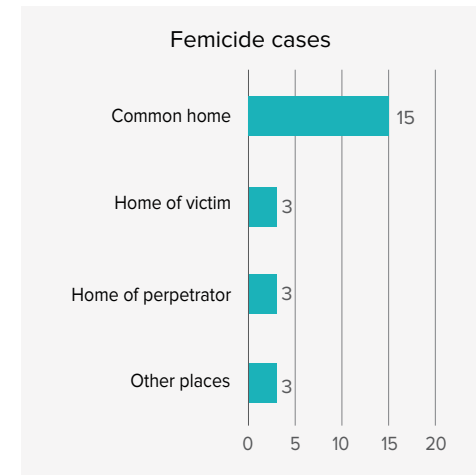
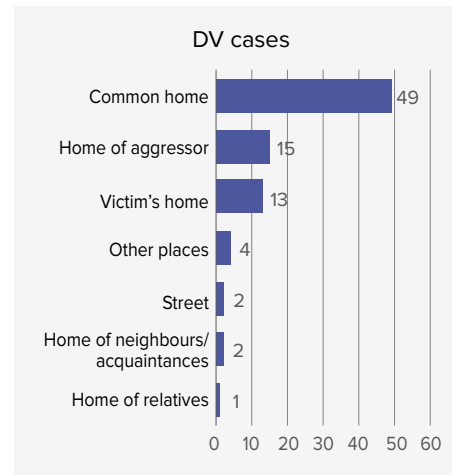


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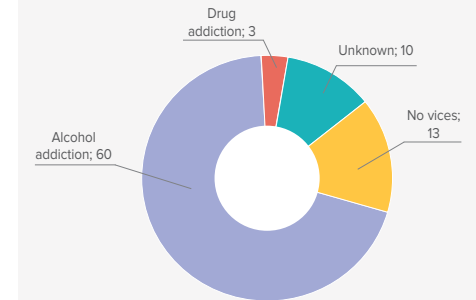
The report analyses the statistical data on the number of homicide/femicide

Scene of crime



death cases as a result of acts of a violent nature by family members or intimate partners, highlights the problems and faulty practices in managing cases of violence and comes with specific recommendations for improving the national response to cases of violence, including proposals to adjust legislation, promote cross-sector cooperation, improve prevention activities, increase access to support services for survivors of violence, etc.

Presence of vices among perpetrators



Launch of the fatality review report on cases of domestic violence resulting in victims' death or severe harm to bodily integrity in 2022

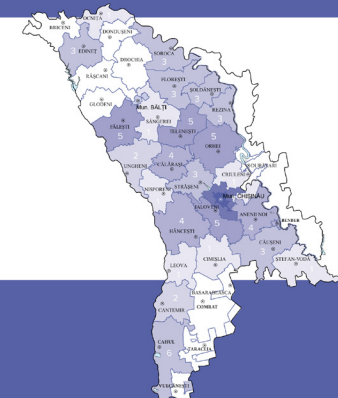
KEY DATA FROM THE REPORT

From the 86 cases analysed:

- **40** resulted in the death of the victim (**24** victims – women and **16** victims – men);
- **46** cases in which the victim was seriously injured;
- **45** cases in which the perpetrator was a man and the victim was a woman;
- **24** women and girls were killed by intimate partners or family members;
- The youngest victim was **4** months old and was thrown out of the window by her father;
- The oldest victim was **82** years old;
- Only **1** in **10** victims is employed;
- Most of the perpetrators earn their living from day labour or are unemployed;
- **37** victims have secondary education and **25** victims have middle school education;
- **30** perpetrators have criminal records and **63** perpetrators suffer from vices (alcohol or drug consumption);
- **8** children were themselves victims, **12** children were witnesses of acts of aggression and in **19** cases the children grew up in families where violence took place;
- The most common place where crimes are committed is the common residence of the victim and the perpetrator;
- The duration of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator in the cases of femicide is over **10** years, in 3 cases it is over **30**, **40** and **42** years;
- **52** perpetrators were found guilty of the crime.

