

# NEWSLETTER

no. 39 (2024)

# STOP VIOLENCE

OCTOBER to DECEMBER

WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE

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The newsletter reflects the activity of the Women's Law Centre in preventing and responding to domestic violence and violence against women

# CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER FOR 15 YEARS



Fifteen years ago, with the aim to promote women's rights as human rights to live a life free from violence, the Women's Law Centre was created. Thus was born a courageous mission called WLC.

It is not by coincidence that WLC was registered on 10th of December, that is the International Human Rights Day, and since 2009, we have been working with thousands of women survivors of violence, providing them with legal counselling, psychological, social and economic empowerment to rebuild their lives.

Together, we have promoted legislative and systemic reforms, by placing the women – survivors of violence – at the centre of our intervention. We helped raise awareness and build the capacity of frontline specialists: police officers, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, social workers and forensic doctors. As a result, an increasing number of women have



WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTRE

*15 years*

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE  
WHO BELIEVED IN OUR DREAM!

[WATCH THE  
ANNIVERSARY VIDEO](#)

been assisted and provided with legal protection measures. Together we have worked to harmonise the legal framework with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and advocated for its ratification by our country.

This journey would not have been possible without the courageous voice of every woman who shared her story with us. Through our programmes, we have shown that change is possible and systemic reform can become a reality.

On 10 December 2024, we celebrate 15 years since the Women's Law Centre was founded. We give thanks to the WLC team, who through

unwavering persistence, dedication and professionalism, impact countless lives every day.

We are grateful to all our supporters for your long-term investment of resources, expertise, knowledge and your commitment that has succeeded in changing lives for the better, and thus the future of generations to come.

We will continue to advocate for every woman to be heard, respected, protected and be free from violence. Together we are stronger, and this anniversary is proof that change starts with each and every one of us.



# WLC LAUNCHES THE STUDY “MEN AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA” IMAGES-2

After almost 10 years since the first research on men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova, the Women’s Law Centre, in collaboration with Sociopolis Consultancy with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Republic of Moldova, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, launches the second edition of the study that shows us where we have progressed and where we still have to work so that gender equality becomes a reality in the Republic of Moldova.



The study “Men and Gender Equality in the Republic of Moldova” (IMAGES-2) provides a valuable insight into the social transformations of recent years and how perceptions and behaviours related to gender equality have changed.

## WHAT DOES IMAGES-2 REVEAL?

- Comparing data from 2024 with 2015, the study highlights a slow but promising change in men’s behavioural trends on gender equality issues.
- While in 2015, the study reflected men’s low involvement in family life and tolerance of stereotypes and violence, the 2024 data reflects contrasts: some steps forward, but also barriers that continue to prevent a broader transformation.
- One of the most significant changes is men’s more active involvement in family life. Whereas in 2015 only a small proportion of fathers contributed to their children’s daily upbringing, now **74% of men say they spend time playing with their children.**

- Family decisions are becoming more participatory. **More and more couples are making decisions together about spending money or children’s education.**

- **Domestic violence is less tolerated.** Acceptance has decreased significantly, reflecting the impact of awareness campaigns and legislative measures implemented in recent years.

- However, **the concept of gender equality is still misunderstood** by a significant part of the population, associating it with competition that could diminish their status or with exclusive advantages for women rather than benefits for society as a whole.

The IMAGES-2 results reflect a society that has begun to reconfigure its attitudes towards gender equality. It shows a shift in men’s perceptions and behaviours, stereotypes are beginning to disappear and the dream of an equitable society is becoming more and more achievable.

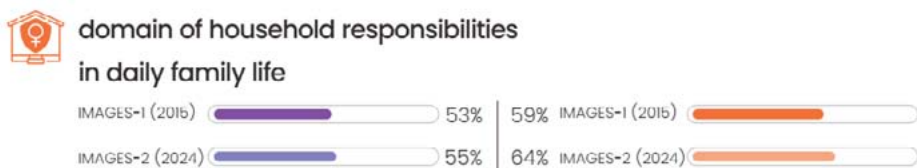
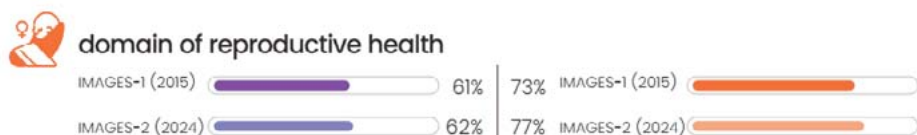
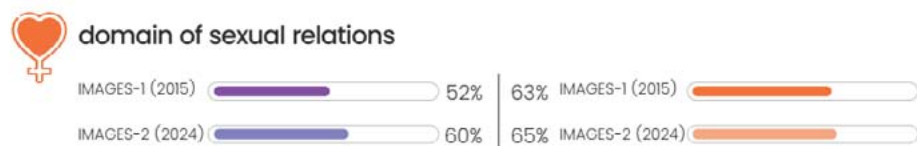
## Rates of perception and acceptance of gender equity (GEM) by sex, 2015 and 2024, %



men



women



100 represents full understanding and acceptance of gender equality.

The research identifies significant differences between men and women in terms of the correct perception of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova, while revealing a higher rate of correct perception among women in the four areas analysed.

[SEE THE STUDY](#)

[SEE STUDY SUMMARY](#)

**70%** of men

**85%** of women  
recognize and correctly understand the issue of gender-based violence.

**62%** of men

**77%** of women  
have a correct perception in the field of reproductive health and the rights associated with it.

**60%** of men

**65%** of women  
have a correct understanding of gender equity in the context of sexual relationships.

**55%** of men

**64%** of women  
recognize the equitable distribution of household responsibilities as a matter of gender equity.



## THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS SENTENCED REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN A FEMICIDE CASE: THE CASE OF VIERU V. MOLDOVA

On 19 November 2024, the European Court of Human Rights delivered an important judgment condemning the Republic of Moldova in a tragic case of femicide resulting from domestic violence – the case of *Vieru v. Republic of Moldova*. The story of Tatiana, a woman who has been the victim of repeated acts of domestic violence, highlights the shortcomings of our justice system.

The Court found violations of several articles of the European Convention on Human Rights:

- There was no diligent and effective investigation of domestic violence (physical and psychological violence) on the circumstances of the victim's death. The prosecution and accountability of the perpetrator was also not ensured.
- The version that the woman was determined to commit suicide or the version of a gender-motivated homicide have not been investigated nor considered.

- The authorities did not assess the risks and did not take into account the domestic violence to which the woman had been subjected over several years. They also failed to take into account the apparently minor acts of violence and psychological violence to which the victim was subjected.
- The Court found that there was an institutional passivity and lack of awareness of domestic violence and gender-based violence.

One remarkable detail is the separate opinion of two judges, which emphasises the



need to examine the issue of suicide or suicidal intent in the context of domestic violence and the obligation of the authorities to provide assistance and support to victims, who, for the most part, feel isolated and trapped in their own tragedy.

The WLC team provided legal support to Tatiana from 2016-2018, but sadly she lost her life. For six years, WLC lawyers worked on this case to make Tatiana's voice heard

at the ECHR. While this judgement recognises a profound injustice, for Tatiana, justice comes far too late.

WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY ABOUT TATIANA'S CASE





# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Every year we join the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. This is when we focus our efforts on bringing to everyone's attention the seriousness of gender-based violence and how we can help prevent and combat it. This year, we have organised **11 activities** aimed at raising awareness and informing the general public about the problem.

## The exhibition "Don't blame the clothes!" – real stories of women victims of sexual violence

In partnership with the Criminal Law Department of the Faculty of Law, at Moldova State University and with the financial support of Sweden, on 25 November we opened the exhibition "Don't Blame the Clothes!", which presents the reconstructed clothes of 11 women and adolescent girls from the Republic of Moldova at the time of their sexual abuse.

The exhibition highlights the stereotypes and prejudices in society that wrongly suggest that a woman's clothing can justify sexual assault.



*"After my parents died, I was left to live with my aunt, who was also appointed my guardian. My aunt's husband often abused alcohol and being drunk he raped me the first time when I was 15 years old. That day I was dressed in the clothes I wore to school: a white blouse and blue pleated skirt. The rapes continued 2-3 times a week. I was threatened with death if I told anyone about the nightmare I was going through. Out of fear, I kept it a secret. When I tried to tell my aunt, she didn't believe me and even blamed me for wanting to break up her family."*

As a result of the repeated rapes the girl became pregnant. Everyone around accused her of ill will towards her aunt, the woman who warmed her up and handed her a loaf of bread. The girl had suicidal thoughts. She found support at a protection centre where she received psychological counselling and decided to keep the child. It is just one of 11 stories featured in the exhibition.



The exhibition also features the story of Ana Maria, a young pregnant woman from Orhei who was abducted, raped and cruelly murdered in April 2024. Her reconstructed clothes are on display to pay tribute and to draw attention to the seriousness of femicide in Moldova.



The following day, at the MSU, we organised a public lecture, where over **60 students** from the Faculty of Law discussed perceptions and myths related to sexual violence, the impact on victims and the importance of access to justice.



In partnership with UNDP Moldova and with the financial support of Sweden, we inaugurated the exhibition “Don’t Blame the Clothes!” at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu” in Chisinau, accompanied by a public lecture on gender-based violence and sexual violence, attended by over **150 students**.

**Angelina ZAPOROJAN-PÎRGARI,**  
Executive Director, WLC:

“For doctors, recognising the signs of abuse and reporting cases is an essential step in supporting victims. And a safe health system that does not blame the victim, but provides vital assistance, is the key to success in coordinated, victim-centred intervention”



The concept of the exhibition comes from the University of Arkansas in the USA and was organised for the first time in Moldova in 2018 by the Women’s Law Centre with the support of UNFPA Moldova.





## Round Table “Femicide – the most serious form of violence against women”

We organised, in partnership with the Criminal Law Department of the Faculty of Law, MSU, a round table dedicated to one of the most serious forms of gender-based violence – femicide.

The event brought together 78 representatives from authorities, academia, experts, practitioners, development partners and civil society to discuss solutions in terms of legislation, policy and practice.



The discussions addressed systemic problems and obstacles in preventing and combating femicide in the Republic of Moldova, and a **case study** was presented which highlighted gaps in the authorities' response.

This event is another important step in raising public awareness, but also in identifying the measures needed to prevent such tragedies and protect the lives of women in Moldova.



## Criminal trial simulation – future professionals improve their knowledge in dealing with domestic violence and child sexual abuse

**60 students** of the National Institute of Justice, students of the Faculty of Law, MSU, “Stefan cel Mare” Police Academy and the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts participated in a mock criminal trial aimed at developing their professional skills in dealing with cases of domestic violence and child sexual abuse.



The young people researched, studied the case materials and the existing evidence, thought about the defence strategy and simulated a trial. It was an extremely interesting and useful exercise, under the guidance of WLC lawyer Arina Țurcan-Donțu, in which the theoretical part was interwoven with the practical side.



The event was organised by WLC in partnership with NIJ and the Criminal Law Department of the Faculty of Law, MSU, with the financial support of Sweden.



## Capacity building of criminal justice specialists

**53 paralegals, court clerks and prosecutors' counsellors** attended a two-day seminar to strengthen their knowledge and skills in handling cases of domestic violence and violence against children.

**25 judges and prosecutors** attended a two-day seminar on "Investigating and examining domestic violence offences".

Through such activities we ensure that we improve the system's response to cases of violence, helping to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable. The seminars were organised in partnership with NIJ and with financial support from Sweden.



## WLC and Police extend their partnership to support victims of domestic violence

During the campaign, **9 cooperation agreements were signed with police inspectorates** from the districts of Calarasi, Criuleni, Drochia, Dubasari, Glodeni, Hincesti, Ialoveni, Riscani and Straseni. These agreements mark the extension of the strategic partnership between the WLC and the Police of the Republic of Moldova to intensify efforts to prevent and combat domestic violence and violence against women.



*"The police response to every case of violence promptly and seriously, by assessing risk, issuing a restraining order and referring victims for specialised assistance, can prevent the most serious forms of violence and save lives. We already have close collaboration with police officers across the country and the signing of these agreements marks a new stage in the partnership between WLC and the Police, focused on victim-centred intervention, offering the possibility to access the free, confidential and specialised support services available within our organisation"* – **Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari**, Executive Director of WLC.







## Violence against women – a topic covered by media institutions



The WLC team participated in four programmes broadcasted on local TV stations in Balti, Causeni, Cimisia and UTA Gagauzia. In these media programmes, we discussed the protection measures available for women affected by violence and the concrete steps they can take to become safe. Our message was about courage and change, but above all about everyone’s responsibility to act to prevent and combat violence.

This initiative was made possible owing to the project “Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova”, implemented by UNDP Moldova with the financial support of Sweden.



## Information materials to support women affected by violence, distributed locally

Within the framework of the project “Improving access to justice for women affected by domestic and gender-based violence in Moldova”, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), WLC has developed an information booklet for women suffering from domestic violence. The booklet contains information on the forms of violence, protection measures, available services and steps to seek help.



The guides were distributed in the courts of Criuleni, Dubasari (Ustia), Straseni, Calarasi, Hincesti and Ialoveni. We have encouraged court employees to provide these booklets to women who come to court and are unaware of their rights and the services available.



In addition to the guide, we developed 9 leaflets, one for each project district. The



leaflets provide concise, easy-to-read information designed to attract women’s attention and encourage them to find out more or seek assistance in cases of domestic violence. The first 1150 leaflets were distributed in courts, to local partners and to women during information sessions organised in Drochia, Hincesti, Glodeni and Criuleni districts.





# WLC PRESENTS THE STUDY “EVALUATION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM’S RESPONSE TO CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE DISTRICTS OF CAHUL, FĂLEȘTI, ȘTEFAN VODĂ AND CHISINAU MUNICIPALITY”

During the meeting on 11 October 2024 of the Commission for Monitoring and Analysis of Cases of Domestic Violence resulting in death or serious bodily harm to the victims, we presented the results of the study “Evaluation of the criminal justice system’s response to cases of domestic violence in the districts of Cahul, Fălești, Ștefan Vodă and Chisinau municipality”, elaborated with the support of the Council of Europe.

The study, developed by the WLC within the framework of the Council of Europe project “Support for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republic of Moldova”, analyses how the criminal justice system responds to cases of domestic violence. The aim is to identify gaps and positive practices in the system, assess training needs for justice professionals and provide recommendations for improving procedures to ensure more effective involvement of justice professionals in cases of domestic violence.

## The Study makes the following findings:

- There is an increased number of women are reporting domestic violence, starting with the first incident.
- Reports of psychological violence are on the rise.
- Domestic violence facilitated by technology is underreported.
- Between the period of 2022-2023, there was a decrease in the number of emergency restraining orders (EROs), while the number of violated EROs increased.



- The study shows that victims are not sufficiently informed about their rights, and the information they receive is often only superficial, including about their right to seek state-guaranteed legal assistance.
- The number of victim support services is insufficient and information about state protection is poor.
- Low number of cases of prescribing the offender to attend a probation programme. It is explained by the fact that this protective measure is not requested.
- Nationally, 56% of protection orders were breached.
- In 2023, the number of domestic violence criminal cases sent to court increased slightly. The process of considering them takes between 30 days and 1 year, but some cases can take 3-4 years.
- The safety of victims in courts is not guaranteed, as there are no conditions to separate them from the offenders. There were also no cases where victims were heard by videoconference or in the absence of the offender.
- More than 65% of all sentences in 2023 are non-custodial sentences.
- Unpaid community service sentences prevail significantly, at around 55%.

The study provides specific recommendations for each area, aiming to strengthen the capacity of authorities and standardise practices in the justice, health and social sectors for more effective actions by law enforcement to combat domestic violence.

[SEE THE STUDY](#)

# WLC ORGANISES TRAINING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPECIALISTS IN 5 REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY

100 criminal justice specialists from Cahul, Făleşti, Ștefan Vodă and Chisinau municipality – forensic doctors, prosecutors, judges, criminal prosecution officers, sector police officers, lawyers providing state-guaranteed legal aid and probation counsellors – participated in training on coordinated response to better solve cases of domestic violence.



The training sessions took place in a cooperative and productive atmosphere, with a focus on best practices, exchange of experience and coordinated efforts. The trainers succeeded in engaging participants in interactive discussions, role plays and analyses of real cases.

Professionals strengthened their capacity to respond to cases of domestic violence, discussed challenges on the ground, obstacles to effective victim protection and holding perpetrators accountable.



The course was based on the conclusions and recommendations of the study “Evaluation of the criminal justice system’s response to cases of domestic violence in the districts of Cahul, Făleşti, Ștefan Vodă and Chisinau municipality”. The study identified the training needs of professionals and provided recommendations to improve existing practices, which formed the basis for the development of a coordinated intervention model.

The training courses were organised by the Women’s Law Centre with the support of the Council of Europe and Sweden.





## 5 WOMEN JOURNALISTS RECEIVED AWARDS FROM WLC FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING REPORTING ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Women's Law Centre, in partnership with the Independent Journalism Centre and with the support of Sweden, organised a competition of journalistic materials on violence against women and domestic violence. The competition was a follow-up to the training programme for journalists “Between truth and sensational: How do we report professionally on violence against women?” held in September 2024.

Following the contest, we awarded 5 journalists for their outstanding reports, which objectively and professionally reflect the issues at stake, in line with the rules of professional ethics.

1. Polina Cupcea (People and Kilometres) – **“I fear for my life”**  
Shocking footage of aunt Iulia and her fight against her violent husband reveals the reality faced by many women in Moldova.
2. Gabriela Ursu (TV8.MD) – **“Children’s lives destroyed by paedophiles”**

This report highlights the story of a little girl sexually abused by her stepfather. It exposes the disturbing realities of child sexual abuse.

3. Tatiana Beghiu (Moldova.org) – **“A childhood between the bottle and the belt”**  
This article tells the story of Felicia\*, a young woman who recalls her childhood marked by violence. At the age of only 23 years old, Felicia is trying to heal the wounds of her past and start a new chapter in her life.



4. Mariana Ionel (TVN) – **“70 times 7? No to domestic violence”**  
The article takes us into a painful but real world of victims of domestic violence. With a remarkable interweaving of personal stories and relevant data, it aims to challenge stereotypes.
5. Inna Gurgurova (BAS TV) – **“The courage to be happy: The story of a mother who got rid of a domestic abuser for the sake of her children”**  
The story of a mother who found the courage to end an abusive relationship. The article highlights the extraordinary power of women to rebuild their lives.

Out of the 13 articles and reports entered in the contest, the 5 winners were awarded MDL 9000 and 5 other journalists received honourable mentions.

Journalists have shown that impact journalism can actively contribute to changing mentalities, combating prejudice and raising public awareness. By tackling sensitive topics such as violence against women, journalists have the power to open society’s eyes to harsh and often ignored realities.



# WLC BENEFICIARIES WALK THE PATH OF TRANSFORMATION DUE TO THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

18 beneficiaries of the Women's Law Centre took part in the Personal Development Programme in September-October, organised by WLC with financial support from Sweden. Together with the trainers, the women discovered their personal and professional resources, gained new knowledge, skills and have set new goals.

The programme is structured in 5 modules, each addressing key topics to support women in their search for a more balanced and fulfilled life. Through this programme we aim to provide women affected by domestic violence with the resources and tools they need to regain their financial and emotional independence and build a life free from violence.



*“Each session was an opportunity to discover new things about ourselves and to understand more deeply our relationships with those around us. You managed to create an open and safe space where we felt encouraged to explore, discover our vulnerabilities and find our inner strength. Through your guidance and examples, you showed us how we can approach life with a positive outlook, how to be more empathic and present in each moment. What we have learnt with you will certainly have a lasting impact on each one of us. Thank you for all the lessons and for helping us to be a better version of ourselves.”*

**Natalia**, programme participant



We want this programme to be accessible to as many women as possible who dream of a better life free from violence. To support as many women as possible on the path of transformation, you can contribute with a donation.

[DONATE ONLINE](#)





# SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE IN HINCESTI THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

27 women from Hincesti attended a five-day vocational orientation and personal development course in November, as part of the Economic Empowerment Programme implemented by WLC.

This course is a real catalyst for change and the feedback from participants speaks for itself.

- “I thought I knew myself well, but during this course I discovered myself, I saw how much I still have to work on myself. I realise that I want to change my life for the better. I want to find sources of energy to realise what I want.”
- “At first it seemed like just a course – on of many I’ve been to! But what’s happened to me here – it’s like I’m a different person.”
- “I understood how to take care of myself, how not to pay attention to what others say, how to react appropriately to criticism, how not to charge myself with negative energy from some people, how to fight back against verbal aggression. God, I wish I’d heard that sooner, but good that at least now I’ve heard it.”



- “There are things in life I cannot change. But there are things that can be changed. I want to change something for myself – I didn’t know a lot of the things I heard here – as a woman, as a wife, as a mother. So from now on I will try to do what I have learnt. But life is beautiful. I

want to accept myself as I am, I don’t want to fight with myself anymore.”

During the course women develop their communication skills, assertive interpersonal skills, strengthen their ability to manage their personal and professional resources effec-



tively, develop their self-esteem and resilience to stress, and gain confidence in the process of integration into the labour market or entrepreneurship.

19 women from Hincesti took part in the income-generating activities development course. The three-day training programme is designed to help women start or develop an independent economic activity. It provides them with essential knowledge and skills for running a business, identifying market opportunities and drawing up a business plan that they can then apply for the small grants programme.

- “At the beginning, I thought I knew pretty much everything about business, especially as I had also done some business studies. But the training classes helped me to understand how to make a clear business plan, so I could see exactly if it was going to be profitable or not.”

- “I understand the steps needed to be successful in sewing vintage dresses.” – two participants told us.

The courses are organised within the project “Supporting multi-sectoral efforts to prevent violence against women by providing comprehensive support services to survivors, including through economic empowerment programmes” implemented by the Women’s Law Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, with the support of UN Women and the financial support of Sweden.



## FORENSIC DOCTORS ARE TRAINED TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



According to official data, 65 percent of women in the Republic of Moldova face various forms of domestic violence during their lifetime. In this alarming context, the training of forensic doctors becomes essential to improve the process of intervention and documentation, making a significant contribution to protecting and supporting victims in situations of extreme vulnerability.



In order to strengthen assessment and intervention capacities in cases of domestic violence, we organised two training sessions dedicated to forensic pathologists. The main aim of these sessions was to develop the necessary skills for a rigorous and sensitive documentation, centred on the needs of the victims, including empathic and assertive communication techniques.

Each two-day session covered topics such as identifying the signs of physical and

psychological abuse, respecting the rights of those affected and sensitivity in dealing with victims. The **76 participants, doctors and nurses** from the Forensic Medicine Centre and the territorial forensic departments, took part in practical exercises and case study analysis. These activities gave them an applied perspective on how international and national standards can be implemented in the process of documenting cases of violence.



The trainings are organised by the WLC within the project “Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova”, implemented by UNDP Moldova with the financial support of Sweden.



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE DIALOGUE PLATFORMS: JOINT EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Platforms of Dialogue on Access to Justice (PDAJ) are an innovative initiative to improve communication and cooperation between different institutions, playing a key role in supporting victims of domestic violence and vulnerable groups. The platforms bring together specialists from different fields; judges, prosecutors, police, lawyers, social workers and representatives of local authorities.



In October and November 2024, we organised four roundtables in the districts of Soroca, Criuleni, Cimislia and Comrat, where PDAJ members came together to discuss the barriers that still stand in the way of women from vulnerable groups accessing justice. These included lack of trust in institutions, fear of the perpetrator, shame and lack of long-term support. The discussions



were organised aiming towards finding concrete solutions to overcome barriers for the benefit of women victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

On 6-7 December 2024, PDAJ members attended the summing up event, where progress made in support of victims of domestic violence and vulnerable groups was highlighted. Collaboration between professionals was recognised as key to

building a justice system that responds promptly and empathetically to victims' needs. The active involvement of all partners and inter-institutional collaboration has demonstrated that only through joint efforts can sustainable solutions be identified and implemented, and the extension of these platforms to other regions of the country could open new horizons for marginalised groups.



The events were organised by WLC in the framework of the project “Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova” (A2J), implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the financial support of Sweden.

The platforms were created in 2020, with the support of the Institute for Penal Reforms (IPR), within the project “Strengthening efficiency and access to justice in Moldova”, implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the financial support of Sweden.

# WOMEN DETAINEES BENEFIT FROM LEGAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING SERVICES PROVIDED BY WLC

Every woman in detention has an impressive story behind her. For many prisoners, domestic violence was the order of the day in their lives. Whether they were beaten by fathers, boy-friends, husbands, brothers, for many of the women we interacted with, abuse shadowed them throughout their lives. Once in prison, all they want is to serve their sentence and be with their families again. The longing for their children and grandchildren keeps their hope for tomorrow alive.



The psychological support offered helps women overcome multiple traumas, disappointments and prolonged states of sadness or grief. Women have started to rethink their past, daring to plan for the future.



Unfortunately, the needs of these women are often neglected in the penitentiary system, making it difficult for them to access justice or receive fair treatment. Many of them have committed offences to survive or help their families, falling victim to poverty and lack of support. Some of the women were victims of abuse. These experiences have left them deeply scarred and trauma can influence their behaviour in detention and increase the risk of repeating mistakes.

With financial support from Sweden, as of September 2024, we have resumed activities for women in Penitentiary No. 7 Rusca. Every weekend, WLC lawyers and psychologists from the IFIS team visited the penitentiary to provide legal and psychological counselling to the prisoners.

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024:

**76 women** received

**141 legal counselling sessions**

**17 women** received

**27 psychological counselling sessions**

Lawyers supported them in understanding their rights and legal procedures, provided assistance in drafting parole applications or appeals to the courts. Some detainees received legal assistance in preparing for court hearings, assistance with the dissolution of marriage and the collection or modification of the amount of pension.



The WLC team had the honour to receive the Medal “For Cooperation” from the National Administration of Penitentiaries of the Republic of Moldova – a recognition of our dedicated work and the solid partnership built with the NAP.

Since 2017, owing to the signing of the partnership agreement with the NAP, with the support of the Rusca Penitentiary administration and the financial support of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova (SCO) and the Government of Sweden, we have managed to develop and implement support programmes for women detainees.

As a result of this collaboration and lasting partnership, the following results have been achieved:

- Over 500 sentenced women benefited from legal aid, psychological counselling, art therapy and reading activities.
- Thanks to WLC’s involvement, many of the women in detention have been released on parole early.
- Many were able to see their children again, a priceless moment in the reintegration process.
- Prison employees across the country have been trained in respecting women’s rights and applying international standards, and the “Good Practice Guide for Prison Employees.” developed by WLC has become a valuable tool in this regard.
- We provided goods of basic necessity for women with disabilities, educational materials for recreational activities and a book collection.



- In 2022, through the IMPULS programme, WLC supported the development of a unique rehabilitation programme for women victims of violence convicted of violence against their perpetrators. The programme helps them overcome psychological and social barriers to reintegration into society. To this end, 15 specialists from the NAP have been trained to support the beneficiaries both during their detention and after their release.
- We developed and distributed a practical guide for women in detention, providing useful information and solutions to overcome violence, regain dignity and live in safety.



We would like to thank the management and employees of Penitentiary No. 7 Rusca, as well as the team of lawyers, psychologists and practitioners, for their involvement and collaboration in the implementation of programmes and support services for women detainees.

## WLC PLAYS A DECISIVE ROLE IN SUCCESSFULLY SOLVING A RAPE CASE

It was an autumn day in 2021. I was on my way to college when I suddenly noticed my ex-boyfriend's car. The car moved slowly in my direction, then stopped a few steps away. The window was rolled down and I heard his voice: **“Come on, get in the car quickly.”** I froze with fright. At that moment, I could neither run, nor scream, nor unfortunately defend myself. My ex-boyfriend got out of the car, grabbed my arm and threw me in the back seat. I was desperate, helpless and vulnerable.

In the car, he said to me: “If you so much as scream, I’ll cut you right here!” So I kept quiet. He took me to his house, locked me in and forced me to have sex with him. He filmed me without my consent and said: “I’ll let you go if you behave yourself!”

I was locked in his house for a day, then he opened the door and said, “You can go, but I’ll be looking for you. You won’t

get away from me.” I ran away. It was evening and I didn’t even have money for transport.

I got home and drank a handful of pills. I wanted to kill myself, but I was saved. My stepfather came home, saw me in that state and called the ambulance. I stayed alive but the memories wouldn’t leave me alone.



A week after the incident, my ex-boyfriend reappeared. He was texting me. He told me that without him, I was nothing and threatened to stalk me for the rest of my life until I died. He repeated very often the following: “Either I kill you or you will die by yourself.”

I told him I was going to report him to the police for rape, but he showed me pictures of me during the sexual acts, in which I was clearly visible, naked, and threatened to send them to my parents and college colleague students. This was going to break me even more. Apart from the fact that I had been forced to perform countless sexual acts with him out of fear, I realised that ev-

eryone would know about it and I was ashamed.

I didn’t leave the house, I was afraid to even go to the shop. I stopped going to college and I didn’t talk to anyone about what was happening to me; in fact, I didn’t even have anyone to talk to. I couldn’t sleep.

When I did manage to fall asleep, I would dream of the sexual abuse repeating itself and I would wake up from my sleep suffocated. I was even afraid of my own shadow.

I called the Women’s Law Centre out of despair, I needed someone to talk to. There I was listened to, understood and supported. I was offered help and infor-





mation on what to do in such a situation. I worked out a safety plan for the future with the lawyer. I realised that I could fight, but that it would be a long process. However, I chose to fight because I found support.

To be on the safe side, I decided to apply for a protection order so that my ex-boyfriend would stop stalking me and, most importantly, stop forcing me to leave with him. The lawyer at WLC supported me throughout this process, and within a short time I was granted a 60-day protective order. My ex-boyfriend was fitted with an electronic bracelet so he could be monitored. That way I was able to go back to college without the fear that he could show up around

any corner. I knew he had those tapes and I didn't want them to be shared with anyone, which prevented me from making a complaint against him.

After that, I started psychotherapy sessions, where I talked about my condition, my fears and I understood more about PTSD. The therapy sessions helped me feel better and relieved.

WLC's lawyer encouraged me to file a police complaint for rape, stalking and threats related to the distribution of the videos. A long process of prosecution and trial followed. Although after the last protection order expired, my ex-boyfriend disappeared from my life, my fear remained.

**The court sentenced him to 5 years in prison for rape and sexual harassment and ordered him to pay 70,000 MDL for moral damages.**

### **Would you like to know why I didn't seek help sooner?**

At the age of 6, I witnessed my biological father raping my mother. I lived with that image in my head and her cries for help in my memory for a long time. Then my mother remarried and went abroad, and I stayed living with my stepfather. He was kind to me, but I never managed to communicate openly with him. I lived as best I could, or rather survived.

When I turned 16, I met my ex-boyfriend. He was the first boy I had a serious relationship with, he was caring and I could talk to him about anything. We dated for a while and everything seemed fine. But after a year, something changed in his behaviour. He became more aggressive with me, telling me what to wear, who to talk to, categorically forbidding me to have girlfriends. He installed an app on my phone to see where I was. During sex, he forced me to do

what I didn't want to do, and if I refused, he would hit me. He became very irritated and angry, always saying: "You are obliged to satisfy me."

When I told my mother, she told me that I'd better marry him, that he loves me and that I couldn't find anyone better. After that conversation, I stopped talking to my mother. I put up with this behaviour until I moved to Chisinau for university, thinking that if I moved, he would disappear from my life. But he didn't. He disappeared from my life only after I alerted the authorities.

After a while, I was able to accept the idea of starting a new relationship. It hasn't been easy, I'm scared, but I feel supported. I feel better now.

**Case A. was finally concluded successfully.**



#### **Why is this case special?**

Initially, both the prosecutor's office and the police considered that the elements of rape did not exist, arguing that A. was the assailant's concubine and that the sexual acts would have been carried out voluntarily when she entered his house. However, WLC's lawyer was able to prove that although A. entered the attacker's home voluntarily, she was coerced and harassed into having perverted sexual intercourse without her consent.

# GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTERS IN ACTION: 10 LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY WLC IN 10 DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY

In August 2023, WLC launched the project “Empowering Women, Local Communities and Refugees in Moldova” financially supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

As part of the project, we organised training sessions for women and men, including refugee women from Ukraine, from 10 districts of Moldova. Participants were trained in deconstructing gender stereotypes, project proposal development, management and monitoring.



They formed teams and developed project proposals that promote gender equality and propose solutions to problems identified in their communities. 10 teams received grants of \$10,000 each to implement their projects.

The teams, in the framework of local initiatives, have realised various activities such as summer camps, thematic workshops for young people, entrepreneurship courses for women, sessions for fathers’ clubs, training sessions for specialists working with victims of domestic violence, information sessions for Roma girls, etc.

Here are some of these initiatives and their results.



18 women from the city of **Dondușeni** took part in the entrepreneurship course “Programme for young women – business initiation” from 30 October to 8 November 2024. The activity took place in the framework of the local initiative of the Dondușeni team: “Gender EQUALity – EQUAL chances for a more harmonious life”.

The participants, guided by the expert Elena Bordianu, learnt and discussed

about the legislative requirements for setting up a business, drawing up a business plan, pricing strategies, financial planning and analysing results. At the same time, they learnt about funding opportunities and resources dedicated to female entrepreneurs, giving them the tools to turn their ideas into sustainable businesses.





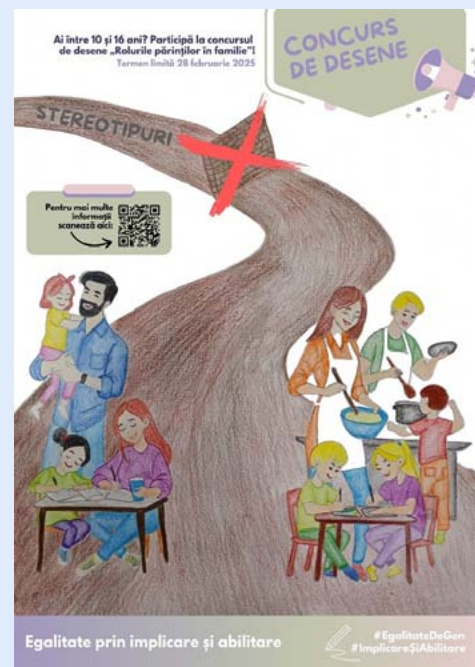
30 specialists from educational institutions and youth centres from **Ialoveni and Orhei** districts participated in training sessions within the local initiative “Equality through involvement and empowerment”. The participants identified innovative methods of gender mainstreaming in school subjects.

