



WOMEN'S
LAW CENTRE
15 years

CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER FOR 15 YEARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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ABOUT US

The Women's Law Centre (WLC) is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2009 by women lawyers to promote gender equality and to prevent and combat domestic and gender-based violence in the Republic of Moldova.

HOW WE ACT?

In order to achieve real and lasting change in the lives of women of Moldova, WLC advocates for a holistic approach to the phenomenon of domestic and gender-based violence.

To this end, our activities are focused on several areas:

- ✓ we provide free legal advice and representation, social, psychological support and economic empowerment, as well as vocational guidance services for women survivors of domestic and gender-based violence
- ✓ we conduct information and awareness-raising campaigns for the general public
- ✓ we train professionals working in the public system
- ✓ we provide expertise on best practices in responding to cases of domestic and gender-based violence and in harmonizing national legislation with international standards
- ✓ we monitor the implementation of existing legislation in the field of expertise
- ✓ we provide expertise and promote legislative changes to ensure that the rights and interests of victims of domestic and gender-based violence are respected
- ✓ we conduct research on the topic of preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women, as well as gender equality.



OUR MISSION

We contribute to promoting gender equality, preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women in the Republic of Moldova by raising public awareness, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in this field, providing specialized holistic services to assist and protect women, researching the phenomenon of domestic and gender-based violence, monitoring the implementation of legislation and supporting the process of harmonization of the national legislation with international standards.

OUR VISION

Women and their children - victims or potential victims of violence against women and domestic violence – are protected within an effective system of prevention, response, monitoring and combating of violence against women and domestic violence, established at the local and national levels.

OUR VALUES AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Respecting human rights
Integrated and comprehensive approach based on women's legal and economic empowerment
Victim-centred approach
Respecting beneficiaries' decisions and providing the necessary support
Professionalism and impartiality
Non-discrimination
Responsibility
Transparency
Team work

CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER FOR 15 YEARS

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

It is no coincidence that the WLC was registered on the International Human Rights Day. On December 10, 2024, we celebrated 15 years of activity - 15 years of tireless work, ambitious projects, and bold steps that have brought change for many women and girls in the Republic of Moldova.

Since 2009, we have been working with thousands of women survivors of violence, providing them with legal counselling, psychological and social support, and economic empowerment to rebuild their lives.

Together, we have promoted legislative and systemic reform, putting women – survivors of violence – at the centre of intervention. We helped raise awareness and build the capacity of frontline specialists: police officers, prosecutors, judges, judges, lawyers, social workers and forensic doctors. As a result, more and more women have been assisted and provided with legal protection measures. Together we have worked to harmonize the legislative framework with the Istanbul Convention and advocated for its ratification by our country.

Through our programmes, we have shown that change is possible and systemic reform can become a reality.

This report is dedicated to the women and children of Moldova who have the right to live in safety, dignity and without violence.

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, experience, knowledge and your commitment that has succeeded in changing the lives of women 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 free from violence. Together we are stronger, and this anniversary is proof that change starts with each and every one of us.

Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari
Executive Director and
founding member of the
Women's Law Centre
GREVIO member










We are grateful to everyone
who believed in our dream!



To mark **15 years** of activity, we have
launched **an anniversary video**.



2024 RESULTS IN FIGURES

 1198 cases of domestic and gender-based violence handled	 2850 counselling sessions offered to beneficiaries	 24 awareness-raising activities organised
 777 specialists trained	 19 beneficiaries supported under the Economic Empowerment Programme	 50 995 information materials distributed
 10 local projects to promote gender equality supported in 10 districts of Moldova, worth 100 000 USD	 5 local economic empowerment programmes for survivors of violence in 5 districts of Moldova implemented	
 300 women and girls involved in local economic empowerment programmes	 10 studies and other publications launched	 1 community fundraising event "Transformation" to support women affected by violence

IMPACT OF WLC BY THE VOICE OF THE BENEFICIARIES

"I've convinced myself once again that almost everything is in my hands: the way I shape my life, the importance I attach to certain things and the path I choose to solve a problem."

"At first it seemed like just a course - I've been too many others! But what happened to me here - it's like I'm a different person."

"I realized that I am not worse than others, nor better, I am me, just the way I am. I found the solution to the equation!"

"This activity was like group therapy, a time for myself, where I reflected on myself. In everyday life, I don't have time for such moments of reflection."

"I realized that we are not alone here. I have the power! We have the power!"

"This programme has given me the courage to dream again. I have a small business, and I hope to grow."

"Life is still beautiful. I want to accept myself as I am, I don't want to fight with myself anymore."

"I loved that I could speak freely and cry without fear of judgment. I am grateful for that. I heard other women's stories and realized that although my story is different, we have a lot in common. I discovered that I have many pluses and strengths."

"Not only did I learn a lot, but I felt supported and understood."

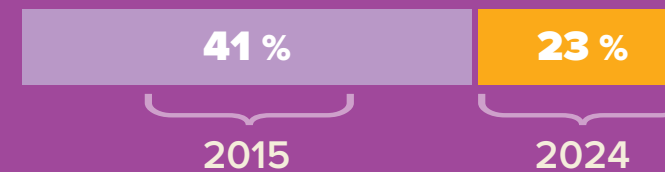
Domestic and gender-based violence is prevented by reducing tolerance towards it



Intervention area

PREVENTION

The percentage of men who believe that there are situations in which a woman "deserves to be beaten up" has fallen.*



2 out of 3 men

and

4 out of 5 women



reject the idea that "if a woman is raped, she must have done something to get in that situation".*

* Study "Men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova"

INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We have launched a public appeal asking the authorities to recognize the notion of "femicide" in Moldovan law and to investigate with due diligence all cases of killing women.

The appeal has been launched in the context of the case of Ana Maria, pregnant 19-year-old woman who was abducted, raped and cruelly killed by a man in April 2024.

Over 1500 people and 160 civil society organisations supported our appeal.

The action was part of our efforts to combat gender-based violence and protect women's rights, to ensure a rapid response from the authorities and to prevent such tragedies in the future.

As a result, we supported the authorities in drafting a bill to amend Law No. 45/2007 and include the notion of femicide in the legislation, which the Parliament adopted in July 2024.



As part of the campaign "**16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**," we inaugurated the documentary exhibition "**Don't Blame the Clothes!**" at the Faculty of Law, State University of Moldova, and the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu" in Chişinău.

The exhibition presented the stories of 11 women and girls from the Republic of Moldova, victims of sexual violence, accompanied by a reconstruction of the clothes they were wearing at the time of the abuse. In 2024, we complemented the exhibition with the story of Ana Maria to draw attention to the seriousness of femicide.

We organised two public lectures on gender-based violence and sexual violence, in the context of the opening of the exhibitions in universities, which over **200 students** attended.



We organised the round table "**Femicide – the most serious form of violence against women**", in partnership with the Criminal Law Department of the Faculty of Law, State University of Moldova, to identify solutions to improve the state response to cases of femicide.

The event was attended by **78 state representatives**, state secretaries, lawyers, prosecutors, judges, members of the Commission in Charge of Monitoring and Analysing of Domestic Violence Cases Resulting in Victim's Death or Serious Bodily Integrity, as well as representatives of academia and civil society.



We organised a training session on the protection of victims of domestic violence and violence against women in the light of the Istanbul Convention, which was attended by **100 students** from the Faculty of Law, State University of Moldova.



We organised information sessions for **100 women** victims or potential victims of domestic violence from Drochia, Hincesti, Glodeni and Criuleni districts. WLC lawyers explained the forms of domestic violence, legal protection measures and free services available for victims of domestic violence.





We have produced a booklet for women facing domestic violence.

It includes information about the forms of violence, the protection measures available, support services and the steps to seek help. To complement the booklet, we have created leaflets with concise and easy-to-understand information designed to capture women's attention and encourage them to seek support or seek help in cases of violence. These information materials have been distributed in courthouses in several districts of the country, to local partners and women in the communities.

In order to strengthen the partnership with the Police and intensify efforts to prevent and combat domestic violence and violence against women, we have signed **9 co-operation agreements with the police** inspectorates of Călărași, Criuleni, Drochia, Dubăsari, Glodeni, Hîncești, Ialoveni, Rîșcani and Strășeni districts.



The WLC supported the campaign to raise public awareness on the phenomenon of domestic violence, entitled **"Your family's safety matters! We inform. We educate. We Protect"**, conducted by Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence from May 15 to June 15, 2024. Within its framework, we organised 3 trainings for police officers, distributed 44,000 flyers and posters to sensitize the public and 700 posters with the algorithm of intervention in cases of domestic violence, which were placed in all police districts across the country.



We have financially supported the printing, distribution and organisation of event launching the feminist publication **"One Thousand and One of Myself without Shadows"**, signed by the poet Radmila Popovici.

Through this collaboration, we emphasize the role of art as a tool for social change, which can inspire and motivate women to discover and realize their potential.



INCREASING THE KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIALISTS IN RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In 2024, we continued our efforts to build the capacity of specialists across the country to ensure effective implementation of legislation on preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women and connecting them to better respond to the needs of the victim. We organised **31 trainings** with the participation of **777 professionals**.



Strengthening the coordinated response of the criminal justice system



276 judges, prosecutors, judicial assistants, court clerks and prosecutors' advisors were trained, in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, to ensure the effective implementation of legislation on respect for the right to fair access to justice and prevention of gender-based violence.



210 prosecution officers, sector chiefs and police officers were trained, in collaboration with the General Inspectorate of Police, to strengthen their knowledge and practical skills in the effective application of legislation on preventing and combating domestic violence.



101 representatives of the criminal justice system from Cahul, Făleşti, Ștefan Vodă and Chișinău municipality participated in joint group trainings to strengthen their skills for a more effective coordinated response to domestic violence cases.



76 forensic doctors and auxiliary medical staff have strengthened their capacity to assess and intervene in cases of domestic violence.



13 employees of the National Probation Inspectorate, responsible for the electronic monitoring of domestic abusers, were trained to ensure a prompt response in cases of domestic violence and to enforce protection orders.



61 students of the National Institute of Justice, candidates for the positions of prosecutor and judge and students of the Faculty of Law, State University of Moldova, participated in a trial simulation of a criminal case on domestic violence and sexual violence against children. The activity contributed to the development of the professional skills of future professionals, giving them the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the specific judicial procedures in cases of domestic violence.



Capacity building for social specialists



85 social work specialists, representatives of the territorial bodies for employment, public authorities and service providers from Hîncești, Bălți, Soroca, Telenești and Ștefan Vodă districts were trained to contribute to the economic empowerment of survivors and to facilitate referral and access to essential services and small-scale empowerment programmes.



Dialogue Platforms for Access to Justice

- Between October and November 2024, we organised 4 round tables in the districts of Soroca, Criuleni, Cimișlia and Comrat, bringing together members of the Dialogue Platforms for Access to Justice. This initiative, launched in 2020 with the support of the Institute of Penal Reforms, aims to improve access to justice for victims of domestic violence.

More than 70 justice and social work specialists analysed the obstacles faced by vulnerable women in accessing justice and identified solutions to eliminate them.

- In December 2024, we organised a two-day totalising event attended by members and platform members from the four districts. The event underscored the importance of inter-agency collaboration in providing a prompt and empathetic response to victims. Extending these platforms to other regions remains a priority to support marginalised groups.



OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

- Meetings of the Commission in Charge of Monitoring and Analysing of Domestic Violence Cases Resulting in Victim's Death or Serious Bodily Integrity, organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Meetings of the National Coordinating Council for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence.
- The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda Initiative Group meetings, organised by the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA).
- International conference on preventing and combating violence against women, organised by the National Coalition "Life without Violence" in Chișinău.
- International conference "Synergy for Change" organised by the Council of Europe in Budapest.
- WAVE network conference in Bucharest.
- Contribution to the online civil society consultations at the Forum dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- Efforts of the Republic of Moldova to include the notion of "femicide" in legislation have been recognized at the international level. The OSCE study, "Trends in Addressing Femicide in the OSCE Region", refers to the mobilization actions initiated by the WLC in the context of the Ana Maria case and the legislative progress achieved.

INTERNATIONAL VISITS TO THE WLC

We were honoured to receive visits from important international delegations to the WLC to exchange experiences and best practices in preventing and combating violence against women and gender-based violence. These include:



- A delegation from Tajikistan, composed of representatives of civil society organisations.
- A delegation, made up of representatives of the Romanian Centre for Mediation and Community Safety Foundation, the President of the European Alliance of Family Justice Centres, Bert Groen, and GREVIO Committee members, Vice President Aleid Van der Brink (Netherlands) and Pascale Franck (Belgium).



AGENTS OF CHANGE

have enhanced capacities to address gender equality and gender-based violence



IMPACT JOURNALISM FOR CHANGE

In September 2024, in partnership with the Centre for Independent Journalism and with the support of Sweden, we organised the **training programme for journalists** "Between truth and sensational: How do we report professionally on violence against women?".

16 female journalists from several newsrooms across the country, guided by national and international experts, strengthened their skills to report fairly and responsibly on violence against women, respecting the dignity of victims and avoiding sensationalism.

Following the training programme, we organised a **competition of journalistic materials** on violence against women and domestic violence.

5 journalists were awarded **9000 MDL** each for their outstanding works.

"The subject of violence is a sensitive one, and the way we approach it can influence public perception and have a direct impact on victims and society. This training has given me the tools to approach the subject responsibly, informing correctly without further victimising or minimizing the seriousness of the situation."

Gabriela, journalist



EMPOWERING WOMEN, LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND REFUGEES IN MOLDOVA

10 local projects worth 100 000 USD supported by the WLC in the field of gender equality

In 2024, the WLC continued the implementation of the project "Empowering Women, Local Communities and Refugees in Moldova", aimed at creating a positive environment for the promotion of gender equality and the economic, social and educational empowerment of women in the districts of **Orhei, Soroca, Glodeni, Căușeni, Ștefan Vodă, Ialoveni, Criuleni, Cimișlia, Dondușeni** and **Florești**.

30 people, 15 women and **15 men**, selected and trained in gender equality in 2023, benefited from an additional training programme in project writing, fundraising, project management and monitoring.

The training programme was complemented by 10 roundtables with decision-makers in each district, organised by project participants in partnership with the WLC, to identify local needs in gender equality and collect project ideas proposed by the community.

At the end of the training programme, project participants were encouraged to create mixed teams of one man and one woman and to submit proposals for local initiatives to implement solutions to the identified gender equality problems. The WLC selected 10 local initiatives, which received funding of USD 10,000 each.

The local initiatives, implemented in the 10 project districts, included a variety of activities targeting several target groups:

- * summer camps for young people;
- * social media awareness campaigns;
- * economic empowerment and entrepreneurship courses for women;
- * fathers' club and information sessions for parents on gender-sensitive parenting;
- * career guidance sessions for young women;
- * development of local gender equality action plans and strategies;
- * training for multidisciplinary teams on coordinated response to cases of domestic violence, etc.

The local initiatives will be implemented until April 2025 and will be followed by an information and awareness-raising campaign on the importance of gender equality and the results achieved in each participating locality.





Intervention area

PROTECTION



7 out of **10** women know about services for survivors of domestic violence.*

68 %

2015

74 %

2024

64 %

2015

77 %

2024

More and more men report that they are willing to keep their distance from the victim if a protection order is issued.*

Victims of domestic and gender-based violence are **Better protected and perpetrators are punished**

The number of women using existing services for victims of violence has increased.*

3 %

2015

11 %

2024

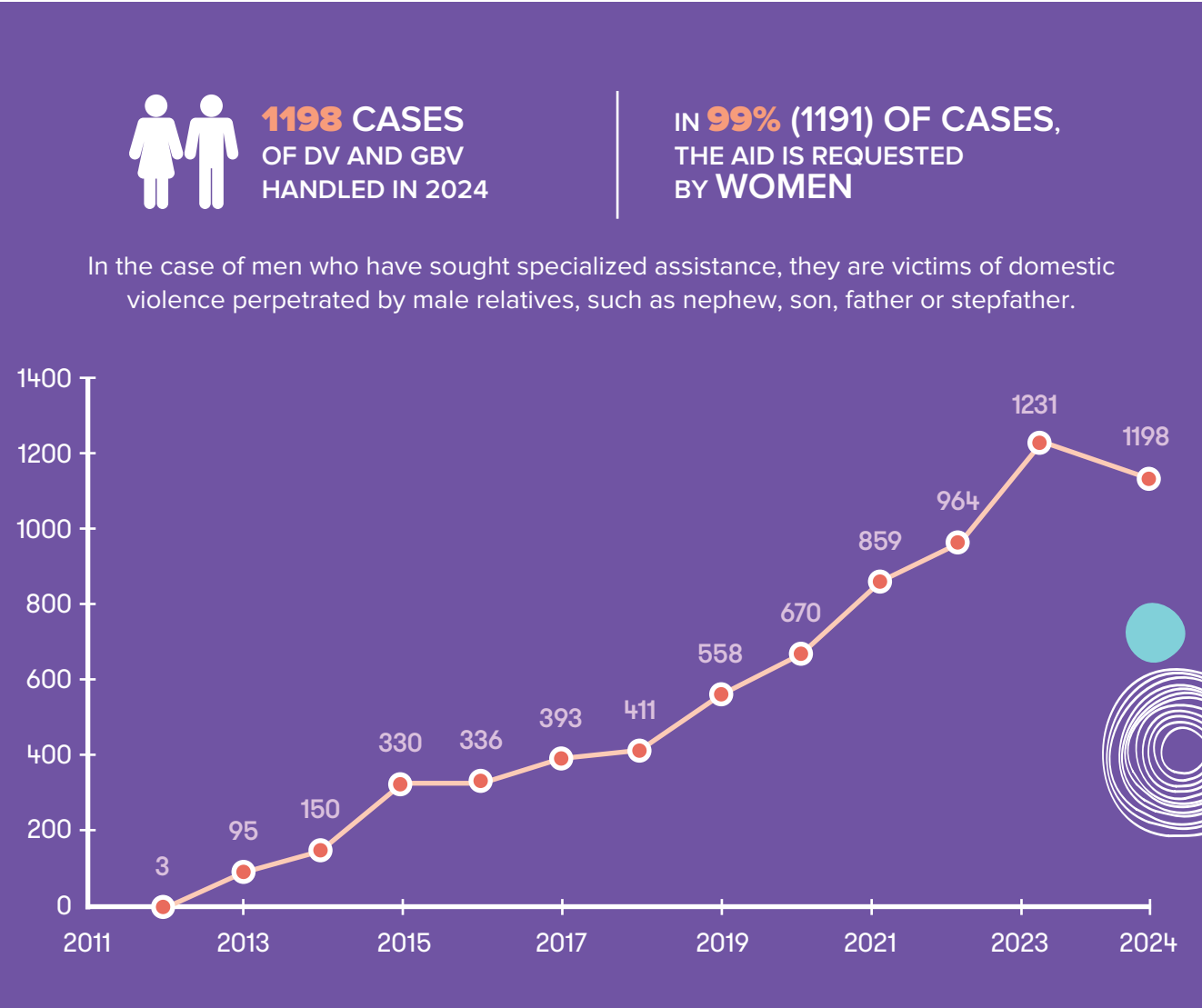


* Study "Men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova"

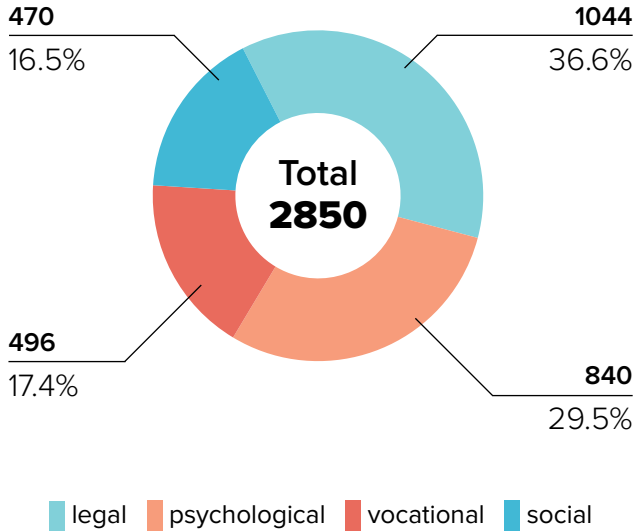


VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RECEIVE SPECIALISED ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FROM THE WLC TEAM

The specialised service for the support of people affected by domestic violence has been operating as a day centre within our organisation since 2012. We continue to provide comprehensive, victim-centred, gender-specific and tailored support to women and girl victims experiencing gender-based violence.



Number of counselling sessions offered in 2024

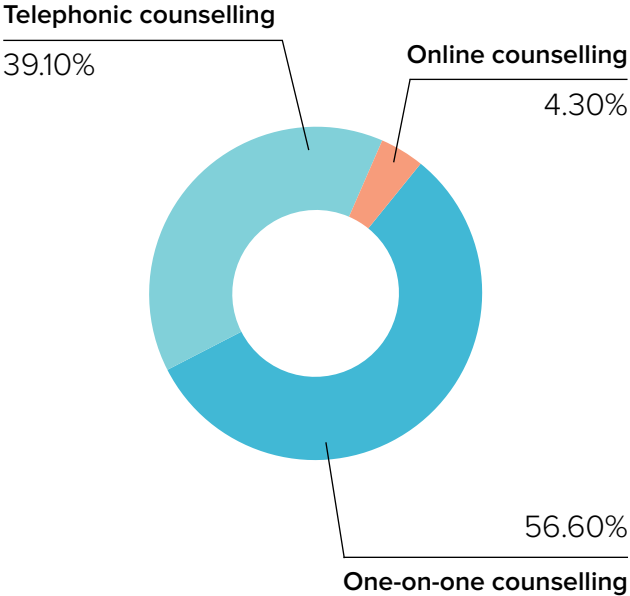


The number of sessions exceeds the number of referrals due to the complexity of the cases managed, which require multiple specialized interventions.

Typically, a victim may initially need legal counselling to obtain protective measures, followed by psychological counselling to overcome the post-traumatic state and social counselling for re-integration into the community. Some situations involve an escalation of problems, which requires several sessions to adjust the intervention plan according to the victim's needs. Victims often return for additional support during recovery.

This holistic approach reflects the WLC team's commitment to providing personalized and long-lasting support to each beneficiary.

The way the WLC services were accessed



In 2018 we launched the free 08008 0000 legal advice helpline, making it easier for victims of violence to access support. In 2024, the number of calls increased almost six times compared to the year of launch.

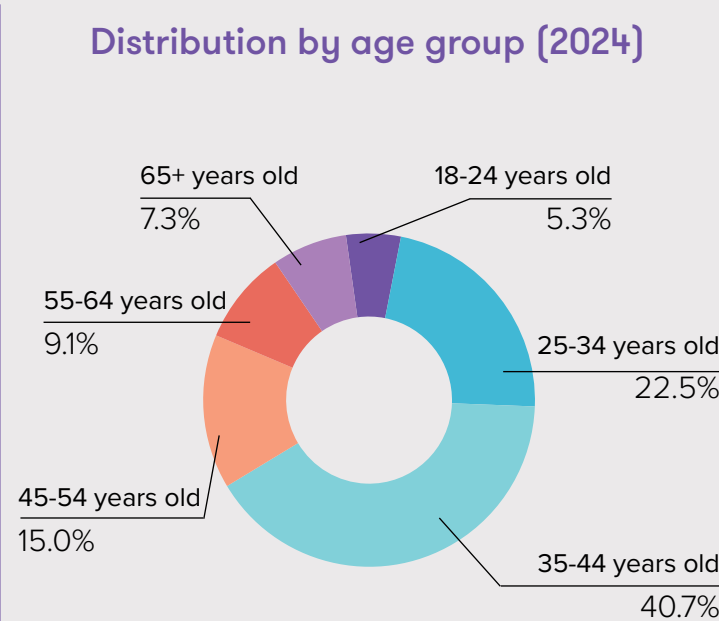
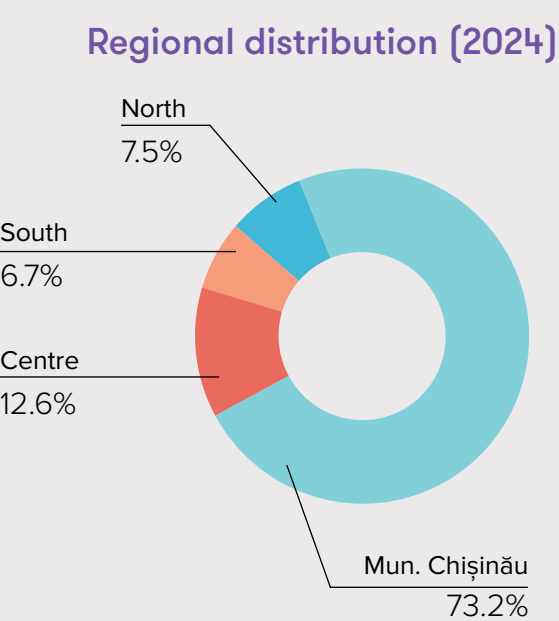
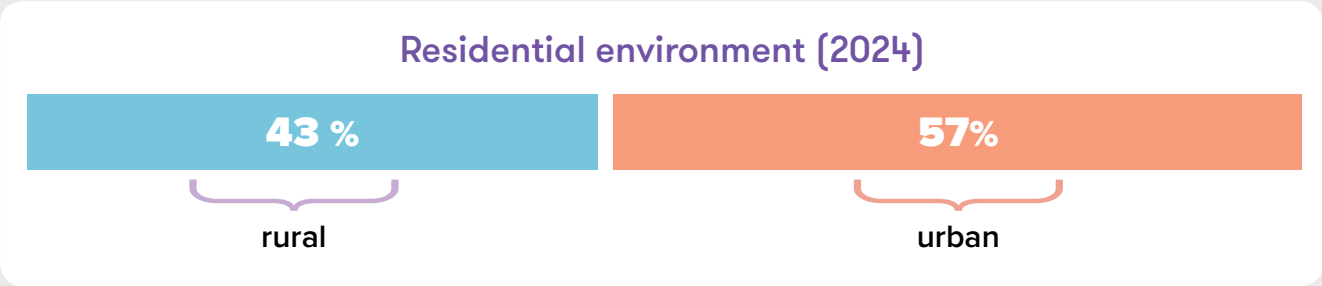
Seasonal trends in service access

- **Offline interactions** were most frequent during the summer months, especially in July and August, which accounted for **22% of total offline interactions**.
- **Telephone counseling** was used most often in the autumn and winter months, with October and December recording the highest number of calls, contributing to over **20% of total phone calls**.
- **Online interactions** peaked during the winter months, accounting for approximately **27% of total online interactions**.



Beneficiaries' social profile

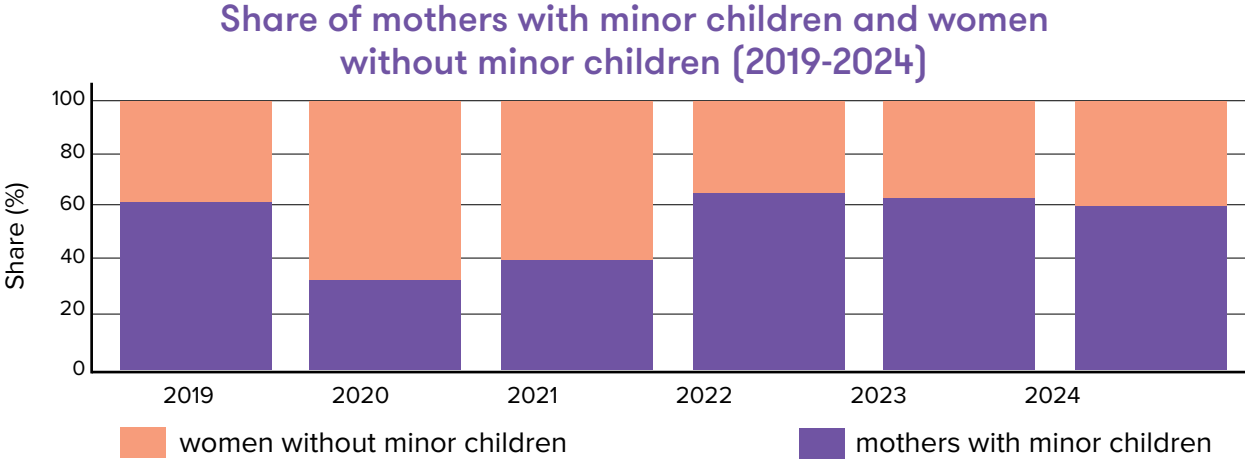
Long-term trends, analysed for the period 2019-2024, show a steady increase in rural referrals, up approximately **37%** from **376 cases** in 2019 to **516** in 2024. This evolution over time can be attributed to the diversification of our services, which now encompass a continuum of legal, psychological, social, and vocational assistance services, often lacking in rural communities.



Of all women assisted, **61.4%** are mothers caring for one or several minor children. This trend shows a significant increase in the need for specialized support for women who, in addition to their experiences of domestic violence, bear the burden of childcare and household chores alone.



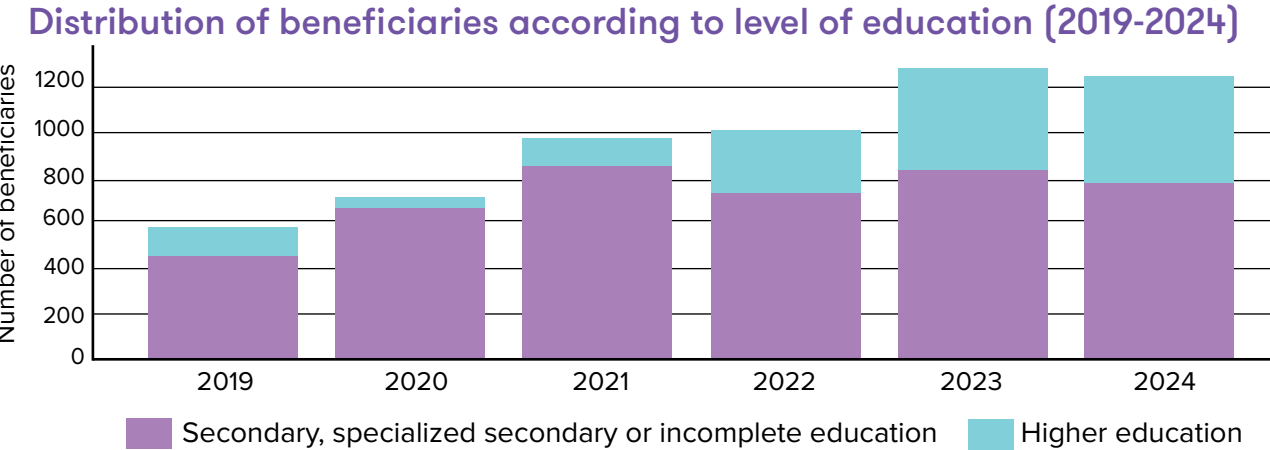
38.6% of assisted beneficiaries had no minor children. Typically, women in this category are over 55 years of age and face bullying by adult children, social isolation and lack of adequate economic or family support.



62.44% of assisted women have only secondary, specialised secondary or incomplete education. This level of education limits their access to well-paid professions or professions with growth prospects. Family responsibilities and lack of time are barriers to retraining or developing new skills, which increases their economic dependence on partners or other family members.

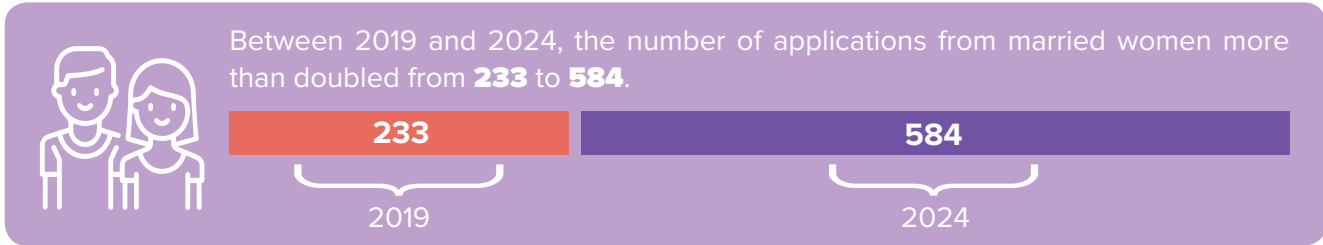
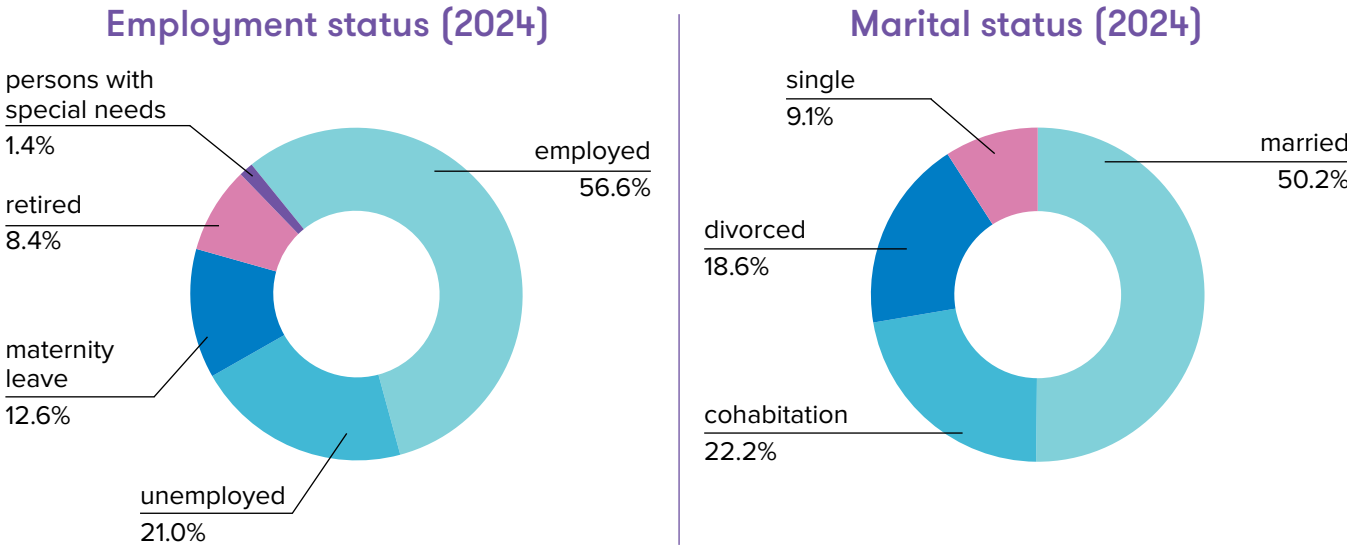


37.14% of the women assisted have higher education, marking a significant increase from 2019 when the share was only 20.97%, indicating an upward trend and a greater openness of women with higher education to the available support services.



In 2024, as compared to 2019, more employed women sought help, with the percentage increasing from **26%** to **37%**. This shows that our beneficiaries are better integrated into the labour market, but also that domestic violence frequently affects even professionally active women.

At the same time, the number of unemployed women who applied for support increased from **22%** to **26%**, which highlights difficulties in their integration into the labour market.



17 beneficiaries with a degree of disability applied for help with domestic violence.

98.8% of applications came from Moldovan citizens. There were **10 applications** from Ukrainian citizens and **2** from Russian citizens.

The violence to which the victims were subjected



Combined forms of violence:



The relationship between victims and perpetrators

In **83%** of all registered applications, women were assaulted by partners or ex-partners. In the remaining cases, the perpetrators were relatives, persons related by affinity or strangers.

8 out of **10** victims are assaulted by partners or ex-partners.

58% of beneficiaries informed themselves about the help they can receive from the WLC.

42% were referred to the WLC by the police, the courts, social workers or other non-governmental organisations.

THE WLC SERVICES MEET THE NEEDS OF WOMEN
AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE



Legal assistance

1044 primary legal advice sessions

In **42 cases**, women were represented in court by WLC lawyers. Of the total number of cases, **73%** are criminal and misdemeanour cases and **27%** are civil cases



Psychological support

840 psychological counselling sessions

146 psychological assessment reports produced, used in court in criminal, misdemeanour or civil cases concerning domestic violence, sexual violence and other forms of abuse.



Social support

470 women received social counselling to access social benefits, allowances or other state payments

in **12 cases** access to a placement centre was facilitated

35 mothers and **76 children**, in situations of high vulnerability, benefited from material aid amounting to **112,727.35 MDL**, to cover basic needs, as well as support for health, education and social integration

Protection measures applied to beneficiaries

230 applications for a protection order were made, out of which **223 protection orders** were issued by court decision

21 finalized criminal and misdemeanour cases with final and irrevocable judgment were reported by WLC lawyers.

The prison terms the offenders were sentenced to ranged from **3** to **11 years**.

The total amount of material, moral and biological damages collected in the cases managed by the WLC amounted to **1,949.550 MDL**. The most significant amounts obtained for the benefit of the victims: **586,000 MDL** – moral damages, **1,100.000 MDL** – biological damages and **263,550 MDL** – material damages.

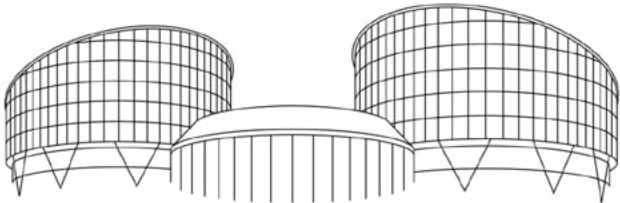


Strategic litigation cases at the European Court of Human Rights

In 2024, we continued to represent the cases of victims of domestic violence and violence against women before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).



ECtHR condemns Moldova over a femicide case



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

The case of **V. Vieru v. Republic of Moldova**:

On November 19, 2024, the ECtHR handed down its judgment in this femicide case, which concerns the authorities' failure to protect the applicant's sister T. from domestic violence at the hands of her ex-husband, which led to her death. The authorities failed to carry out a proper investigation into the circumstances of her death.

The complaint was lodged in January 2018 by the victim's brother, who was assisted in the proceedings by the WLC. The Court found serious violations of the right to life and protection against inhuman or degrading treatment and discrimination, finding that the State had failed to comply with its obligations to intervene and prevent domestic violence. The claimant was awarded €20,000 compensation for non-material damage.

Another 8 cases represented by the WLC are pending before the European Court.

WLC

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

WLC's Economic Empowerment Programme provides resources and support to survivors of domestic violence to gain financial independence and build a life free from violence for themselves and their children. Through this programme we support beneficiaries through job training, personal development, career guidance, and business idea support. Economic empowerment is one of the most effective and sustainable ways to eliminate violence.

 **496** vocational counselling sessions offered to beneficiaries in which employment opportunities or trainings to improve skills were identified

 **7** occupational therapy workshops – 67 beneficiaries

 **1** personal development programme (5 days) organised in Chişinău – 18 beneficiaries



19 women supported to develop an economic activity on their own, being offered **19 grants** totalling **408,243 MDL**.



These grants have given women the opportunity to take vocational training courses, access university studies, buy specialized equipment needed for their professions or develop their own business ideas.

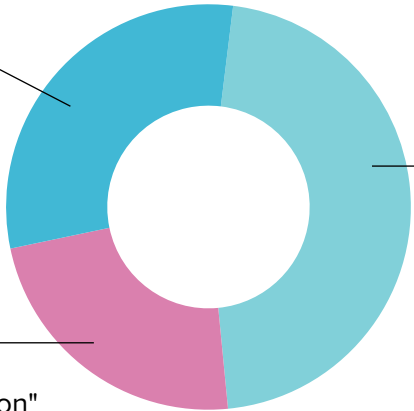
Funding sources of grants offered in 2024

113,776.80 MDL

Resources allocated by the economic empowerment project supported by UN Women and Sweden

94,550.50 MDL

Donations collected during the fundraising event "Transformation"



200,000 MDL

Donation from Moldindconbank



Stories of courage and transformation of WLC beneficiaries



IMPACT OF WLC BY THE VOICE OF THE BENEFICIARIES



"Each session was an opportunity to discover new things about ourselves and to understand more deeply our relationships with those around us. The WLC team managed to create a safe and open 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 empathetic and present in each moment. Thank you for all the lessons and for helping us to be a better version of ourselves."

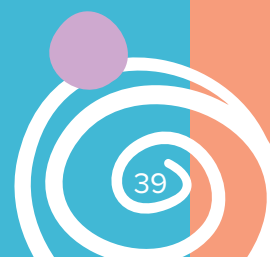
"For me personally, today I found answers to many questions. There were things I felt I knew, but I didn't know exactly what to do to feel better. It seemed like I was letting someone else tell me what to do, manipulate me, or criticize me. I was being complacent. Today, here, I understood where I could start."

"Thank you for the useful information – some things seem familiar, but I don't apply them. Here (at the personal development course), it feels like we're looking through drawers again and reorganizing them. At first, I was scared, afraid I wouldn't be able to speak, but here I was listened to. I expressed myself in my own way and was accepted without fear of being judged. I felt a lot of satisfaction, and those at home tell me I seem like a different person, I am calmer."

"I learned how to take care of myself, how to ignore what others say, how to respond appropriately to criticism, how not to let myself be weighed down by the negative energy of some people, and how to stand up to verbal aggression. Oh, I wish I had heard these things sooner, but I'm glad I heard them now. I felt you were like rays of sunshine, and I realized I am a sun, too. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"



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LOCAL ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES



5 local programmes implemented in Soroca, Hînceşti, Teleneşti, Bălţi and Ştefan Vodă

- ✓ 5 information sessions for a life free from violence – 108 beneficiaries
- ✓ 5 personal development and vocational guidance courses (5 days) – 117 beneficiaries
- ✓ 5 development of income-generating activities courses (3 days) – 108 beneficiaries
- ✓ One-to-one mentoring sessions, as a result of which the beneficiaries have increased knowledge on developing a business plan
- ✓ We have launched the "Transformation" voucher programme to support women participating in local economic empowerment programmes – especially those with multiple vulnerabilities – by providing financial resources, knowledge and tools necessary to start and develop sustainable economic activities.
- ✓ 7 survivors received financial support in the form of a voucher totalling 113,776.80 MDL, to access studies or refresher courses in various fields, and to purchase necessary tools/equipment. The project is ongoing and more vouchers will be offered in 2025.

Partners/supporters:





THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES ON BENEFICIARIES:

●	●	●	●	●	●
Removing financial dependence on the abuser	Increasing education and professional skills	Autonomy in making decisions about personal and professional life	Improved self-esteem and confidence to rebuild their lives	Developing conflict and stress management skills	Protection against discrimination





We were honoured to receive the NPA's **"For Cooperation" Medal** in recognition of the WLC's efforts to support and promote the rights of women in detention.

Between 2017-2024, we built a sustainable partnership with the employees of Penitentiary No. 7-Rusca, contributing to the development and implementation of a support programme for women in detention.

Over **500 convicted women** have benefited from legal and psychological counselling as well as art and reading therapy sessions. Thanks to WLC's involvement, many prisoners have been able to maintain contact with their children, and some women have regained their freedom and taken steps towards a new life.



WOMEN IN DETENTION

have access to legal and psychological support

Based on the partnership with the **National Administration of Penitentiaries (NAP)** and with the support of **Sweden**, in 2024 we resumed support activities tailored to the needs of women in **Penitentiary No. 7 Rusca**.

76 women received **141** legal advice **sessions**.

17 women received **27** psychological counselling **sessions**.

30 women attended an information session about their rights and the services available to them.

In order to support the organisation of cultural and artistic activities for women in detention, we responded to the NAP's request and provided an audio amplifier worth **24,625 MDL**.





Intervention area

RESEARCH-BASED POLICIES

The concept of "femicide" has been introduced into Moldovan law

The WLC launches IMAGES-2 Study
"Men and gender equality in
the Republic of Moldova"

**Comprehensive and
coordinated policies are
adopted and implemented**

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ALIGNED WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS



From May to July 2024, WLC contributed to the recognition of femicide in national legislation.

On May 25, 2024, we presented a concept draft law to the Commission in Charge of Monitoring and Analysing of Domestic Violence Cases Resulting in Victim’s Death or Serious Bodily Integrity, which aims to regulate prevention, prosecution, and protection of victims and their families in femicide cases.

As a result, the draft law was developed on the Commission's platform, with the participation of the main competent institutions: the Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Police Inspectorate, Prosecutor General's Office, National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, academia and representatives of the judiciary, a process supported by development partners UN Women, UNFPA and the Council of Europe.

The WLC team was also active at the public hearings organised on this topic in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova by the Platform of Women Deputies. Thus, on July 31, 2024, the Parliament adopted the draft law introducing the concept of "femicide" into national law. It was initiated by the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Doina Gherman, following the public appeal launched by the WLC and supported by over 1,500 people and 160 civil society organisations, in the context of the cruel murder of Ana Maria in Orhei in April 2024.

In 2024, we drafted and presented the Report on the compatibility of Moldovan legislation with the Istanbul Convention.

This Report analyses the extent to which national legislation meets international standards on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

The Report was produced in the context of the Republic of Moldova's commitment, as a State Party to the Istanbul Convention, to adopt effective measures in this field. Based on the findings of the GREVIO Evaluation Report on the legislative measures adopted at the national level and other relevant analyses, we have identified aspects of the legislation that require improvement to ensure more effective protection of victims of violence.



VIEW REPORT



A significant achievement of this process is that the Report is accompanied by a draft law proposing amendments to more than 35 pieces of legislation. Among the main amendments are the recognition of digital violence, the introduction of the aggravating factor of femicide in the Criminal Code and the clarification of the role of the courts in determining the child's domicile in cases of domestic violence.

The production of this Report is part of our ongoing efforts to improve the legal framework and ensure adequate protection mechanisms for victims in line with international standards. It is part of a series of analyses conducted by the WLC over the years, the first of which was produced in 2013, followed by the 2019 and now the 2024 edition.

In 2024, we continued to support the functioning of the Commission in Charge of Monitoring and Analysing of Domestic Violence Cases Resulting in Victim’s Death or Serious Bodily Integrity, contributing to the capacity building of the MIA and other institutions involved in analysing cases of femicide and homicide resulting from domestic violence.

We advocated for the Commission's mandate to be extended to include femicide cases where the perpetrator is not a member of the victim's family, and in 2025 the regulation is expected to be adjusted to look at all cases of death or serious harm against women.

In collaboration with the MIA, we drafted the Commission's annual report for 2023 and contributed to improving the data collection process by revising the data collection form and training 63 GPI police officers responsible for completing it. As a result of the training, the quality and consistency of the data collected were improved, thus contributing to a more rigorous analysis of domestic violence cases from 2024.

The WLC has advocated over the years for and supported the MIA in the establishment and functioning of the Commission, providing support and capacity building to improve knowledge and skills in analysing cases of death and serious harm, while promoting system-wide change to prevent femicide and severe domestic violence cases.



THE RESEARCH RESULTS ARE USED IN ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

We have launched the Study **"Men and Gender Equality in the Republic of Moldova" (IMAGES-2)**, 9 years after the first similar survey. The Study provides a valuable insight into changes in perceptions and behaviours related to gender equality, highlighting progress made, but also areas where improvements are still needed.

The main objective of the research was to analyse men's and women's behaviours and perceptions regarding family responsibilities, gender relations, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. The Study results indicate a gradual yet promising shift in attitudes towards gender equality. Compared to 2015, the 2024 Study reflects a more active involvement of men in family life, a decrease in tolerance of domestic violence and a greater participation of men in family decisions. However, the concept of gender equality is still misunderstood by a significant part of the population. It is often associated with competition between the sexes or advantages for women rather than benefits for society as a whole.

The Study was conducted in collaboration with Sociopolis Consultancy, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Republic of Moldova and in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The launch of the Study took place on December 17, 2024, during a roundtable attended by over 40 people.



VIEW STUDY



In October 2024, on the platform of the Commission in Charge of Monitoring and Analysing of Domestic Violence Cases Resulting in Victim's Death or Serious Bodily Integrity, WLC launched the Study **"Evaluation of the criminal justice system's response to cases of domestic violence in the districts of Cahul, Fălești, Ștefan Vodă and Chișinău municipality"**, developed with the support of the Council of Europe.

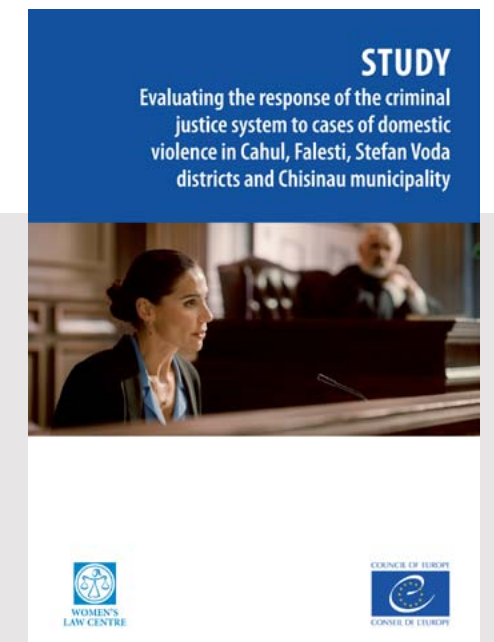
The selection of the four districts was made in consultation with the MIA and the General Prosecutor's Office, based on criteria such as the high number of cases of violence and the difficulties in addressing them, including the high incidence of cases of lethality/femicide, according to the 2022 Commission Report.

The Study reveals progress, but also significant challenges: more women are reporting violence from the very first incident, and cases of psychological violence are increasingly reported. However, cases of domestic violence with the use of information technology and electronic communications are under-reported and the number of emergency restraining orders issued has declined, while breaches of these have increased.

Among the main problems identified are insufficient information for victims about their rights, limited access to support services and poor implementation of rehabilitation measures for perpetrators. The Study shows that 65% of convictions in domestic violence cases do not provide for custodial sentences and victims' safety in court is not fully ensured. Nationally, 56% of protection orders are violated.

The Study aimed to identify gaps and best practices in the system, assess training needs for legal professionals and develop recommendations for improving procedures.

Following the survey's findings, capacity-building workshops were organized, bringing together representatives from the justice chain in the selected districts. The analysis of the practices in the four regions and the report-based training were appreciated as an innovative experience, contributing to strengthening the capacities of the authorities and standardizing practices for a more effective application of legal measures against domestic violence.



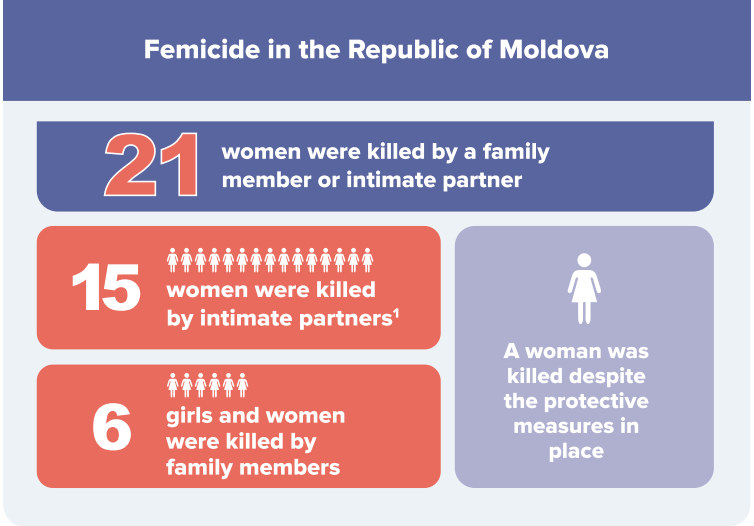
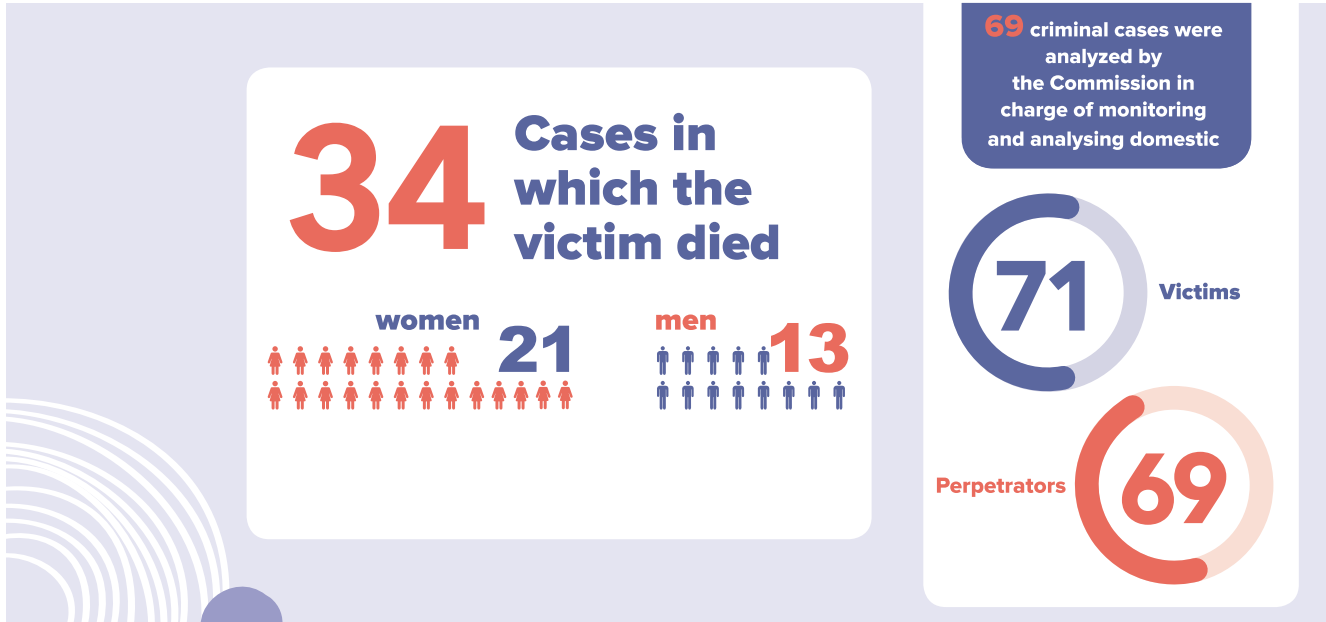
VIEW STUDY



In cooperation with the MIA, we launched the **Report of cases examined by the Commission in Charge of Monitoring and Analysing of Domestic Violence Cases Resulting in Victim's Death or Serious Bodily Integrity in 2023.**

In 2023, the Commission analysed 69 criminal cases of domestic violence resulting in death or serious harm. Compared to 2022, the number of victims decreased by 17%; however, under-reporting and barriers to access to justice remain significant challenges. Femicide accounted for 30% of the cases analysed, and violence committed by men against women had the highest rate of fatalities, with 21 women losing their lives to domestic violence.

Most perpetrators are men, with an average age of 50. The violence occurred most frequently in the common household, and in cases of femicide, the victims lived with the perpetrator in 2/3 of the cases. Only 9% of the victims were employed, and most of them had only a secondary or high school education, which indicates increased economic vulnerability. In many cases, perpetrators and victims were in long-term relationships and 13 couples had minor children, highlighting the serious impact of violence on families.



The WLC contributed to the **Study "Revealing the hidden side of the iceberg. Psychological violence in the Republic of Moldova and Romania"** alongside other organisations from Romania and Moldova.

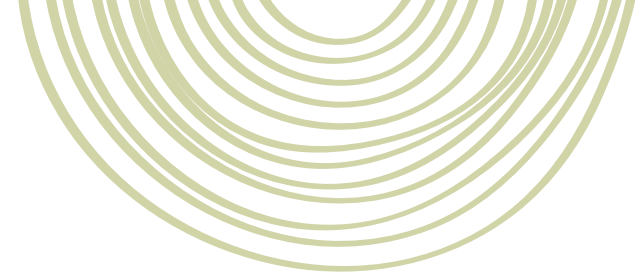
This project is supported by the Association for Community Relations, funded by the Oak Foundation through the Issues Affecting Women programme.

The Study, conducted in the Republic of Moldova and Romania, aimed to gain insight into the specific needs of survivors of psychological violence. It also identifies gaps in the systemic response to victim protection and explores opportunities to improve and develop services offered by women's organisations to address psychological violence more effectively.

The WLC has the
organisational capacity
to promote and defend
women's rights and
contribute to the
elimination of violence
against women



Intervention area
**ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



PROCESSES AND REGULATIONS ARE IMPROVED AND APPLIED

During September and October, the WLC conducted the process of evaluating the Organisational Development Strategy 2019-2024. The activity included a series of consultative meetings with national authorities, civil society representatives, beneficiaries of WLC services, members of the organisation's Board of Directors and development partners.

This effort led to the elaboration of an Evaluation Report, which contains a series of recommendations for the improvement of organisational activities and strategy and will form the basis for the discussion and planning of the WLC Organisational Development Strategy for 2025-2030.



THE WLC TEAM IS MOTIVATED AND COMMITTED



We have continued to focus on team development and improving organisational effectiveness. The WLC places particular emphasis on creating a friendly and inclusive working environment where innovation and efficiency are maximized. The constant investment in the professional and personal development of team members not only enhances their skills but also contributes to strengthening the organisation's mission to support women victims of domestic violence.

Each member of the team participated in at least 3 training programmes that contributed to strengthening professional skills. These included courses on strategic planning, psychological support and assessment, as well as trainings on gender equality, women's economic empowerment, feminist leadership, creative thinking, data protection and analysis, gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation, and public speaking. INOVATRIUM organised the trainings with the support of UN Women.

Members of the communication team participated in a training workshop dedicated to community fundraising and at the 20th edition of the National Fundraising Conference in Bucharest, organised by the Association for Community Relations.

The WLC legal specialist, together with representatives of other member organisations of the National Coalition "Life without Violence", participated in a study visit to four non-governmental organisations in Bucharest, Sibiu and Brasov. The meetings, organised by the Association for Community Relations and the OAK Foundation, facilitated a valuable exchange of best practices in preventing and combating violence against women.

We organised 2 team building activities that allowed the team to reflect on interpersonal relationships, on the current situation and on the future of the organisation.

Following the standards and principles of providing services for women victims of domestic violence, the employees providing services directly to the beneficiaries had about 10 counselling and psychological supervision sessions.



THE WLC IS A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION



We continue to work to diversify our funding sources. In 2024 we submitted **7 project proposals**, of which **4** were accepted and **2** others are in active discussions. Our funding sources are diverse, including **3 institutional grants** and **7 projects**.

Moreover, we are grateful for the support of partners who share our mission to support women and children affected by domestic violence.

An example of outstanding generosity is Moldindconbank's donation of **200,000 MDL** which resulted from a women's football charity mini-tour organised by the bank in partnership with the International Women's Club of Moldova (IWCM).

Thanks to this donation, nine women have been able to take important steps towards financial independence and breaking the cycle of violence, benefiting from opportunities to develop their business ideas or continue their studies.

We are deeply grateful for these generous gestures, which bring hope and support to the women beneficiaries of our economic empowerment programmes.



IMPACT OF WLC BY THE VOICE OF THE BENEFICIARIES

"I'm going home as a better person, with the self I've discovered here."

"I believe that no matter what family we come from, today I must believe in myself! I can do it! I want to change! I can change something!"

"My courage to act and speak in public has grown. Two years ago, I avoided stepping on stage; now, I would do it without fear!"

"I am happy to be here (at the personal development course) thanks to WLC, and I understand that it's not shameful to keep learning. Even at 50 years old. It's just an age. We pretend to know everything, but we don't. Thank you for waking me up, as if from a deep sleep."

"For me, this is a beneficial development course that lifted me out of a darker state and opened my eyes to the fact that I'm alive, and I can do it! I'm satisfied and happy to take this course, especially after all I've been through. I would wholeheartedly recommend it to other women."

"There are things in this life that I cannot change. But there are things that can be changed. I want to change something for myself."

"I've learned a very important thing: to take care of myself in a healthy way, something I haven't done until now – without expecting others to do it or blaming them for not doing it for me. I no longer want to be a victim."

"I've long needed something to help me understand myself, to understand my thoughts. By nature, I'm a pessimist, but now I'm trying to look for the positive sides. I needed precisely this kind of experience, for which I thank you very much! To those who made this training course possible, and especially to the Women's Law Centre!"

FUNDRAISING EVENT "TRANSFORMATION"

On April 4, 2024 more than 250 generous people participated in the WLC's second annual fundraising event to support the courage of women affected by domestic violence on their journey to financial independence.

The evening was marked by exceptional artistic moments: soprano **Ana Cernicova** moved the audience with the release of "But I remain silent" and shared her story that inspires courage in other women to end abusive relationships. The concert performed by Ana Cernicova, **Dumitru Mițu, the Moldovan National Youth Orchestra**, the **"Lia Ciocarlia"** children's choir under the guidance of conductor Andriano Marian was a musical performance that brought tears of joy and hope. Actress **Olesea Sveciă** brought the audience into the difficult reality of women experiencing violence, while **Olga Gonciar**, our beneficiary, shared her life story and completed the atmosphere with a sensitive rendition of a song.

The highlight of the evening was the charity auction with special items donated by our supporters: **Stela Moldovanu, Nicoleta Vacaru, Les Perles, Casa Cristea, Aurelia Bulat, Olga Gonciar, the International Women's Club** and the **President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu**.

The amount of **122,345 MDL**, collected from ticket sales, auction and donations, was directed to the WLC's Economic Empowerment Programme.

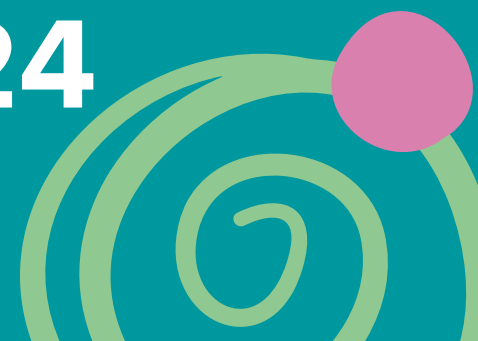


Thank you all for your generosity!





RETROSPECTIVE OF THE YEARS 2019-2024



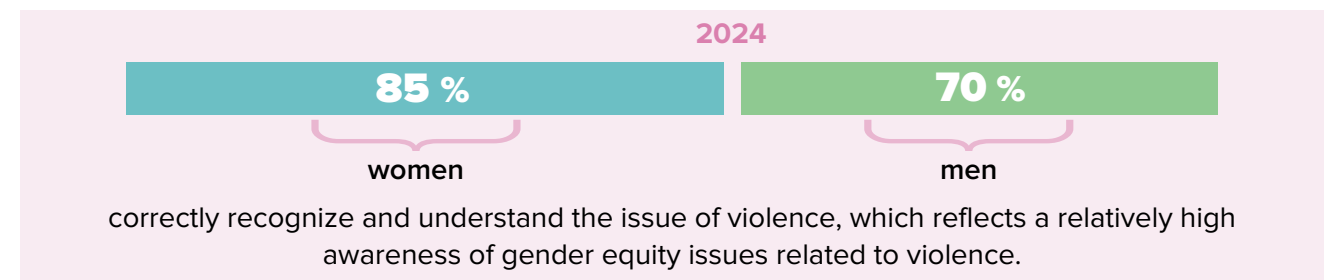
In 2024, the WLC marks the completion of the Organisational Development Strategy for 2019-2024, a document that has served as the main guide for planning, organising, monitoring and evaluating our activities. Throughout the six years, the Strategy has not only provided direction and coherence but has also inspired the team to go beyond its limits and contribute to meaningful transformations in society.

This chapter is dedicated to the results achieved during the implementation of the Strategy. We will reflect on the impact we have had on the lives of our beneficiaries and the progress we have made in promoting gender equality and combating domestic violence.

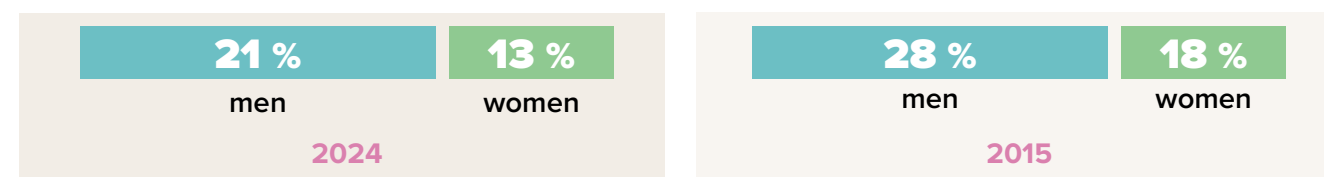
The end of this phase is a time of introspection and preparation for the future. We are proud of our achievements and aware of the challenges ahead.

WLC RESULTS 2019-2014

■ PREVENTION



Fewer and fewer people believe women have to tolerate violence to maintain their families.



- The WLC has significantly expanded activities to rural areas, identifying local groups and actors to work with. Training and grants offered to librarians and young people included initiatives to develop community projects to support victims of domestic violence and to raise awareness on gender-based violence and gender equality.
- Over **1,500 young people** were informed about gender equality and domestic violence through the initiatives implemented by **21 young people** who received small grants under the Social Hub platform launched by the WLC.
- Over **1,000 people** in the community were informed about domestic violence through projects implemented by librarians who received small grants offered by WLC.
- Over **600 people** were informed about sexual harassment upon the launch of the documentary exhibition "Don't Blame the Clothes".
- **333,726 views** of the two events "Different role models. Different speeches", which included motivational speeches by public figures and social activists on gender equality and violence prevention.
- More than **320,000 information materials** distributed during awareness-raising activities, on public transport, in courts, public institutions, etc.
- We released the first video documentary on femicide.
- We created three educational films based on the real stories of women supported by the WLC.
- Unveiling a sculpture in memory of women victims of femicide.
- We helped organise the first international conference on preventing and combating violence against girls and women and domestic violence.

- The WLC has gradually extended the scope of training to new groups of professionals, including, in addition to judges, prosecutors and police officers, journalists and forensic doctors. A new training approach for mixed groups of professionals has also been introduced.
- Over **3,900 professionals** trained to ensure effective implementation of legislation on preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women.
- In partnership with MIA and NJI we have developed the first two official curricula and course

materials for the training of police officers and judges and prosecutors.

- Domestic violence training has been institutionalized at the Integrated Law Enforcement Training Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- We helped to build the capacity of members of the National Coalition "Life without Violence".
- We supported the first collection of feminist poetry – "A Thousand and One of Myself Without Shadows" by Radmila Popovici.

■ PROTECTION

- We provided holistic support based on the victim's needs in **7,198 cases** of domestic violence and gender-based violence.
- We promoted the free hotline for legal advice for victims of gender-based and domestic violence. Comparing 2018, when the hotline was launched, to 2024, the number of calls increased almost 6 times.
- We created and developed a database for recording beneficiaries.
- We developed and expanded specialized services for women affected by violence.
- We developed a new component of the WLC's services – the Personal Development Programme, through which we offer support to women who are ready to rebuild their lives, helping them to regain their confidence and reach their potential.
- We co-created and implemented, in partnership with local actors, **5 local economic**

empowerment programmes for survivors of violence in several districts of Moldova.

- We are recognized for our expertise in strategic litigation, representing **8 domestic violence cases** at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).
- The number of convictions has increased from **21** (2019) to **173** (2024), and the amount of moral and material damages has risen from **70,000 MDL** to **3,630,138 MDL**.
- We continued to provide legal and psychological support to over **600 women** in detention.
- The WLC moved quickly to provide humanitarian support to refugees from Ukraine, adapting to an entirely new context for the organisation. The organisation's budget and the intensity of service delivery increased significantly, putting pressure on the operational resources and our team. Nevertheless, our efforts contributed to supporting over **15,000 refugees**.

RESEARCH-BASED POLICIES

- We contributed to improving the legislative and policy framework in the field of preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence.
- We actively supported Moldova's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence.
- We developed three reports analysing the compatibility of national legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, which formed the basis for the legislative amendments leading to the ratification of the Convention.
- We launched the national communication campaign "Dear MP, listen to me too!" to support the ratification of the Convention, reaching over one million citizens.
- With the support of the WLC, the national mechanism and the Commission in Charge of Monitoring and Analysing of Domestic Violence Cases Resulting in Victim's Death or Serious Bodily Integrity, was created under the aegis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. At the same time, the data collection methodology and the first two analysis reports for the years 2022 and 2023 were developed.
- We supported the development of the instruction to enable forensic doctors in the Republic of Moldova to assess cases of domestic and gender-based violence correctly, and the Forensic Regulation on the assessment of the seriousness of bodily harm or health of a person was revised and completed.
- With the support of the WLC, the Intersectoral Cooperation Mechanism for more effective responses to cases of domestic violence was developed and approved. This mechanism was approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in 2022, and the standard operating procedures for social workers and doctors were approved in 2019.

In 2022, the Republic of Moldova ratified the Istanbul Convention.

- We made several submissions to international organisations, including alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee on Moldova's periodic reporting. Many of the Committee's concluding observations included recommendations offered by the WLC and partners. During the strategic period, 8 out of 10 WLC recommendations were reflected in the conclusions of international bodies.
- We contributed to the development of the first National Strategy for preventing and combating domestic violence (2017-2022) and the National Programme for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2023-2027).
- We provided support and expertise in drafting national legislation for the establishment of the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
- Femicide- a topic brought to the forefront by the WLC over the years. In 2024, our efforts led to the introduction of the concept of "femicide" into national legislation.
- We have carried out over 15 studies and surveys to gain in-depth knowledge of domestic violence and the situation of women survivors.

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ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- We were honoured to receive the 2019 Equality Award from the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Equality Assurance in recognition of our outstanding work in preventing and combating discrimination and promoting equality between women and men in public and private life.
- Training events have had a positive impact on the development of staff skills and knowledge, which has been reflected in improved quality of services provided to beneficiaries.
- Structural adjustments and the improvement or creation of new internal procedures have had a significant impact on organisational stability, helping us to face external challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the refugee crisis and leadership changes.
- Diversification of income sources and more active involvement in fundraising will continue to be our strategic priorities to strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.



CHALLENGES FACED IN 2019-2024

PERSISTENT STEREOTYPES REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Cultural and social stereotypes about domestic and gender-based violence continue to negatively influence public attitudes and behaviours. The WLC has adopted, as one of its main overarching principles and part of its long-term vision, the idea that no intervention to reduce gender-based violence can be effective without a change in mindsets. This implies recognizing the gendered nature of violence against women, which is deeply rooted in power imbalances and inequality between women and men.

MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY

Misinterpretation of the concept of gender equality remains a major stumbling block, often being confused with LGBTQI+ rights or with losses for men. The IMAGES-2 survey found that 27% of men and 29% of women believe that promoting women's rights implies losses for men. Also, 37% of men and 38% of women believe that once women gain rights, these will diminish men's rights. Inequitable perceptions and gender stereotypes are even more pronounced in the context of the labour market, where 53% of men and 59% of women believe that employing women in the workforce leads to jobs that should go to men.

TOLERANCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

13% of women and 21% of men believe that women should tolerate violence to maintain their family. Also, 23% of men believe that there are situations

in which a woman should be beaten, while only 12% of women agree with this statement. Another worrying aspect is that 11% of women accept the use of force by husbands/partners when they do not want to have sex, a slight increase from 2015 when 7% of women felt this way.

LACK OF AWARENESS OF AND USE OF SERVICES FOR VICTIMS

Although the number of women using existing services for victims of violence has increased from 3% in 2015 to 11% in 2024, only 1 in 10 victims use these services. The police remain the most requested institution, being contacted in 8 out of 10 cases of violence. In recent years, awareness of available services has increased from 68% to 74% among women, while the number of men who know about such services has decreased from 61% in 2015 to 49% in 2024.

LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL SOLUTIONS

The level of awareness of the possibility of a protection order remains low, especially among men, with a notable decline from 50% in 2015 to 36% in 2024.

40% of women and 38% of men are aware of the possibility of an emergency restraining order by the police. Of the men informed about this protective measure, 69% think they would leave the shared dwelling and 75% think they would keep their distance from the victim or join a counselling programme to reduce violence. However, 2 in 10 men said they would not comply with an emergency restraining order.

INSUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

In Moldova, support for victims of violence against women and domestic violence is provided almost exclusively through donor funding, without sustainable funding from government sources. According to the Report on the Costs of Domestic Violence in Moldova, over 60% of the costs of services are covered by NGOs, which face constant financial pressures to operate and to support affected women and children. This situation limits long-term initiatives, especially in the absence of a sustainable funding model.

BARRIERS FOR VICTIMS WITH MULTIPLE VULNERABILITIES

People with special needs such as hearing loss do not have direct access to apply for a protection order, and the state does not provide interpreters for victims or perpetrators with hearing loss. People with severe disabilities do not benefit from effective protection mechanisms if the perpetrator is a personal assistant. Elderly people find it difficult to travel to police, courts or forensic centres, and the lack of support for transportation makes access even more difficult, especially in rural areas. LGBTQI+ people are not recognised as subjects of domestic violence under current legislation, which prevents them from applying for protection orders, and cases of violence in LGBTQI+ couples are not treated as in family relationships.

NEED FOR EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

It is crucial to continuously invest in educating young women, providing them with information about their rights and recognising forms of violence against women. At the same time, capacity building of key ac-

tors involved in responding to cases of gender-based violence is essential. While this is a priority in the WLC's Strategic Development Plan, the state system remains weak due to a lack of resources and vision, which limits the effectiveness of interventions.

WAR IN THE REGION AND THE RESULTING REFUGEE CRISIS

The war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis have put pressure on women's organisations in Moldova, including the WLC, which have been at the forefront of the humanitarian response. With solid foundations and dedicated human resources, the WLC has provided prompt assistance to refugee women and children, demonstrating resilience and adaptability, even in the absence of previous experience in emergency management.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the already existing problems of violence against women and domestic violence. Quarantine measures, social isolation, job loss and economic vulnerability have led to a significant increase in cases of domestic violence. In addition, the pandemic has exposed persistent gaps in the response of authorities, such as limited access for victims to specialized assistance and to justice.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Political instability has impacted some of our activities and influenced the strategies we have planned for our advocacy efforts. It has also delayed the approval process of key policy documents essential to advancing women's rights. However, the WLC team remained committed to its mission and sought solutions to continue to provide support and protect women's rights.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The WLC aims to continue promoting gender equality and expanding its impact in combating violence against women by developing new initiatives to address current challenges.

Our priorities include:

- Monitoring the implementation of legislation and compliance with GREVIO recommendations to ensure women's protection and observance of their rights.
- Expand specialized services for victims of gender-based violence, with a focus on addressing emerging issues such as digital violence and hate speech against women.
- Adapt WLC services to meet the needs of women from vulnerable groups, including women with disabilities, elderly women and Roma women.
- Sensitisation and continuous education of teenage girls and women on their rights and the identification of forms of gender-based violence and combating hate speech.
- Engaging local communities, working with agents of change.
- Strengthening organisational capacities and ensuring the financial sustainability of the WLC.

Looking to the future, the anticipated challenge is to maintain the continuity of the results achieved and, at the same time, to transform societal thinking, perceptions, and attitudes related to gender equality and domestic violence. We wish for changes to become an integral part of the collective consciousness so that we not only support victims but also actively prevent all forms of violence and discrimination.

With a clear vision and a dedicated team, we are ready to step into a new phase of organisational development by implementing a new strategic development plan for the coming years, which will enable us to strengthen our impact and continue to move towards a future where women and girls in the Republic of Moldova live free from violence.



Visibility and Media Appearances



30 media appearances

14 media reports and articles on the "Transformation" fundraising event



Unique visitors to the WLC website www.cdf.md

2023	2024
17 500	58 700

Followers on Facebook facebook.com/cdfmd

2023	2024
6 629	7 590

Engagement on Facebook

2023	2024
9 285	12 951

The WLC is a member of:

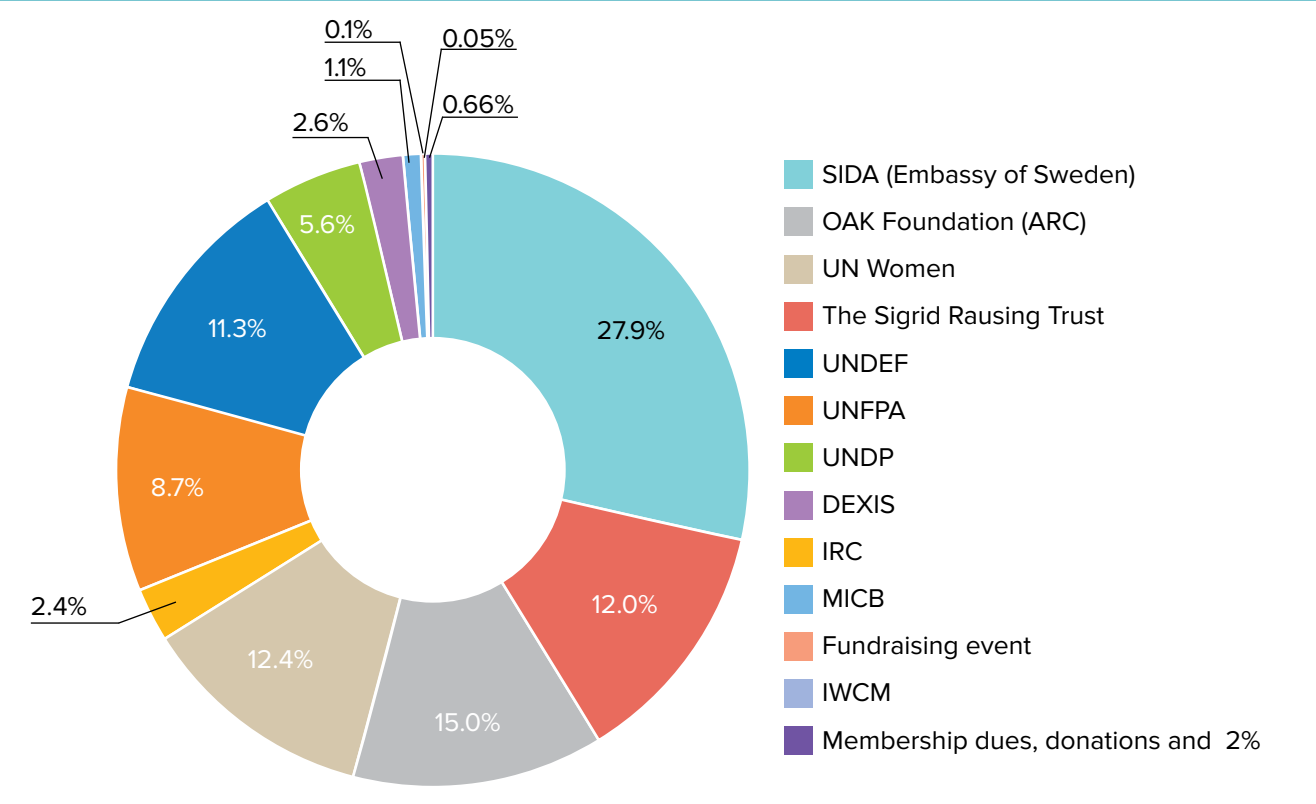
- National Coalition "Life without Violence"
- National Coordinating Council for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
- WAVE Network – Women Against Violence in Europe
- Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS) Initiative Group