The findings of the report will help develop a concept for improving the state's response to cases of domestic violence resulting in death or serious bodily injury of the victims and to reducing the number of fatal cases, including the prevention of cases of femicide.


The report was prepared by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in collaboration with the Women's Law Centre in the context of the Commission's activity for monitoring and analysing cases of domestic violence resulting in death or serious bodily injury of the victims with the financial support of Sweden and the Department of State of the United States of America, Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Section (INL) of the Embassy of the United States of America in the Republic of Moldova.



FATALITY REVIEW REPORT
of cases examined by the Commission in charge of monitoring and analysing domestic violence cases resulting in victims' death or severe harm to bodily integrity in 2022

CHISINAU 2023

See the Report [HERE](#)



Police officers have attended training to effectively respond to domestic violence

Strengthening the capacities of professionals competent to intervene in cases of domestic violence continues to be one of the main components of the WLC strategy.



17-21 JULY:

31

of non-commissioned police officers trained



10-11 AND 15-16 AUGUST:

53

of heads of police sectors trained



Addressing domestic violence in training is a complex process and focuses both on the effective and correct application of the law, as well as on the analysis of the phenomenon of domestic violence.

The purpose of the workshops is to increase the skills of Police employees in preventing domestic violence, identifying and counteracting acts of

domestic violence, ensuring the protection and assistance of victims, holding family perpetrators accountable.

The trainings were organised by the WLC in partnership with the General Police Inspectorate; The Integrated Law Enforcement Training Centre of the "Ștefan cel Mare" Academy of the MAI, with the financial support of The Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation and the OAK Foundation (via ARC).



Adolescents actively involved in promoting gender equality



More than 60 teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17, from the ENERDEL summer camp, participated in a lesson where they explored important topics such as gender equality and the phenomenon of domestic violence, together with the legal advice of the Women's Law Centre, Nicoleta Cocoță.

At this activity we created a safe and interactive space where participants had the opportunity to openly discuss and share their views on the challenges of gender equality and domestic violence. We created exercises that allowed participants to work in teams and analyse concrete scenarios.



A special moment of the activity was the "Circle of Friendship" exercise. Its purpose was to strengthen team cohesion and develop mutual trust between girls and boys. We encouraged mutual support and emphasized the importance of equal placement regardless of gender.

The ENERDEL summer camp is held by the "Gutta-Club" Republican Center, with the support of the program "Addressing the impact of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova", financed by the European Union and implemented by UNDP Moldova.



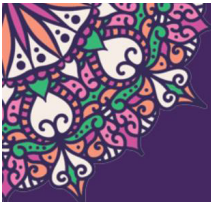
During 14 years of activity, the Women's Law Centre has supported thousands of women who have experienced domestic violence, gender-based violence and discrimination at work or in society. Our specialists provided the necessary support confidentially and free of charge. Each time they acted based on the best interest of the beneficiary and her children. We made sure that the help offered was a teamwork between the lawyer, psychologist and social worker. In recent years, we have also added an economic empowerment component to empower women survivors to gain financial autonomy and open the door to new opportunities.

Are you wondering how these women did it? What difficulties did they encounter on their way to living in peace and dignity? Who supported them and how did they arrange their lives?

Through the "Inspiring Stories" brochure, we invite you to get to know the stories of these strong and determined women. We invite you to enter their world without judging, without putting labels, but only read how you can change the course of your life if you have the courage, people to support you and the right specialists.

There are five stories that can inspire you, prompt you to think and offer the specialists' answers to the most common questions from our beneficiaries.


Read the stories [HERE](#)



ISTORII CARE INSPIRĂ

30 de ani de așteptări


Angela s-a născut într-o localitate din centrul țării. Timp de 30 de ani ea a trăit cu frică în propria familie, unde era umilită și bătută de propriul soț. „Motivul” - pentru că îndrăznește să gândească și să simtă altfel decât se aștepta agresorul. În această perioadă cel mai mult i-a lipsit susținerea din partea rudelor și a vecinilor.

