

NEWSLETTER STOP VIOLENCE

WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

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WLC supports transformative initiatives and policies in the field of gender equality, in the context of the IMAGES study “Men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova”

The Women’s Law Centre, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organised a seminar presenting the results of a mapping exercise of the main gender equality activities and initiatives implemented in the Republic of Moldova in recent years. The discussions took place in the context of the new IMAGES study “Men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova” to be conducted in 2024.

The mapping revealed changes in four areas:

- family policies;
- gender-based violence;
- reproductive health;
- men’s involvement in family life, child rearing and education.

Among the most significant results were:

- increased women’s political involvement;
- involvement of girls in STEM fields;
- development of opportunities for women’s economic empowerment;
- ratification of the Istanbul Convention;
- electronic monitoring of perpetrators;

- development of general and social services in district centres;
- engaging men in domestic violence prevention;
- ensuring adolescents’ access to contraceptives;
- a decrease in the teenage birth rate and abortion rates;
- reduction in the incidence of certain sexually transmitted diseases.



The workshop brought together representatives of government agencies, non-governmental organisations and development partners. They worked in thematic groups to identify initiatives to be scaled up and supported, including recommendations for IMAGES 2024.



In 2015, WLC conducted for the first time the Study “Men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova”, which provided a holistic picture of men’s and women’s lives, attitudes, behaviours and perceptions of men and women on gender equality.

Read more [here](#).



Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”

Every year from 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, International Human Rights Day, the global campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” takes place. The Women’s Law Centre organised a series of activities aimed at raising awareness and informing the general public about the extent of this phenomenon.

Opening of an exhibition of clothes of survivors of sexual violence

The documentary exhibition entitled “Don’t Blame the Clothes” presents the reconstructed clothing of nine women and adolescent girls from the Republic of Moldova, at the time they were sexually abused or harassed. The exhibition, held at the premises of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in partnership with the Women’s Law Centre and in cooperation with UNFPA Moldova, draws attention to the stereotypes of our society that hover around the phenomenon of sexual violence and aims to combat them.



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“IMAGES 2015 data showed that 42% of men and 26% of women believe that if a woman is raped, it means that she herself had done something to get into such a situation. These are alarming figures that discourage victims from reporting violence. Through WLC’s work, including such awareness-raising activities, we aim to bring about system-wide change. When a police officer, judge or prosecutor applies the necessary protective measures provided by law, we will know that he or she has changed the life not only of one woman, but also of her children and hundreds of other survivors,” said Angelina Zaporozhan-Pîrgari, Executive



Director of the Women’s Law Centre, at the opening of the event.

The case of Iuliana, presented at the event, is illustrative. She was abused when she was only 15 years old and the experience left her scarred for life. She cut off her long hair, started wearing only men’s clothes and struggles to build relationships. “My boyfriend would still want me to wear dresses, wear make-up or do my hair... I can’t do that... it would be provocative. I don’t want that! I will never make myself beautiful again!” – this is the heartbreaking story of the young woman.

In the Republic of Moldova, sexual violence is the third most common form of violence among girls and has serious consequences for their lives. In 2022, the police recorded **508 sexual offences**, including **222 cases of rape** and **282 cases of sexual assault**.

The launch of the exhibition was followed by a public lecture for the NIJ audience and SUM social work students, where, together with WLC lawyer Arina Țurcan, myths and stereotypes about sexual violence were debunked and measures to protect the rights of victims of gender-based violence were discussed.

Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”

Information sessions for young people led by WLC lawyers

- **160 students** studying at the College “Alexei Mateevici” and the Center of Excellence in Energy and Electronics from Chişinău were informed about the seriousness and specificity of the phenomenon of domestic violence, the gender stereotypes prevalent in our society, and the contribution and actions they can take to stop gender-based violence.
- **30 teenage girls** from Ştefan Vodă Vocational School participated in discussions about sexual violence, digital violence and online harassment. The girls learnt about their rights, the risks associated with using the online environment, how to protect their privacy and how to respond to online abuse. The event was organised by WLC in partnership with the Ştefan Vodă Township Public Library with financial support from the Sigrid Rausing Trust.



Information and reading therapy for women in prison



In partnership with the National Administration of Penitentiaries, we held information sessions for women in prison as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Women from Pruncul Prison learnt more about their rights from WLC lawyer Violeta Andriuța. Topics such as preventing and combating domestic violence, meeting special needs, etc. were discussed.

Prisoners in Rusca Prison had reading therapy under the guidance of a psychologist. The participants learnt in detail the story of a woman who had been a victim of violence and had managed to rebuild her life. The questions asked by the psycholo-

gist brought sensitive topics to the surface, giving the women the opportunity to explore and understand their own experiences. The women developed their own liberation plan, which symbolised their inner journey of unburdening themselves of the past and building a future full of hope and possibilities. The activity was carried out with the support of UN Women Moldova and financial support from Sweden.



Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”



Round table – “Breaking the Cycle of Violence Together”

The Platform of Women Members of Parliament organised a roundtable discussion on “Breaking the Cycle of Violence Together”. Women MPs, representatives of central and local authorities, development partners and civil society participated in a discussion on protection services for women victims of domestic violence and the actions taken by the authorities to prevent and combat violence against women.

The meeting presented the findings of the report on the analysis of domestic violence cases resulting in



death or serious bodily harm to victims in 2022, which the Women’s Law Centre participated in preparing. Present at the event, Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari, WLC Executive Director, highlighted the difficulties encountered in the preparation of the above-mentioned analytical report, emphasising the importance of measuring femicide cases in the Republic of Moldova and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations set out in the report. She also stressed the need to develop comprehensive services that respond to the needs of victims but also work with perpetrators.

The meeting can be viewed [here](#).

The experience of the organisation presented at the international level

At the regional conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, the Women’s Law Centre was represented by Arina Țurcan, a lawyer with the organisation. Government officials and civil society representatives from Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine met to identify and discuss the best practices of these countries in strengthening rule of law institutions, ensuring access to justice for all and supporting the resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

In the discussion on Gender Justice and Women’s Rights, participants examined legal frameworks, support systems and effective advocacy initiatives

to promote gender equality and gender-sensitive justice. In this context, Arina Țurcan spoke about the WLC’s experience in providing comprehensive specialised services to victims of domestic violence; the advocacy actions undertaken for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Moldova; the training of professionals with intervention skills in this field; the analysis of femicide cases and the drafting of the first reports analysing this phenomenon.

The event was organised by UNDP Georgia with financial support from the Government of Germany.



Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”

Domestic violence – a topic covered in the media

Between October and December, WLC representatives as guests of four TV and online programs addressed various aspects of domestic violence and femicide. The media appearances were broadcast also in the north of the country and in ATU Gagauzia. Their aim was to raise public awareness of the complexity of the problem and the resources available to victims of domestic violence.

Through media appearances, we contribute to changing social perceptions of domestic violence and creating a more aware and responsible society.

The broadcasts can be viewed [here](#).



Students from the Faculty of Law visiting WLC

Several students, members of the European Law Students' Association, paid a study visit to the WLC. We shared with the young people the specific challenges women face in terms of their rights, how the WLC works to promote women's rights and combat gender-based violence. The students learnt stories and case

studies and gained a better understanding of the challenges and joys of being a jurist/lawyer. We hope that the younger generation will contribute to creating an environment where domestic violence is firmly addressed and where the rights of every individual are protected and respected.



Sweden supports WLC in promoting a life without violence for women in Moldova

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The Women's Law Centre signed an institutional grant agreement with the Embassy of Sweden in Chişinău for the period from December 2023 to December 2027. This collaboration will significantly contribute to the implementation of the main activities included in WLC's Organisational Development Strategy.



On this occasion, the WLC team would like to express their gratitude for the continuous organisational support provided by Sweden since 2016. This partnership has been instrumental in making WLC the leading women's advocacy organisation in Moldova.

Thanks to Sweden's generous support, we have been able to play an important role in the legal reform process on vio-

lence against women. These efforts led to Moldova's ratification of the Istanbul Convention in 2022.

Over the years, we have worked to criminalise domestic violence, combat sexual harassment, introduce the emergency protection order and strengthen the capacity of the police and judiciary. We are proud to be the first organisation to provide legal advice and representation



for women victims of violence and their children. We have developed a holistic support service for women and their child survivors of violence.

These achievements were made possible by institutional support and strong leadership, boldness of vision and determination of the WLC team. We firmly believe that the only way to achieve results is to promote system change at

the individual, community and social levels, based on a human rights-based approach.

Many thanks to the Embassy of Sweden for their support!

The WLC participates in the presentation of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report for the Republic of Moldova

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The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) published its first evaluation report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by the Republic of Moldova. The WLC participated in the report presentation event alongside representatives from public authorities and civil society, where progress and challenges encountered during the implementation of the Convention were discussed.

The report welcomes the significant commitment shown by the Moldovan authorities to combating violence against women. This includes the adoption in 2007 of the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence and recent amendments to a number of laws aimed at strengthening the protection of women victims of violence and prosecuting perpetrators. Also of great relevance are the measures taken by the authorities to establish multi-agency and inter-sectoral cooperation mechanisms in domestic violence cases to ensure productive interaction between all stakeholders.

At the same time, GREVIO noted a number of areas for improvement:

- increasing the level of funding for women's rights organisations;
- increasing access to protection and support services for women

who are or may be at risk of intersectional discrimination, including women living in rural areas;

- a stronger criminal justice response to all forms of violence;
- initial and ongoing training for frontline professionals providing support and protection to victims of violence;
- facilitating access to health services for women victims of violence;
- increasing the number and geographical spread of shelters;
- the establishment of special programs to ensure the long-term empowerment and economic independence of women victims of domestic violence;
- the availability of programs for perpetrators throughout the country;



GREVIO
Raport de evaluare
de referință
Republica
Moldova



Photo credit: Oficiul Consiliului Europei la Chișinău

- promotion of awareness-raising campaigns, research on all forms of violence against women, including those currently less studied, etc.

The report is available [here](#).

Training for professionals in the field of criminal justice

The Women's Law Centre continues to build the capacity of justice sector professionals to help change their attitudes, perceptions and behaviours, 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.

Five trainings on the application of domestic violence legislation and women's access to justice were organised between November and December for 180 judges, prosecutors, prosecution officers, court clerks, paralegals and prosecutor's consultants from across the country.

The trainings were organised by WLC in partnership with the National Institute of Justice with financial support from the Council of Europe, Sweden and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.



On 19-20 October 2023, delegated staff and professionals from the Police Family Justice Center (PFJC) participated in a training workshop on ensuring an integrated approach to better resolve domestic violence cases. The workshop aimed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of PFJC staff to provide specialised domestic and sexual violence services.

The event was organised by the Women's Law Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Police Inspectorate within the framework of the project "Establishing a Family Justice Center in Moldova", funded by the Department of State of the United States of America, Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Section (INL).

30 community leaders from 10 districts of the country trained in gender equality

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The Women's Law Centre organised the first training course on gender equality within the project "Empowering Women, Local Communities and Refugees in Moldova", with financial support from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), for 30 participants, 15 women and 15 men, selected from 10 districts of the Republic of Moldova: Orhei, Soroca, Glodeni, Căușeni, Ștefan Vodă, Ialoveni, Criuleni, Cimișlia, Dondușeni și Florești.



Launched in August 2023, the Project aims to empower women economically, socially and educationally by actively engaging women, men and local authorities to build inclusive and sustainable communities, challenge gender stereotypes, redefine gender roles and find viable solutions to local needs.

The training course focused on the following topics: gender equality, challenging stereotypes, non-violent com-

munication, identifying the needs of the local community and working with local authorities to promote gender equality. The highlight of the workshop was the discussions with gender equality advocates. The participants had the opportunity to interact with those advocating for change, drawing inspiration from their success stories and lessons learnt. Special guest Olga Bulmaga, Secretary of the Equality Council, shared the most pressing is-

ssues related to prevention and protection from discrimination, ensuring equality, promotion of equal opportunities and diversity.

The participants developed an action plan for gender equality initiatives tailored to each district. They also worked to identify local stakeholders with whom to collaborate, plan future actions, and explore opportunities to communicate with their community.

At the end of the training program, the participants will be asked to team up in teams consisting of one man and



one woman and develop project proposals to address a problem related to gender equality, discrimination, domestic violence, etc. identified in their communities. In the end, ten innovative projects will be selected to receive funding from the WLC with financial support from UNDEF.



New economic empowerment programs for rural girls and women

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The Women's Law Centre and UN Women Moldova have signed a partnership agreement, thus marking the beginning of the project 'Supporting the multi-agency efforts on prevention of violence against women and delivery of comprehensive assistance to survivors in Moldova, including through economic empowerment programs.' The project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, with financial support from Sweden.

The project will provide over **300 women and girls**, especially those from socially excluded groups, with essential services, including economic empowerment programs.



The project will continue to support the implementation of **5 small-scale economic empowerment programs** developed in partnership with public authorities, service providers and other stakeholders in **Soroca, Bălți, Hîncești, Telenești and Ștefan-Vodă**.



A significant number of women and girls, including survivors of gender-based violence, will be informed of their rights and will have access to employment services. Economic empowerment programs will provide them with career guidance, business advice, mentoring and financial support vouchers to strengthen their businesses.



Representatives of public institutions and service providers will be empowered to provide support through multi-sectoral coordination services tailored to the multiple needs of victims.



Among the first activities carried out within the project were **2 workshops on women's** empowerment held in December 2023 in Bălți and Ștefan-Vodă. These workshops provided participants with information on gender-based violence, warning signs and myths associated with it; support services available to survivors of domestic violence; inspiring stories of women survivors; and opportunities in the economic empowerment process. The women were told about the project's support options and how to access economic empowerment services. At the end of each workshop, to add a touch of magic, the women handmade Christmas globes.

WLC joins the 'Bodyright' Campaign – a global movement against digital violence

“Without my consent it’s not your content” – under this slogan, UNFPA Moldova, together with several national and international partners, launched the global information and mobilisation campaign against digital violence “Bodyright” in the Republic of Moldova. The campaign launch event, held on the eve of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, aimed to build a strong movement against online violence.



“Violence against women perpetrated in the digital sphere has a serious impact on the lives, psychological and physical health, safety and reputations of girls and women. Women are more likely to be subjected to abuse and hate speech on the Internet, leading many to refrain from expressing their opinions on online platforms. The voices of women human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers, women

parliamentarians, and opinion leaders are thus silenced. As an organisation that provides support to victims of domestic violence on a daily basis, we will advocate for solutions to protect teenage girls facing the challenges of the online environment”, said Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari, executive director of the Women’s Law Centre, who moderated the panel discussion with central government officials.

Singer Dara supported the campaign by pledging to fight all forms of online violence. The singer wrote a song dedicated to this topic, “Virtual Unlove”, which was officially presented at the event.

The campaign was organised in partnership with the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, La Strada International Centre, Women’s Law Centre, Council of Europe, the Orange compa-



ny and with financial support from the United Kingdom.

Find out more about the campaign [here](#).

The campaign launch event can be viewed [here](#).



Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

Occupational therapy workshops for WLC beneficiaries

At the Women’s Law Centre, we believe in the healing power of art and occupational therapy. For years we have been running workshops designed to bring comfort, relaxation and well-being to women and children who have been through traumatic experiences.



From October to December, 30 women along with their children took part in creative workshops where they painted on bags, made wreaths and Christmas arrangements. The sincere smiles on the faces of the participants create a magical atmosphere every time. At the end of the workshops, looking at the unique works, we realise that we have created not only beautiful crafts but also precious memories and human connections.



The activities were made possible thanks to financial support from the OAK Foundation (through the Association for Community Relations) and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.



Success stories in women's economic empowerment

The economic empowerment of victims of domestic violence is a very important step in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration into social life. Financial independence helps women to break the vicious circle and choose a safe life for them and for their children. In 2023, 12 beneficiaries were enrolled in WLC's economic empowerment program. We invite you to learn some of the stories of these brave women who have begun to regain control of their future.

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.



MARIA has been in a relationship since she was 15 years old. She has two children. At the beginning of the relationship, psychological abuse from her partner manifested itself in the form of pressure, prohibitions, humiliation, belittling and blaming. Over time, her partner started hitting her, pushing her and threatening her with a knife. The last episode of violence resembles something out of a horror movie. Maria was working as a day labourer with her children and husband in a greenhouse in the suburbs of Chişinău. The angry and upset husband started running after

the woman with a chainsaw in his hand, threatening to cut her into pieces. The frightened Maria ran with her children to the main road, hoping that one of the passing drivers would rescue her. Eventually she was helped to the nearest police station. She was placed with the children in a specialised centre for a few months and then they started renting accommodation. She got a job as a cook at a Japanese restaurant. Throughout this time, Maria benefited from sessions with a psychologist and legal consultations at the WLC. Thanks to the economic empowerment

program, she took a refresher course to get a category V as a cook. She successfully completed the training.

The teachers at the school where she did the course describe her as a diligent and engaged student. She now works as a head chef in a pizzeria in Chişinău. The new job allows Maria to cover her family's financial needs and be with her children. She recently obtained a divorce, but her fear of her ex-husband still plagues her. For fear of her husband finding her, she won't even tell her biological parents where she lives.

NATALIA was living with her husband and 3 children in Russia. She emigrated in the hope of a better life, but instead faced uncontrolled violence at the hands of her husband. The abuse took its toll on her and her children. She decided to run away with her children and end her suffering. She returned to Moldova and sought help from WLC. She needed assistance in establishing the children's place of residence and collecting child support. Meanwhile, the husband filed a lawsuit in Russia. He declared them missing and filed for divorce.

Natalia benefited from psychological support, legal, material and vocational assistance at the WLC.

She obtained her divorce in Moldova with the help of a lawyer. After a comprehensive case assessment, she was enrolled in the economic empowerment program. The woman was working in the cleaning industry, but her low salary did not allow her to support her children. She had not completed her studies at the College of Technology.

It was difficult for her to find a well-paid job because she had no qualifications. She is now taking courses in cutting and sewing and is keen to get a job in this field. In the meantime, she has bought a sewing machine, fabric and other tools to be able to practise more. A new life of peace and security lies ahead for Natalia and her children.



Success stories in women's economic empowerment



SVETLANA decided to divorce when her husband could no longer contain his aggressive behaviour towards her. But her husband forced her to live with him even after the divorce. From this relationship three children were born, who were present at all the scenes of violence. The youngest daughter suffered a lot from the psychological abuse. The child had frequent panic attacks. Due to financial problems Svetlana went to work abroad for 5 years. When she returned, she had nowhere to live except in the same house as her abuser. After the last quarrel, during which the man tried to strangle her, she sought help.

At WLC, the woman benefited from psychological and legal support, material and vocational assistance. Svetlana has only a secondary education, without any qualifications. She works as a cashier in a shop, but this job does not allow her to survive with her children. Svetlana was enrolled in the economic empowerment program. A number of tests and interviews were conducted to determine what suited her best. She chose the speciality of a cook. She is currently taking a cook's course and she is really enjoying it. The path to financial independence is not easy, but we are sure that Svetlana will succeed.

LUDMILA's life is full of sad memories: abusive parents, the death of her father, life in an orphanage, an alcoholic husband who beat her mercilessly, the blows to her stomach when she was pregnant. The woman has two children from another relationship and two children born in the current relationship. The husband became aggressive towards her and the first children after the first year of cohabitation. Ludmila's older children were put in a placement centre to be safe away from the abusive man. After the last scenes of violence, when her husband scalded her back and stabbed her, she was placed in a specialised centre. With the support of a WLC lawyer, a protective order was issued, forcing the perpetrator to leave the joint home. Ludmila was thus able to return home.

At WLC, she benefited from a course of therapy with a psychologist, material aid for her children and economic empowerment. The lawyer represented her in court, and as a result, she obtained a divorce and acquired her property through inheritance. The woman completed eight grades. She has experience in sewing and enjoys sewing children's clothes. In the future, she wants to work as a seamstress in a local factory, put her children in kindergarten and take her first two children from the placement centre. A sewing machine and all the necessary tools have been purchased. At the moment she can't find a job because her daughter is still small. But Ludmila has started a small business in clothing repair. People in the locality use her services. When her child starts kindergarten, she wants to get a job to have a stable source of income.



The Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the **Decision** on the organisation and functioning of the National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The approved document regulates the mission, areas of activity, duties and organisation of the Agency's work. Starting from 2024, the Agency implements the public policies on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, ensures national implementation of the Istanbul Convention and other relevant international instruments promoting the protection of women's rights against all forms of violence, coordinates inter-agency activities in this field, facilitates cooperation and dialogue with the public sector, the non-profit sector and civil society. The Agency has the status of a central administrative authority subordinate to the Government and has a National Coordinating Council for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The Women's Law Centre supported the process of creating the Agency, and we are honoured and proud to contribute to creating a safer and fairer future for all women in our country.



Representatives of central authorities, international experts and representatives of civil society attended the 3rd International Conference on Preventing and Combating Violence against Girls and Women and Domestic Violence on 25-26 October 2023.



The conference included a panel discussion on access to justice for women victims of violence. Arina Țurcan, WLC lawyer, spoke about the phenomenon of femicide in the Republic of Moldova and presented the key data from the report analysing the cases reviewed by the Commission for monitoring and analysing cases of domestic violence resulting in death or serious bodily injury to victims in 2022.

"In the Republic of Moldova, women are most often killed out of jealousy or failure to fulfil domestic duties. Perpetrators justify the violence that led to the death by saying that the woman did not prepare the food, did not take care of the children, or provoked him

and spoke up when it was inappropriate. Simply put, these are cases of femicide, when a woman is killed because of her gender", stressed Arina Țurcan.

For more information, click [here](#).



A delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan, consisting of representatives of a governmental working group, paid a study visit to the Republic of Moldova and visited the Women's Law Centre on 8 December 2023. It was an honour for us to present the work of the WLC in the field of promoting gender equality, preventing and combating gender-based violence. The high-level officials were interested in Moldovan experience

and best practices in capacity building of decision-making structures in this field, specialised services for the protection of victims of gender-based violence, as well as research, analysis and monitoring of legislation to bring it in line with international standards. At the same time, the study visit gave us the opportunity to learn about other countries' experiences in this area.



■ Aurelia Gorea, psychologist, and Tatiana Timotin, WLC vocational counsellor, together with other professionals working with victims and potential victims of gender-based violence and refugees, had the opportunity for professional development thanks to the training “Common Elements Treatment Approach”, organised with the support of the Government of Japan, provided through the United Nations Human Security Fund under a project implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organisation for Migration.

Over the course of 10 days, the participants learnt how to help people dealing with alcoholism, violence and mild forms of anxiety and depression. This program was developed by experts from Johns Hopkins University in the USA and is a cognitive-behavioural approach that can be practiced even by professionals without psychological training. With their advanced skills and fresh knowledge, Aurelia and Tatiana are determined to use what they have learned to help the women who come through the door of the Women’s Law Centre.

■ On the eve of winter holidays, beneficiaries of the Women’s Legal Centre took part in two social impact events: the International Charity Fair organised by the International Women’s Club of the Republic of Moldova and the Christmas Fair organised by the Association against Violence “Casa Mărioarei” in support of women subjected to violence.

The women put up for sale their handmade items made with much love and care. The visitors could buy Christmas decorations and toys, candles, jewellery, scarves, gloves, embroidered and knitted clothes, etc. Participation in such events provides women with a valuable platform to promote their products and skills, as well as an opportunity to forge new human connections and partnerships.



The Impact of WLC in 2023

Support and protection for domestic violence victims

In **2023**, we assisted **1,231 people**, including **1,225 women victims of domestic violence**, an increase of **22 per cent over 2022**.

735 victims were from urban areas and **496** from rural areas. At the same time, according to the statistics for the last 4 years, there has been a 25% increase in the number of applications of rural women.

Most often women aged 35-44 years turn to us, followed by those aged 25-34 years. Of the total number of women assisted, **795** are mothers caring for one or more minor children.

The majority of people affected by domestic violence who sought our help have incomplete secondary education, secondary or specialised secondary education, which is about 64 per cent. Of the total number of beneficiaries, 639 people are not officially employed or unable to work.

In assessing the cases, it was found that most of the women referred were victims of domestic violence, which occurs in combination. Psychological violence is the most common form of violence – **1,064** cases, about 86 per cent, followed by physical violence – **789** cases, economic violence – **419** cases, and sexual violence – **112** cases. In **989** cases, the victims stated that they had been abused by their spouses (cohabitants, husbands, ex-husbands or former cohabitants).



Legal aid:

1159 people received primary legal assistance

- In **60 cases**, women were represented in the court by WLC's lawyers.
- **244** protective orders were obtained
- Moral damages in the amount of **MDL 280,000** were recovered



Psychological support:

271 victims received psychological counselling to overcome the crisis situation

- **106 victims** received long-term psychological counselling
- **79 psychological** assessment reports were prepared



Social assistance:

432 people received social counselling on issues related to benefits, pensions or material support from the state

- **18 victims** were admitted to a specialised centre
- **83 mothers** and **179 children** received material aid in the amount of **MDL 144,864.77**.
- **167 vouchers** for food, clothing, school supplies, medical services and rehabilitation



Vocational guidance and economic empowerment:

340 women received vocational counselling and career guidance

- **12 women** were economically empowered
- **73 women** participated in **8 occupational** therapy workshops
- **15 women** successfully completed a **5-module** personal development program

Capacity building of professionals

In **2023**, we organized **16 trainings** with the participation of **458 professionals**, out of which **253 were women**.

- **112** police NCOs
- **53** chiefs of police sectors
- **22** prosecution officers
- **133** judges and prosecutors
- **117** assistant judges, court clerks, prosecutors' counsellors
- **19** forensic doctors

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**



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