During the month of December, the previously trained personal development



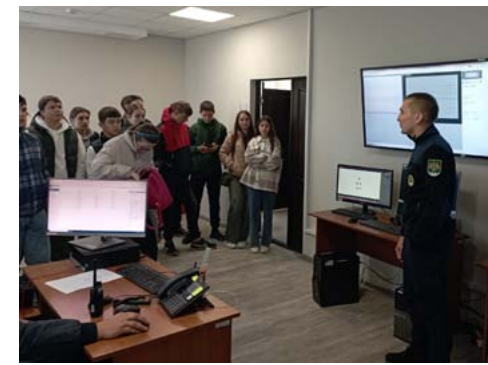
teachers conducted 5 training sessions in Viscăuți Gymnasium, where 60 students actively participated in discussions about gender stereotypes and the involvement of all family members in household chores. Pupils’ impressions: “I realised that my father can do the washing up of dishes and help me with homework.” ; “It’s not only my mother who has to cook, I can help her together with my brother!”

In addition, in order to further support the education of the younger generation, a drawing competition on the theme “The roles of parents in the family” was launched, dedicated to students from Viscăuți Gymnasium, Cărbuna Gymnasium and Orhei Youth Friendly Centre. The best works will be awarded and promoted at a special event.



The gender equality promoters from **Stefan Voda**, within the local initiative “Make an informed career choice!”, carried out over 12 activities dedicated to young people, graduates, parents, young women and refugees from Palanca village, between September and December 2024.

Activities included information sessions and practical workshops for teenagers from Palanca secondary school on career counselling. Teachers, specialists from pre-school institutions, social workers and parents received training to better support children in their career choices.



The career guidance visits brought young people face to face with various professions and successful businesses in Stefan Voda. In addition, visits to the Eastern Regional Directorate of the Border Police and the Ștefan Voda Emergency Situations Department gave a unique insight into noble professions such as policeman or rescuer.

The information sessions facilitated by representatives of the National Agency for Employment provided young people with valuable information about preparing for a job interview, the professions in demand on the market and training opportunities.







20 women from the **Cimislia** district learned how to overcome their internal barriers and realise their potential during a course dedicated to personal and professional development on 16-17 October 2024. The activity is part of the local team project “CIMIS and LIA – equality through responsibility”.

The women had the opportunity to explore new perspectives on career and personal life. Topics covered included increasing self-confidence, overcoming fears and stereotypes, turning dreams into goals and communicating effectively and innovatively.



ly. Doina Danielean, journalist and content creator, spoke about the concept of personal branding.

“Every step you take towards self-discovery is a step towards a world full of possibilities” - this was the inspiring message that inspired participants to look to the future with confidence and courage.



Gender equality promoters from **Glodeni** started the project “Empowering women and local communities in Glodeni r.” in a creative way by organising a flashmob.

Through dance, the local team managed to capture the attention of the community and send a strong message: every person is invited to get involved and be part of the change to build a society based on equality, respect and mutual support.

In October 2024, the team organised two training seminars in the village of Ciuciulea and in the city of Glodeni, dedicated to the multidisciplinary team and social professionals.

The aim of these seminars was to strengthen cooperation between specialists from the institutions responsible for preventing

domestic violence and supporting victims, helping to improve their response to cases of violence.

The seminars were attended by 28 representatives from the local public administration, the Police Inspectorate, the health sector, the Probation Office, the Directorate of Education, Youth and Sport, the Directorate of Employment, as well as specialists from STAS Glodeni, Făleşti, Sîngerei and ATAS North-West.







Female students studying at the Orhei Vocational School now have access to increased vocational training opportunities, thanks to the **Orhei** team's initiative "Weaving success: innovation and gender equality in education".

As part of the initiative, the curriculum for the Seamstress specialisation was updated with the introduction of new modules, adapted to current trends in the field of clothing design. A modern sewing workshop, called "Creative Fabric Lab", equipped with industrial sewing machines, a professional ironing station and other equipment necessary for practical activities, was also created and fitted out.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, 52 female students from Orhei, Telenesti and Rezina districts were enrolled in the Seamstress specialisation. Compared to the year 2023, when only 18 girls chose to pursue this specialisation, there is a significant increase in interest in this field.



The "School of Fathers" in Soroca is coming to life, becoming a space dedicated to promoting gender equality and the active involvement of fathers in family life.

In the framework of the local initiative "Strong men are for equality of women and men," a modern space was renovated in the multidisciplinary sports hall in Soroca, for sessions for fathers and couples, seminars and other personal and family development activities.



The training programme for fathers was created, and on 10 October 2024, the "School for Fathers" started its first training for a group of 10 men. Over the course of the month, the group met four times to cover topics such as parenting expectations, gender and sex differences, the impact of fathers in the family and family planning.

A total of 13 men and 9 women took part in the activities organised within the "School for Fathers". In some sessions, topics were approached from the couples' perspective, which contributed to a deeper understanding of family dynamics and gender equality.

The activities are carried out by the grantees of the project "Empowering Women, Local Communities and Refugees in Moldova" implemented by the Women's Law Centre and financially supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

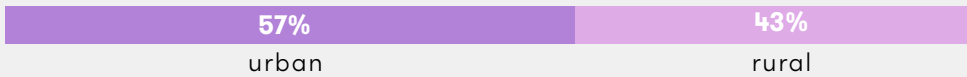
# WLC SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN 2024

Total cases -  
**1198**

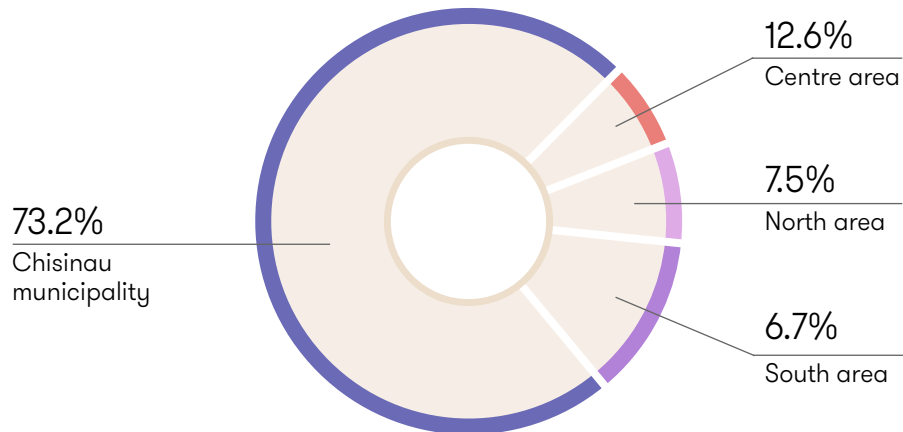


## The social profile of beneficiaries

### Residence:



### Regional distribution:

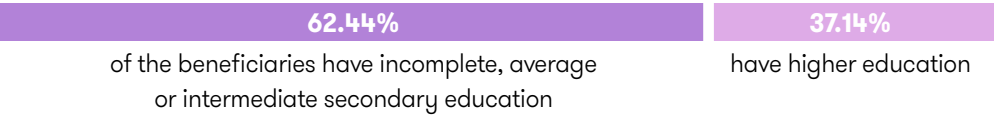


### Age:

The majority of women seeking WLC services are aged between **35 and 44 year old** (40.7%), followed by women **aged 25-34** (22.5%)



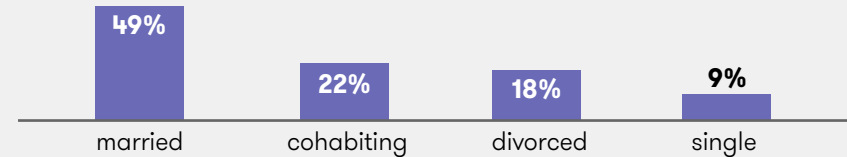
### Level of education:



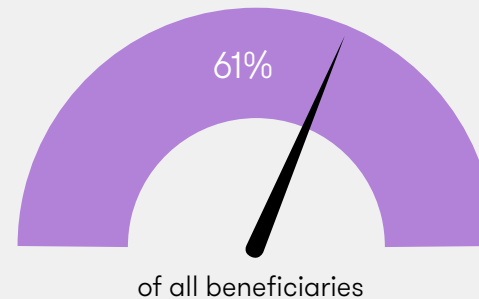
### Occupational status:



### Marital status of beneficiaries:



### Mothers with minor children:





## Initial assessment

**415 cases**  
in which violence was recorded as an isolated form

**783 cases**  
in which combined forms of violence has been recorded

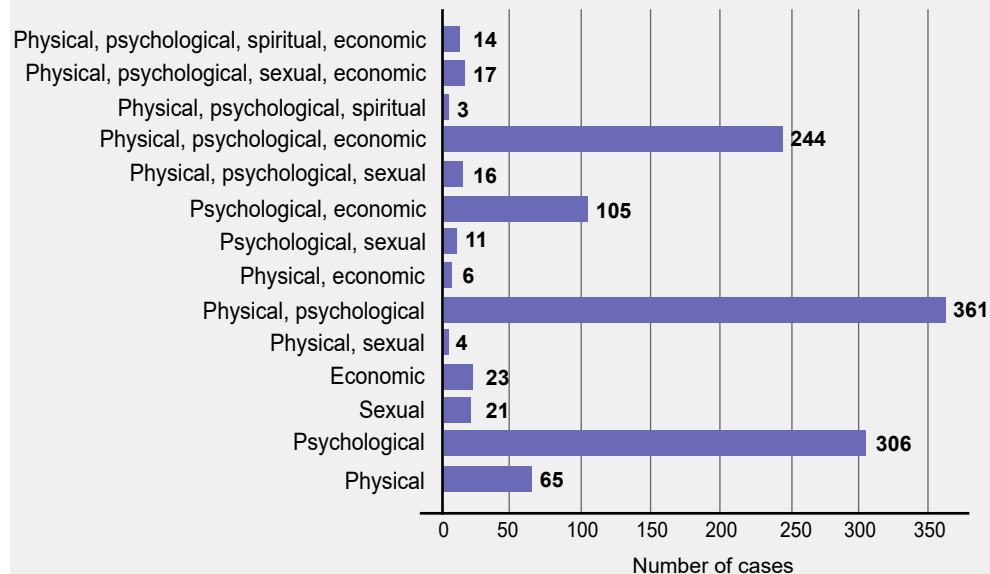
In most cases, violence is not limited to one type of abuse or one incident. It tends to spread over time, combining different forms of aggression.

**Physical violence** is often accompanied by **psychological abuse** and **economic dependence** on the abuser. Economic dependence makes the victim unable to imagine an independent life, with limited access to financial resources, education or employment, which exacerbates the difficulties in leaving the abusive relationship.

**Victims experiencing physical, psychological and economic violence** are often trapped in long-term abusive relationships. They find it very difficult to take action, either because of fear, social stigmatisation, lack of resources or insufficient awareness of available support options.

**86%** of the beneficiaries have experienced **psychological violence** while living with their abuser.

### Distribution by types of violence applied during 2024



### Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator:

**83%** – marital partners or ex-partners, **37 women** have been assaulted by strangers, **57%** of victims live separately from their partners, while **43%** live together

### Mode of referral:

**58%** of referrals to WLC services come from public information sources. The WLC Green Line was the most important referral source (almost **44%** of all referrals from public sources)

**17%** of women were referred to WLC services by the police, **11.6%** by the court

**8%** of victims were referred by social protection specialists

**4.8%** of the women were referred by other NGOs or placement centres.



**15 criminal cases with final judgements** reported by WLC lawyers:

Article infringed	The offence	Penalty/ amount of damage (MDL)	
201/1 (2) a)	domestic violence	3 years imprisonment/ moral damages 100,000	
201/1 (1) a)	domestic violence	unpaid community service 120 h	
201/1 (1) b)	domestic violence	unpaid community service 160 h	
Jointly	201/1 (1) a)	art. 90 CP Suspension	
	320/1		non-enforcement of the protection order
Jointly	201(1) a)	imprisonment 7 years/ moral damages 100,000/ Material damage 263,550	
	155		threatening with murder
	197		destruction of property
	320/1		non-enforcement of the protection order
320/1	non-enforcement of the protection order	unpaid community service 150 H	
171 (1)	rape	prison – 6 years/ 120,000	
171 (1)	rape	Imprisonment – 4 years/ moral damages 10,000	
171 (3) a)	rape	Imprisonment – 11 years/ moral damages 100,000	
173(1)	sexual harassment	art. 90 CP Suspension/ moral damages 50,000	
27/145 (2) e	attempted murder	11 years imprisonment/ moral damages 100,000/ biological damages 1,100,000	

**6 administrative offence cases with final decisions** on art. 78/1 (domestic violence):

**2 cases**

have been terminated in connection with the expiry of the limitation period for liability

**4 cases –**

the offenders received penalties of 40 hours unpaid community work

**■ Damages claimed:**

In the process of representing the interests of victims of domestic violence, WLC lawyers have filed civil actions for the compensation of moral, material and biological damages in criminal cases. In this regard, according to the judgements of the courts in the cases represented by the WLC lawyers, the total amount obtained for the compensation of damages totalled **1,949,550 MDL**.

**■ Strategic litigation:**

In 2024, the WLC continued to represent 5 cases of victims of domestic violence and violence against women before the European Court of Human Rights.

**19 women which received economic support** under the WLC's Economic Empowerment Programme:

Grants awarded for the following specialities: tailoring, nail artists, confectionery, hairdressing, cooking, make-up specialists, accounting, psycho-pedagogy, management and agriculture. Of the 19 grants, 9 were awarded due to the MICB donation (200,000 MDL), 5 through donations from the WLC fundraising event "Transformation" (94,440 MDL), and 5 through resources allocated by the economic empowerment project financially supported by UN Women and Sweden (113,776 MDL).





## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Over 100 rural women were informed about their rights

Between 12-18 December 2024, we organised four information sessions attended by more than 100 women victims and potential victims of domestic violence from Drochia, Hincesti, Glodeni and Criuleni districts.

The WLC lawyers explained the forms of domestic violence, where to go for help in crisis situations and how to protect themselves. Participants learnt about legal protection measures and free services available. Some of them sought individual counselling.



*These sessions are organised by WLC within the project “Improving access to justice for women affected by domestic and gender-based violence in Moldova” funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).*



### WLC participates in the International Conference on preventing and combating violence against women

Our colleagues were the voice of WLC beneficiaries at the 4th International Conference on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women, organised by the National Coalition “Life Without Violence”, on 19-20 November 2024.

Elena Cojocaru, our lawyer, underlined during the panel “Femicide does not be-

gin and does not end with the murder of a woman” the gaps in the justice system, the difficulties of access to justice for victims and the importance of the qualified support we offer to our beneficiaries.

Daniela Josanu, coordinator of the Specialised Service for Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, drew attention to cases of digital violence and highlighted the interventions needed to respond to the needs of women affected by this type of abuse.

Tatiana Timotin, a vocational counsellor at WLC, spoke in a workshop about the crucial role of financial independence for women in overcoming violence and the steps we can take to support women in economic empowerment.





## International visits to the WLC: exchange of good practices in preventing gender-based violence

We have had the pleasure of receiving visits from important international delegations to the WLC. We met with representatives of the Centre for Mediation and Community Safety Foundation in Romania, the President of the European Alliance of Family Justice Centres, Bert Groen, together with GREVIO Committee members Aleid Van der Brink (Netherlands) and Pascale Franck (Belgium). The discussions focused on joint initiatives to combat and prevent violence against women.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming a delegation from Tajikistan, made up of representatives of civil society organisations, for an exchange of experience.



### Creative workshops - source of inspiration for WLC beneficiaries

Under the guidance of Dina Zaiat, a true connoisseur of the art of sourdough bread making, the WLC beneficiaries had the chance to rediscover the beauty of a seemingly simple but deeply symbolic gesture: baking bread. The women took part in a workshop where kneading the dough was transformed into a meaningful experience, becoming a moment of self-connection.

The same warm and energising atmosphere continued in another creative workshop, where our beneficiaries and their children decorated tote bags with beads and buttons. During the activity, each tote bag was filled with colour and the women felt the joy of creating. The atmosphere was warm, with smiles and positive energy, and at the end, each tote bag became a symbol of a new memory.



The activities were made possible thanks to the financial support of the OAK/ARC Foundation and The Sigrid Rausing Trust.



## Heartfelt meeting with the beneficiaries of the Economic Empowerment Programme supported by MICB and IWCM

On 7 November 2024, at the WLC, we had a soulful meeting with the management of Moldindconbank, the administrator of the International Women's Club of Moldova and some of the beneficiaries of the WLC's Economic Empowerment Programme, financially supported by MICB.

Our beneficiaries shared with us their life stories, their plans for the future, as well as the fears and worries they still carry. It was a warm and frank discussion, where we could feel the strength and unwavering determination of each woman on the road to an independent and peaceful life.



We are grateful for the generous contribution from MICB and for the partnership with the International Women's Club of Moldova. With their support, nine women have had the chance to break the cycle of violence and walk the path of transformation and financial independence.

Discover their stories [here](#)

## Unique training session for students of the Faculty of Law, MSU

WLC in partnership with the Criminal Law Department of the Faculty of Law, MSU organised a training session on "Protection of victims of domestic violence and violence against women under the Istanbul Conven-

tion", which was attended by about 100 students.

WLC lawyer Arina Țurcan-Donțu and WLC lawyer Nicoleta Cocoța discussed with the students the rights of victims of domestic violence, women's access to justice, services available for victims and the role of the Istanbul Convention in preventing violence against women.

The partnership with the Faculty of Law, MSU, is an important step towards training a new generation of lawyers sensitised to the issues of domestic violence and violence against women.



## WLC attends Lethality Commission meeting

On 11 October 2024, the working meeting of the Commission for monitoring and analysing cases of domestic violence resulting in death or serious bodily harm to the victims' physical integrity took place.

During the meeting, the study "Evaluation of the response of the criminal justice system to cases of domestic violence in the districts of Cahul, Făleşti, Ștefan Vodă and Chisinau municipality" prepared by the WLC with the support of the Council of Europe has been presented.

Another topic discussed was the extension of the Commission's mandate following the introduction of the notion of "femicide" in national legislation. WLC Executive Director, Angelina Zaporozhan-Pîrgari, emphasised that the WLC is advocating for the extension of the Commission's mandate to include all cases of femicide, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a member of the victim's family or not.

Following intense discussions, it was decided that the Commission's regulation should be adjusted to include the analysis of all cases involving death or serious injury against women.

The Women's Law Centre continues to support the work of the Commission and advocates for a separate analysis of femicide cases which is prompted by the fact that femicide differs from other crimes due to the unequal balance of power and resources of victims and perpetrators.





## TOGETHER WE OFFER HOPE!

Thanks to your generosity and the support of our WLC team colleagues, we were able to bring a ray of hope to our beneficiary Victoria\* and her four children on the eve of the festive season. We visited the family, gave them presents – clothes, shoes, books, sweets and other gifts – which brought smiles and joy to their hearts.

From the donations received, we have raised 7400 MDL so far, with which we will buy vouchers so that the mother can buy the things she and her children need most.

Although the holidays are over, this family's struggles remain. Victoria is a brave mother who has been through a terrible time. She has been the victim of physical and psychological violence at the hands of her partner, and her children have witnessed it first-hand. Following an extremely serious incident of violence, she took the decision to leave home with her young children. With the support of WLC, she obtained a

protection order and the children now live with her.

However, their situation remains difficult: Victoria is raising her four children alone, they live in rented accommodation and her income, based mainly on social assistance, is insufficient to cover all the family's needs.

We urge you to support Victoria and her children. Every contribution counts and can be of great help to this family.

**Donate online here,  
mentioning  
"for Victoria"  
in your comment**

Thank you for joining us in our mission to help those who need it most!



**Dear friends,  
colleagues and  
partners,**

Thank you for joining us in 2024 in our endeavours to promote women's rights in Moldova and to build together a life free from violence. With each step forward, we are closer to a more inclusive society, where both women and men can realise their dreams and potential in all aspects of life. We wish you that 2025 will be a year of the courage to dream and the strength to turn dreams into reality.

With gratitude,  
**WLC team**





# 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 Sweden and the OAK Foundation (via ARC).

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