ISTORII CARE INSPIRĂ

Ultima plecare înainte de divorț


Toată tinerețea ne-am petrecut-o muncind pentru o casă, în care să se audă voci de copii fericiți. Opt ani am lucrat pentru ca acest vis să devină realitate. Eram prea stresați de realitățile dure care ne înconjurau. Ne mai certam, el mă lovea uneori, eu îl iertam de cele mai multe ori. Eu îl amenințam că plec, el își cerea scuze.

ISTORII CARE INSPIRĂ

Documentul care mi-a schimbat viața

Aveam nevoie de un colț în care să mă retrag cu un copil speriat de bătaie, înjurături și amenințări chiar în acel moment. Nu puteam aștepta. Soțul meu era peste hotare și urma să se întoarcă de pe o zi pe alta. Am început să caut ajutor online și am aflat despre Centrul de Drept al Femeilor.




ISTORII CARE INSPIRĂ

„Cine bate la ușă? Soțul meu cel beat ori cel galant?”

Mie îmi place soțul meu. Mă uimește și acum când este treaz. Poate să îmi trimită fructe cu vreo ocazie. Este un gospodar minunat. Mereu m-a ajutat. Îi spuneam de ce am nevoie, iar el seara aducea. Pe cât de fioros este atunci când e băut, pe atât de minunat este când e treaz.



Women's economic empowerment - the path to living in dignity

Economic empowerment allows victims of domestic violence to become financially independent, thereby reducing vulnerability to abuse. They can make better decisions and avoid staying in abusive relationships for financial reasons. From the beginning of 2023, 8 beneficiaries were included in the economic empowerment program of the WLC. We invite you to learn some of the stories of these brave women who have begun to regain control of their future.



RAISA endured physical and economic violence from her husband over several years. The abuse was manifested in the presence of the child. Sometimes she managed to isolate herself with her mother, but after her death the violence intensified. Raisa does not have her own place to live, she has loans and debts taken because of her husband and her poor

ALIONA is a mother of two girls. The husband was violent throughout the relationship. He applied physical, psychological and economic violence. Physical violence was manifested by slaps, especially over the face, but also grabbing the hair. Aliona had nowhere to go, her parents' house burned down, and her mother is away working abroad to be able to buy a home. This ordeal lasted until one morning... Aliona was beaten with fists and palms all over her body, in the presence of the children. The man who arrived home at midnight, drunk, was unhappy that his wife was sleeping next to the children and not in bed with him, as "befits a loving wife". Aliona managed to free herself from the hands of her violent husband and ran to take shelter at a neighbour's house, from where she called 112 and the hotline

for women and girls. The woman and the children were placed in a placement center on the same day. That morning her life took a new path...the path to liberation.

She received psychological and legal counselling at the WLC. With the help of the lawyer, she managed to obtain a protection order. Aliona has only graduated from vocational school and does not have any work experience. Guided by vocational counsellor, she identified the field in which she would like to work. The economic empowerment program of the WLC was for Aliona the chance for a new life. She attended the salesman's course for free and later managed to get a job at a market in Chisinau. At the moment, she lives in rent and is in the process of divorce. She feels safe away from her abusive husband and is confident that she will succeed.

financial situation. Seeing that her life and that of the child are in danger, Raisa called on the services of the WLC. With the help of the lawyer, she managed to obtain a divorce and at the same time she benefited from the assistance of the psychologist, in order to cope with the complicated situation. Having financial problems and with the help of vocational coun-

sellor, he got a job as a cook's helper at the "La Dănuț" bakery. Raisa is passionate about making pie dough and wants to become a chef. Being included in the economic empowerment program of the WLC, she follows the chef's course to obtain a qualification. This way she will be able to advance in her position and become financially independent.

TATIANA is a victim of domestic violence. The partner used to beat her mercilessly in the presence of children, especially after consuming alcohol. Tatiana killed her partner to defend herself and the children. She was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 8 years in prison. The children remained in the care of Tatiana's mother. After 4 years of detention, she was released on parole.