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

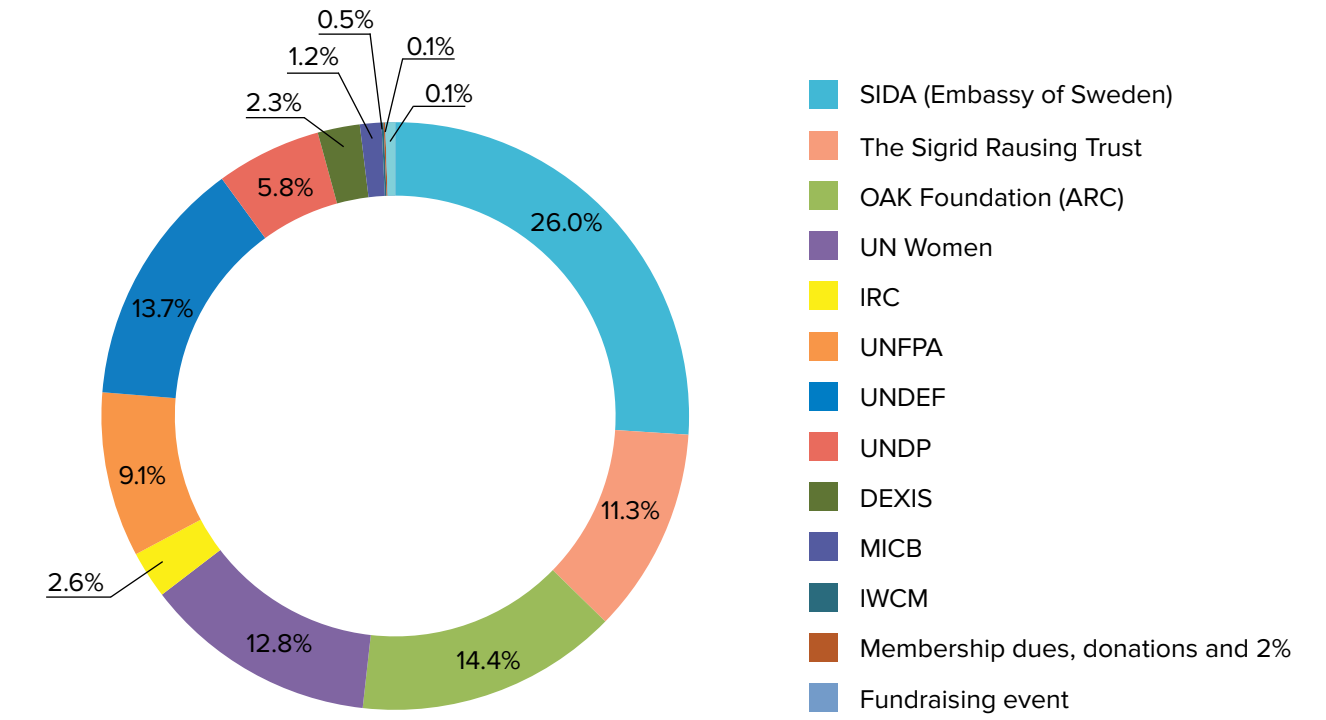
During 2024, the WLC received funds totalling **USD 1,036,009.36**, of which:

SIDA (Embassy of Sweden)	289,282.13 USD	DEXIS	27,178.12 USD
OAK Foundation (ARC)	155,111.34 USD	IRC	25,000.00 USD
The Sigrid Rausing Trust	124,814.54 USD	MICB	11,336.26 USD
UN Women	128,933.92 USD	Fundraising event	6,858.01 USD
UNDEF	117,030.00 USD	IWCM	1,130.90 USD
UNFPA	90,327.17 USD	Membership dues, donations and 2%	506.98 USD
UNDP	58,500.00 USD		

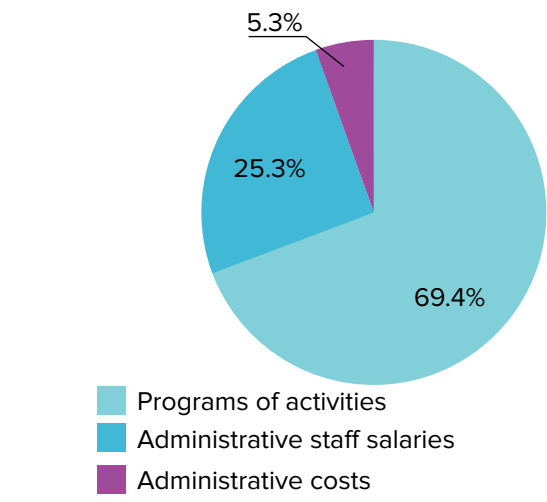


EXPENDITURE

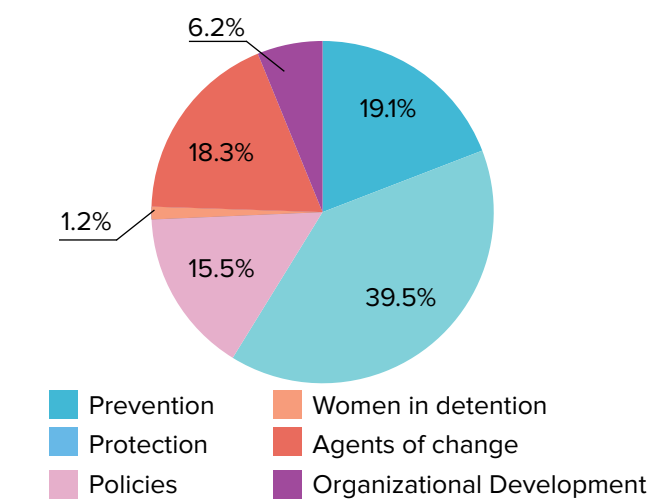
The WLC expended funds totalling **958,613.45 USD** in 2024, the sources of which were:



The main areas of expenditure:



Expenditure on programmes of activities:



WLC Team

Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari
Executive Director

Eleonora Grosu
Programme Director

Viorica Ursachi
Project Coordinator

Daniela Josanu
Coordinator of the Specialized Service for the Support of Domestic Violence Victims

Olga Sturza
Financial Director

Victoria Sofian
Accountant

Evelina Pîrău-Namesnic
Communicator

Diana Pînzari
Communication Specialist
(activity ceased in May 2024)

Diana Bistrea
Local Initiatives Coordinator

Nicoleta Cocoță
Legal Advisor

Tatiana Timotin
Vocational Counsellor

Aurelia Gorea
Psychologist

Lilia Borzin
Social worker

Anna Lachi
Programme assistant

Carina Branduş
Office Manager

Olga Hainițchi
Office Manager
(activity ceased from August 2024)

WLC BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Ana Iliescu (*Council President*)
Xenia Siminciuc
Alexandru Clivadă
Mariana Ianachevici

WLC LAWYERS

Tatiana Agachi
Arina Țurcan-Donțu
Elena Cojocar
Tatiana Catană

50 dedicated consultants, trainers and experts worked alongside the WLC team in 2024. Together we produced key reports, studies and policy papers in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women. Together we have organised various activities, seminars, training events and debates that have contributed to capacity building and awareness raising.

Thank you for your support and involvement!



We thank all our partners, donors and funders who support the cause of the WLC and understand the importance of collaboration and joint mobilization. Thanks to your support, we continue to build a future without violence for women and children in the Republic of Moldova.

Governmental partners

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Culture
General Police Inspectorate
National Administration of Penitentiaries
National Probation Inspectorate
General Prosecution Office
Superior Council of Magistracy
National Institute of Justice
Forensic Medicine Centre
National Legal Aid Council
Integrated Training Centre for Law Enforcement of the "Stefan cel Mare"
Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Non-governmental partners

Members of the National Coalition "Life without Violence"
Gender Equality Platform
Centre for Investigations and Consultation SOCIOPOLIS
Institute for Family and Social Initiatives
Association of Librarians of the Republic of Moldova
Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Moldova
International Women's Club of Moldova
Global Rights for Women
Women Against Violence Europe
The Independent Journalism Centre
Criminal Law Department of the Faculty of Law, State University of Moldova

Funders and Donors



Donors offering products and services



Aurelia Bulat | Olga Gonchar | The President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu

Media Partners



Get involved!

The mission of the WLC is made possible thanks to the involvement and generosity of partners, donors and all those who believe in our cause. With your help, we can support women and their children in regaining security for the future.

Every month, around 100 women in Moldova take a brave step to change their lives. Sometimes this step is their last hope of being heard, understood and supported.

At the WLC, we provide women who choose to end violence with free and confidential support: legal assistance, psychological counselling, social support and economic empowerment opportunities - all designed to restore their confidence and pave the way to a safer future.

Help us help!



Donate online
at www.cdf.md,
using your
bank card.



Donate by bank
transfer directly to the
WLC organisation's
accounts.

Beneficiary: A.O. Centrul de Drept al Femeilor
(=Women's Law Centre)

Fiscal code: 1009620003366

Legal address:
str. Vlaicu Pîrcălab nr. 15, ap.2,
mun. Chişinău

BC „OTP Bank” SA, branch no. 9
„Centru”, mun. Chişinău

IBAN MDL: MD17MO2224ASV70115887100

IBAN EUR: MD39MO2224ASV76224507100

IBAN USD: MD41MO2224ASV49100357100

Swift code: MOBBMD22

2%

Redirect 2% of your income tax to the WLC.

Fiscal code: 1009620003366

Every donation is a chance for a woman to rebuild her life.

Together we change lives! Thanks for joining us!



WOMEN'S
LAW CENTRE

THE HELPLINE FOR VICTIMS
OF VIOLENCE

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