At the WLC she received psychological counseling and was helped to obtain alimony for her 2 children from her ex-husbands. She was guided and encouraged by vocational counsellor to look in the direction in which she sees her future. The experience of sewing in detention helped her to understand that this is the field in which she would like to develop. A sewing machine, a stitching machine, the fabric and other tools necessary for this activity were purchased as part of the economic empowerment program. The children were enrolled in school. All school clothes for children were sewn with passion by Tatiana. She started providing home-based clothing repair services. She wants to diversify the type of services provided and become more financially stable.



NINA is 24 years old. For many women, it is the age that signifies youth – a beautiful period of life in which we confidently look into the future. But for Nina this age has another meaning: suffering, pain and hopelessness. Her parents were violent with her, and at the age of 14 she had to take care of her sister's two children, forgetting all the charms of adolescence. At 15, she started a relationship with Grigore. From the beginning of the relationship, the man was aggressive with her, controlled her in everything, used profanities and cursed her. A miscarriage also followed, due to the constant stress. Nina and Grigore got married. With the birth of the 2 children, the beatings decreased, but the verbal aggression continued. Grigore did not participate in raising the children and her mother-in-law always told her

that she was a bad mother. Her husband forbade her to see her mother and friends. She had limited access to money and other necessities. Even food procurement was strictly controlled. The store account was paid periodically by the husband, thus ensuring that she did not spend money on personal needs. He would scold her even if she borrowed money from her mother. After the last fight with cruel blows, the woman bit the bullet and asked for help.

Nina benefited from WLC's specialized services: legal, psychological, material aid and vocational assistance. With the help of the lawyer, she managed to obtain a protection order, then a divorce. Nina had no work experience, no profession, graduating only from middle school. She was disoriented and it took more time to understand what she wanted to do with her life. Having an old passion for hairdressing, she decided she wanted to develop in this field. As part of the economic empowerment program, she attended the universal hairdressing course. All the necessary tools have been procured to be able to practice this activity. The children were enrolled in kindergarten, and Nina got a job as a saleswoman, although she did not give up her passion for hairdos. Local women turn to her to do their hair for various occasions.

WLC's economic empowerment program is financially supported by the Oak Foundation through the "Core Funding Issues Affecting Women" Project developed in partnership with ARC Romania and with the support of The Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation within the "Core Support II" Project.

NEWS IN BRIEF ■ NEWS IN BRIEF ■ NEWS IN BRIEF



■ The representatives of the women's dialogue platforms from the left of the Nistru region made a study visit to the WLC. We were happy to report on the tactics and principles by which we conduct our work and at the same time to learn more about the experience of our colleagues on the left of the Nistru region. We shared ideas and experiences that promote social change and involvement in humanitarian projects or causes. We are sure that the exchange of ideas and perspectives will bring added value in solving community problems, developing new community initiatives for social cohesion and amplifying the voices of women on the left of the Nistru region.

The study visit is part of a series of activities organised by the Center for Development and Support of Citizen Initiatives "Resonance" as part of the project "Women in support of women: increasing the leadership and resilience of women affected by the crisis through community initiatives", funded by the Government of Switzerland and partner organizations of UN Women.



■ The Forensic Medicine Regulation on assessing the seriousness of bodily injury or the person's health, was revised after more than 10 years and approved by the Government.

The amendments take into account the needs of domestic violence victims and clarify the situations which medical examiners found difficult in qualifying the bodily injury. At the

same time, the adjustments prevent situations where evidence is lost and will guarantee victims' access to justice. The group of experts, which worked on finishing the Regulation, took into account, first of all, the needs of domestic violence victims, the difficulties encountered by subject-matter professionals and the international standards in the field.

The regulation was improved by subject-matter professionals, representing the Forensic Medicine Center and the Women's Law Centre, as part of project "Strengthening efficiency and access to justice in Moldova", implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the financial support of Sweden.

■ Since the beginning of 2023, we have provided material aid worth **MDL 56,500** to the children and beneficiaries of the Women's Law Centre. **52** mothers and **115** children received gift certificates from toy, office supplies and book stores. They were thus able to purchase the necessary things that they usually cannot afford. The children chose their much-desired toys and some mothers chose to purchase school supplies for the children.



The initiative is financially supported by the Oak Foundation under "Core Funding Issues Affecting Women" Project developed in partnership with ARC Romania.

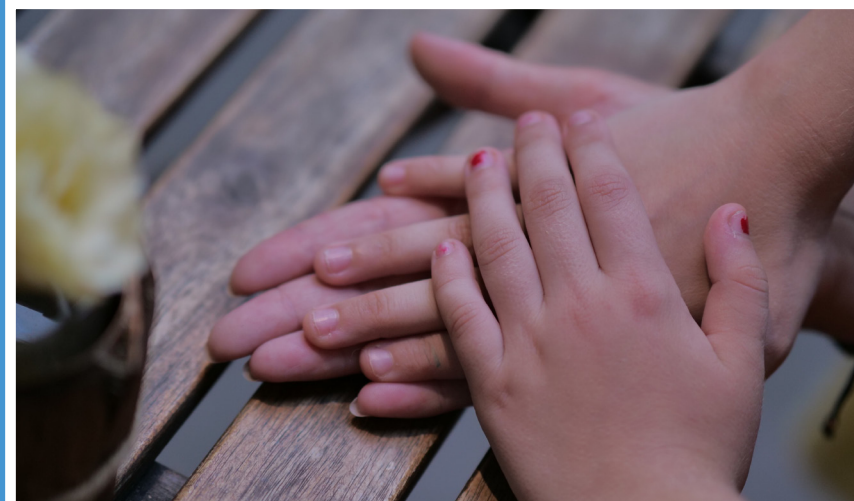
Applicants for protection orders are to be exempted from state tax and stamp duty, as a result of the amendments to the draft Law on State Tax. The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova passed the Law on State Tax, which will enter into force on 01.01.2024. Thus, the amendments to the mentioned law will provide free access to justice for victims of domestic violence.

The WLC together with member organisations of "Life Without Violence" National Coalition issued a legal opinion on the draft law and submitted a series of amendments regarding the exemption of the plaintiffs from the payment of the "stamp duty in the amount of 200 MDL".

Exemptions will be applicable in the following situations:

- compensation for pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary damage caused by crime and/or contravention;
- application of protective measures and compensation for pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary damage caused by acts of domestic violence;
- violation of the legislation on the protection of personal data;
- regarding acts of discrimination;
- collection of court costs incurred in previous civil lawsuits, regardless of the procedural status in those lawsuits;
- in connection with the violation of the right to trial within reasonable time and compensation for the damage caused by this violation;
- for requests in defence of their rights.

Besides, the plaintiffs involved in procedures such as: management of evidence, postponement of the court hearing due to illness, relocation of the case, recusal of the judicial panel, fast-tracking of court proceeding, will be exempted, including, from paying the state tax during process.



Dear Supporters,

Thank you for your gesture of redirecting **2%** of your income tax to support victims of domestic violence. Your generosity and commitment continue to inspire and motivate us to fight for women to live a life free of violence and for their children to grow up safe.

In 2023, **MDL 11397.43** were redirected to the WLC, being the largest amount compared to previous years. The money will be used to support victims of domestic violence in their efforts to overcome crisis situations and break the cycle of violence.

Gratefully,
WLC team

TOGETHER WE ARE CHANGING LIVES!

Every month, about **100 women** take an important step in their lives. Sometimes, this step is their last hope to be heard, understood and supported. Every month, about **100 women** choose not to tolerate domestic violence anymore and turn to WLC for specialist support.

We offer to these women **legal and psychological support, social assistance, and opportunities** for economic empowerment, so that they can step confidently into tomorrow. **Our support is free and confidential!**

You can also help women and children of Moldova. Visit the WLC website and make a donation to support victims of domestic violence. Every donation is a chance for these women to rebuild their lives. Every donation enhances the power of our community.

DONATE 



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.

The newsletter is issued with the financial support of **OAK Foundation** and the **Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation**



CONTACT INFO:

M. Kogalniceanu street, nr. 76
MD 2009, Chişinău,
Republic of Moldova
Tel/fax (+373) 22 811 999
Mobile: (+373) 68 855 050

Legal counselling – **080080000** (free call)

PARTNERS:

