



**WOMEN'S
LAW CENTRE**



NEWSLETTER

**APRIL
MAY
JUNE**

2026

TransFormation – an evening when untold stories became impossible to ignore

On 4 May, more than 170 people joined the Women's Law Centre at TransFormation – a documentary theatre performance based on real stories, organised to raise awareness and mobilise support for women seeking to escape abuse.



MDL 237,892 raised following
the TransFormation event

Thank you



We organised this event with the aim of turning awareness into tangible support for the **TransFormation Programme**, which helps women survivors of violence rebuild their lives, step by step. From legal and psychological assistance to skills development and finding employment, the programme provides the support each woman needs to regain her independence and confidence in her own abilities. For one beneficiary, this journey requires an investment of approximately MDL 50,000.

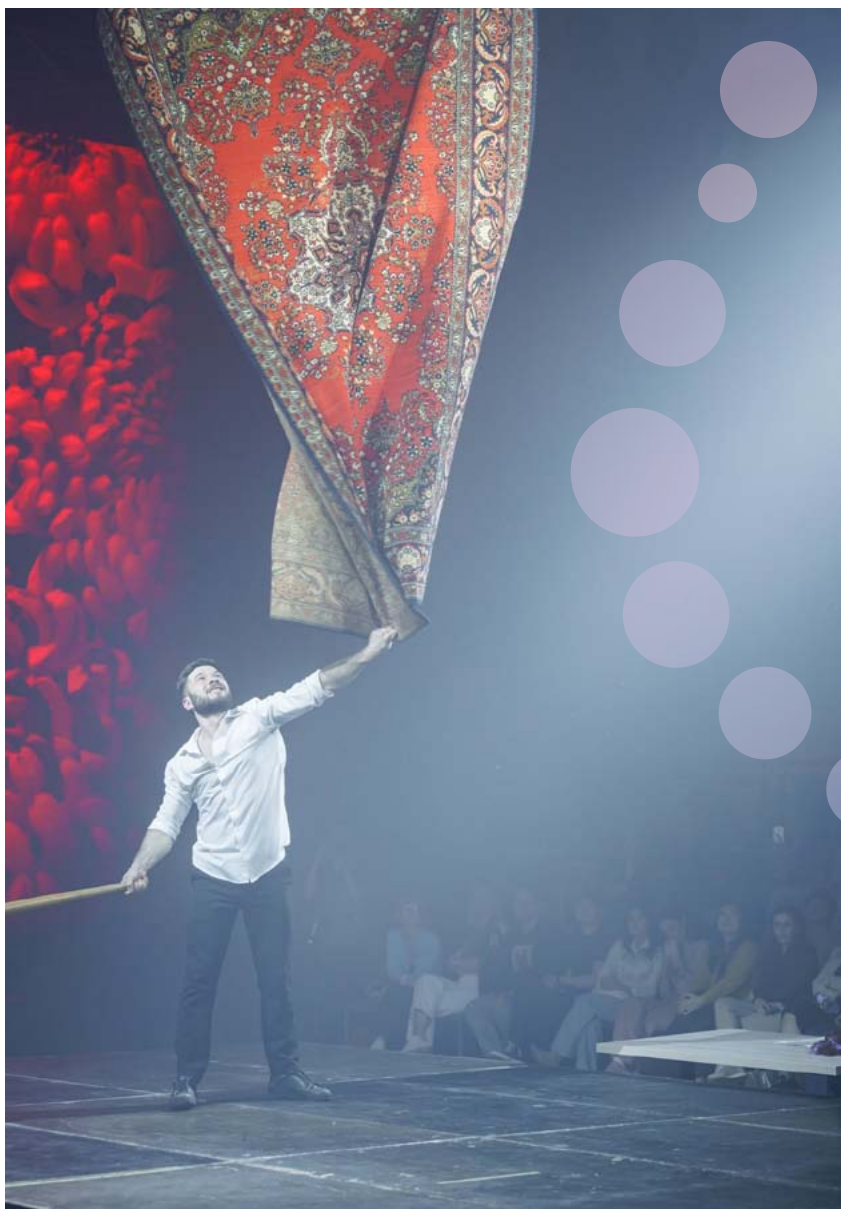


Following the event, **MDL 237.892** was raised to support women affected by violence and their children. This amount includes contributions made on the evening of the event, as well as donations and support received beforehand from partners and people who chose to believe in this cause.

We thank everyone who stood with us – participants, donors, partners, funders, the artistic team, and everyone involved in organising the event. Every act of solidarity means a real chance for a woman to rebuild her life and move forward with confidence.

Together, we show that transformation begins when someone says: **“I care.”**

The event was organised by the Women’s Law Centre with financial support from the Embassy of Sweden and the Oak Foundation through ARC. Our trusted partners also stood with us: Moldindconbank, the Moldcell Foundation, Realitatea TV Group, the Department of Criminal Law of the Faculty of Law at Moldova State University, Rozmarin Cafe, and Asconi Winery, whom we sincerely thank.



[PHOTO GALLERY](#)

[WATCH THE PERFORMANCE](#)

International expertise for a more effective response to domestic violence

WLC organised regional training sessions dedicated to the One Stop Center model

On 23 April 2026, the Women's Law Centre (WLC), in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Police Inspectorate, organised a training session in Chişinău dedicated to the One Stop Center model – a European model of integrated intervention for the protection of victims of domestic violence.



The event brought together 25 representatives of the police, social assistance system, healthcare sector, and non-governmental organisations, under the platform of the Commission for Monitoring and Analysing Cases of Domestic Violence Resulting in Death or Serious Injury. Participants explored interinstitutional cooperation mechanisms and ways to ensure a coordinated response in high-risk violence cases.

During the session, we had the honour of learning from GREVIO experts and a representative of the Belgian police:



► **Pascalle Franck**, Vice-President of the European Alliance for Family Justice Centers and GREVIO expert (Belgium), presented the family justice centre model and the benefits of bringing services together in one location to provide victims with a rapid and coordinated response. She also addressed non-fatal strangulation, one of the most significant risk indicators for femicide.



► **Valerie Swennen**, representative of the Belgian police and expert within the European Alliance for Family Justice Centers, presented tools used in Belgium to assess risks and identify high-risk cases, highlighting the essential role of the police within an integrated mechanism for protecting victims.



► **Aleid van der Brink**, President of the Dutch Foundation of the Global Network of Women's Shelters and GREVIO expert (the Netherlands), emphasised the importance of a victim-centred approach in which the experiences and perspectives of women affected by violence are integrated into every stage of risk assessment and intervention.



► **Angelina Zaporozhan-Pîrgari**, Executive Director and GREVIO expert, presented an analysis of the risk factors identified in cases of domestic violence resulting in death or serious injury, stressing the need to strengthen prevention mechanisms and cooperation between institutions.



On 18 and 19 June 2026, we organised two training sessions in Căușeni and Bălți dedicated to strengthening intervention and protection mechanisms for victims of domestic violence by promoting the One Stop Center model.



The training sessions were attended by representatives of the Police, the National Inspectorate for Public Security, the healthcare system, social assistance services, the legal sector, as well as specialists from shelters for victims of violence in the southern and northern regions of the country.



The sessions aimed to strengthen cooperation between institutions and promote a faster, coordinated, and victim-centred response in high-risk domestic violence cases, including situations that may escalate into severe forms of violence and femicide.

Participants discussed the identification of risk factors and the assessment of critical cases, the role of each institution in rapid intervention, the importance of an approach centred on the victim's needs, and European good practices in the field.



violence, co-funded by the European Union and implemented by WLC and its partners in Romania: the Center for Mediation and Community Security, the Institute of Forensic Medicine Iași, and the Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for Social Services.

The activities are part of the project component dedicated to supporting the work of the Commission for Monitoring and Analysing Cases of Domestic Violence Resulting in Death or Serious Bodily Injury or Harm to Victims' Health.

The training sessions were conducted under the FEMLIFE project – Cross-border one-stop centers: intersectional response to femicide and conflict-related sexual



The therapeutic reading club at Rusca Prison concluded with lessons on healing and trust

On 5 May 2026, the Women's Law Centre marked the conclusion of a new edition of the Therapeutic Reading Club held at Prison No. 7 – Rusca. Between 10 February and 5 May, 30 women deprived of liberty participated in seven sessions devoted to self-awareness, emotional management, and personal development, facilitated by psychologists from the Institute for Family and Social Initiatives.

More than a reading club, this initiative provided a safe space where participants could talk about emotions, fears, acceptance, and who they are beyond the difficult experiences they have endured. From one meeting to the next, the women began to open up, share their own stories, and support one another, demonstrating that healing begins when someone feels heard and understood.

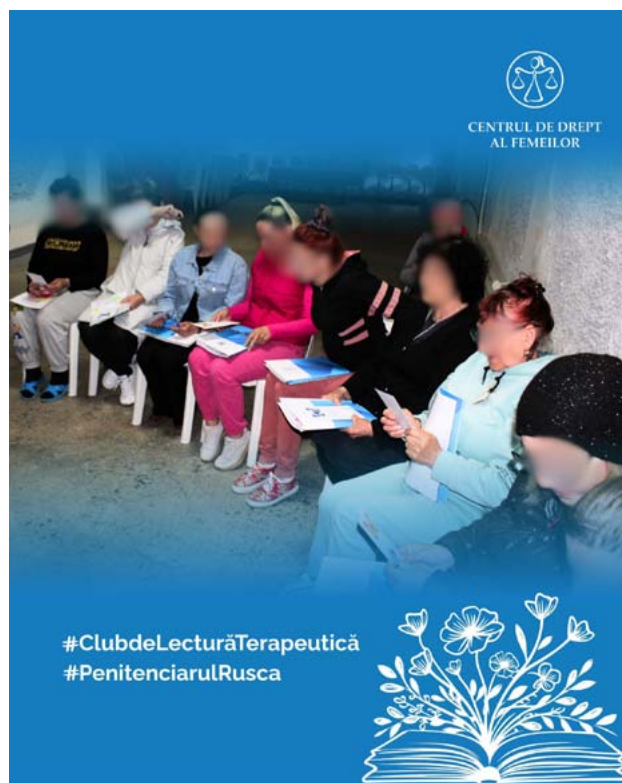
THE IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE PARTICIPANTS' TESTIMONIALS

"I learned to accept myself as I am."

"I learned to love myself and be proud of who I am."

"The reading club helped me feel more confident."

"After the sessions, I feel more positive and learn more about who I am and about my emotions."



The Therapeutic Reading Club is organised by the Women's Law Centre in partnership with Prison No. 7 – Rusca, with financial support from Sweden. Through such initiatives, WLC helps women deprived of liberty in their personal development and preparation for reintegration into society.

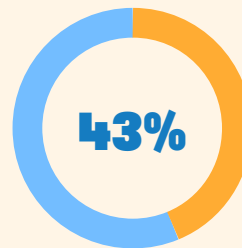




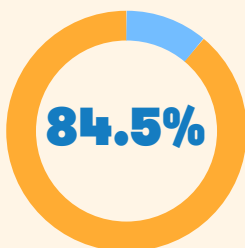
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE JOURNEYS OF WOMEN IN DETENTION



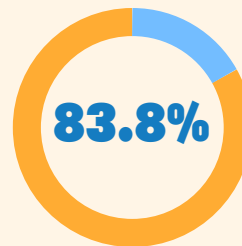
participated in research on the life experiences of convicted women, conducted to better understand their causes, consequences, and needs.



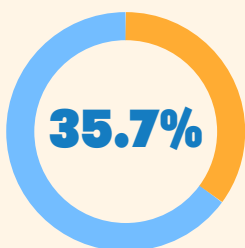
of women reported that they had experienced domestic violence perpetrated by a husband/intimate partner and/or parents.



of women who had experienced domestic violence were convicted of violent offences, with the research highlighting the link between experiences of abuse and some women's pathways into offending.



of domestic violence victims identified their husband or intimate partner as the perpetrator.



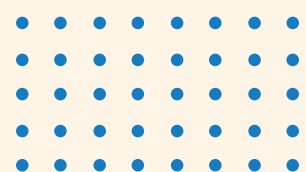
of women who had experienced violence had not spoken to anyone about the abuse they had endured.



Family and freedom

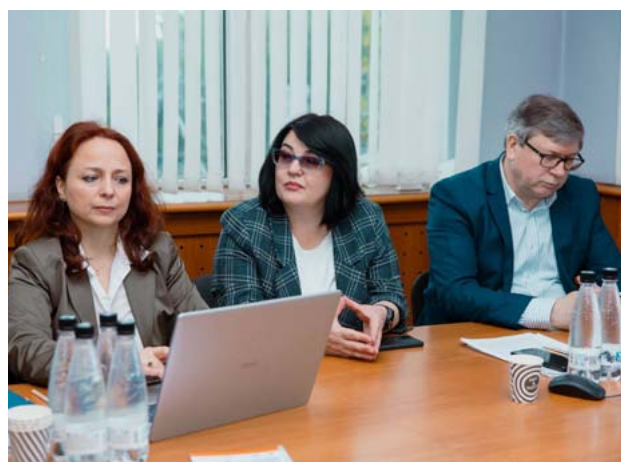
remain the most important values for women in detention, while separation from their children is one of the most painful consequences they reported.

* NORLAM study Domestic violence and women from Rusca prison: past, present and future



WLC presents the Report analysing cases of femicide and domestic violence resulting in the victim's death or serious bodily injury or harm to health

Behind every figure is a life lost, a family affected, and a story that could have had a different ending. On 12 May 2026, during a meeting of the Commission for Analysing Cases of Femicide and Domestic Violence Resulting in the Victim's Death or Serious Bodily Injury or Harm to Health, the 2025 Report was presented. It was prepared by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova in collaboration with the Women's Law Centre.



KEY DATA FROM THE REPORT:



- ▶ In **2025**, 68 cases of extreme violence involving 68 perpetrators and 71 victims were analysed.
- ▶ In **21 cases**, the victims lost their lives.
- ▶ In **13 cases**, women were killed by men – cases of femicide.
- ▶ Another **six women** survived attempted femicide.
- ▶ Femicide cases account for **93%** of all deceased women and **62%** of the total deaths analysed.
- ▶ Women account for **65%** of all victims analysed.
- ▶ In **42 cases**, the victim was a woman and the perpetrator was a man.
- ▶ Of the **68 perpetrators**, **53** were men.
- ▶ Approximately **two thirds of the cases** occurred in rural areas.
- ▶ In five of the 13 femicide cases, the victims were living separately from the perpetrator.
- ▶ **Twenty-one victims** had dependent children.



The report shows that the home continues to be the most dangerous place for many women. Most cases of severe violence and femicide were committed in a shared home, including situations in which the victims were living separately from the perpetrator.

In many of the cases analysed, the violence did not begin on the day of the crime. It was preceded by threats, repeated assaults, coercive control, isolation, and fear. Some victims had previously sought help, while others never had the chance to do so.

The report also highlights victims' economic vulnerability. Most of the women affected had low or occasional incomes, and only 11% had a certain level of economic independence. This once again confirms the direct link between economic dependence and the inability of many women to leave abusive relationships.

Although the number of femicide cases is lower than in previous years, the phenom-



enon remains alarming. Behind every figure is a life lost, a woman who lived in fear, and a system that must respond faster, in a more coordinated and effective way.

Preventing femicide means early intervention, accurate risk assessment, effective protection measures, and accessible services for victims. It means treating every case of violence as a potential lethal risk.



Judges, prosecutors, and criminal investigation officers take part in a specialised course for a more effective response to cases of violence

Victims of violence continue to face barriers in accessing justice, including inappropriate responses, stereotypes, and a lack of trust in protection measures.

To help change this reality, WLC continues to train professionals involved in managing cases of violence.

- ▶ **28-30 April | Cahul**
- ▶ **35 judges, prosecutors, and criminal investigation officers** participated in a training session on:



- ♦ the investigation and examination of cases of violence against women, domestic violence, and femicide;
- ♦ women's access to justice and the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention;
- ♦ the victim-centred approach and the importance of a coordinated institutional response.

The activity was organised by the **Women's Law Centre** in partnership with the **National Institute of Justice**, under the National Programme for Initial and Specialised Training in Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, coordinated by the National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Republic of Moldova and implemented within the Council of Europe project "Support for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republic of Moldova – Phase II", through the Council of Europe Office in Chişinău.



With the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, WLC strengthens access to justice and life skills development for women in detention

WLC is launching the project “Strengthening Access to Justice and Reintegration for Women in Detention in Moldova”, implemented in partnership with the National Administration of Penitentiaries (NAP) and Prison No. 7 – Rusca, with financial support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Republic of Moldova.

The new project continues WLC’s efforts, underway since 2017, to support women in detention. The experience gained has shown that access to specialised services and consistent support can make a difference in the process of rebuilding life after detention.



The launch event took place on 25 June 2026 during an official visit by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Moldova, Fred Duijn, to Prison No. 7 – Rusca.

“Women in detention often face multiple forms of vulnerability, and their reintegration begins long before release. Through this project, we aim to provide them with the support they need to know and exercise their rights, strengthen their self-confidence, and build realistic prospects for the future. It is a natural continuation of the work we have been carrying out at Rusca Prison since 2017.” – **Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari**, WLC Executive Director





Implementation period:
May 2026 – February 2027



Planned activities:



125 women in detention will benefit from legal and psychological services, life-skills development sessions, and activities designed to support their preparation for social and economic reintegration.



10 children of women in detention will benefit from facilitated visits, helping to maintain and strengthen the mother-child relationship;



25 prison staff members will participate in training on gender-sensitive approaches and the specific needs of women deprived of liberty.



Parliament adopts legislative amendments strengthening the criminalisation of femicide

On 18 June 2026, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted at second reading legislative amendments that strengthen the criminalisation of femicide in the Criminal Code and introduce aggravating circumstances for offences committed on the grounds of gender-based prejudice.

CE PREVĂD NOILE MODIFICĂRI?

- ▶ Defining femicide as an act targeting the life and/or health of a woman or girl on the grounds of gender-based prejudice and resulting in the victim's death.
- ▶ Recognising femicide as an aggravating circumstance in cases of:
 - intentional murder;
 - intentional serious bodily injury or harm to health;
 - causing or facilitating suicide;
 - domestic violence.

The Women's Law Centre has consistently advocated for recognition of femicide at the national level. In 2019, we produced the first national study on femicide cases in the Republic of Moldova.

In April 2024, following the tragic case of the young woman from Orhei, WLC launched a public appeal to introduce the concept of femicide into the legislation of the Republic of Moldova. The appeal was signed by more than 1,500 people and supported by 160 civil society organisations. As a result of these efforts, the

legislative process that led to the recognition of femicide in national law was initiated.

In 2024, the concept of femicide was defined for the first time in the legislation of the Republic of Moldova through the amendment of Law No. 45/2007. However, the Women's Law Centre stressed that merely defining the phenomenon was insufficient unless it was accompanied by clear sanctioning mechanisms.

In its opinion submitted to Parliament on Draft Law No. 60, WLC recommended

supplementing the Criminal Code with aggravating circumstances that would allow offences constituting femicide to be appropriately identified and punished. The proposals were discussed in broad consultations with academics, prosecutors, judges, criminal investigation officers, lawyers, and other justice professionals.

We welcome the fact that the adopted law reflects the need to treat femicide not only as a legal concept, but also as a reality requiring appropriate criminal justice responses.



For the women and girls of the Republic of Moldova, these amendments mean clearer recognition of the specific nature of gender-based violence, more effective investigation and punishment of these offences, and a firm message that extreme violence against women will not be tolerated.

WLC activities to prevent and combat sexual harassment in the workplace

Between 25 May and 17 June 2026, the Women's Law Centre, together with institutional and trade union partners, organised a series of information sessions dedicated to preventing and combating sexual harassment in the workplace.

- ▶ **25 May** – General Inspectorate of Carabineers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ▶ **27 May** – “B.P. Hasdeu” Municipal Library
- ▶ **15 June** – Chişinău Municipal Enterprise “Electric Transport Authority”
- ▶ **17 June** – National Social Insurance House (CNAS)





During the sessions, participants discussed:

- ▶ the forms and manifestations of sexual harassment in the workplace;
- ▶ its impact on victims and workplace teams;
- ▶ the new provisions of the Labour Code and employers' responsibilities;
- ▶ prevention and protection mechanisms, as well as ways to build a safe, equitable, and respectful professional environment.

The activities were organised by the Women's Law Centre in partnership with the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova and other partner institutions, within the project "Strengthening Gender Equality in Moldova", implemented with financial support from KVINFO.



DID YOU KNOW?



1 in 5
women

is exposed to subtle forms of **sexual harassment** in the workplace.



4 in 100
women

experience **severe** forms of **sexual harassment**.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Future MIA officers learn about the importance of a victim-centred intervention

Our colleague Anișoara Tun, Legal Adviser at WLC, participated in an activity organised by the “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for entry-level officers enrolled in the initial training programme.

Drawing on her experience of working with women who contact WLC for support, Anișoara addressed the phenomenon of violence against women, the challenges victims face in their interactions



with law-enforcement bodies, and the importance of a victim-centred approach in providing support and access to justice.



WLC shared its experience with a delegation from Turkmenistan

WLC hosted a study visit by a delegation from Turkmenistan composed of representatives of the “Keyik Okara” support centre and the OSCE.

We were honoured to present WLC’s work in preventing and combating domestic

violence and violence against women. The visit provided a space for exchanging good practices and discussing solutions to strengthen protection mechanisms for women affected by violence, in line with international standards.





WLC participated in a European conference on perpetrator programmes

From 2 to 3 June, our colleague Eleonora Grosu, WLC Programme Director, participated in the international conference “Developing Effective Perpetrator Programmes Aligned with European Standards”, held in Budapest.

The event, organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Network for Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN), brought together more than 100 participants from approximately 20 countries.

Discussions focused on developing programmes for perpetrators in accordance with Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention, with the aim of preventing repeated violence and contributing to behavioural change, while prioritising victim safety.



2% that brings 100% HOPE



CENTRUL DE DREPT
AL FEMEILOR

Every day, women in need of safety, support, and a chance to rebuild their lives turn to the Women's Law Centre.

Thanks to the people who chose to redirect **2%** of their income tax to WLC, we raised **MDL 30,018.84** to support services for women and children affected by violence.

This amount will provide legal assistance, psychological counselling, and social support to women and children experiencing violence.

Change begins with people who care.



*Thank you to everyone who
chose to stand with women
in need of support.*

Media appearances



What does the first step towards freedom depend on for a woman living with an abuser?

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)



Coercive control – violence that leaves no marks but takes away your freedom ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶

When we hear about violence, we most often think of physical assault. Yet many women live for years with a form of abuse that leaves no bruises but controls their every move. This is called **coercive control**.

Coercive control is a pattern of behaviour through which the perpetrator seeks to dominate and control the victim's life. It is not a single incident, but a series of repeated actions that gradually restrict her freedom and autonomy.

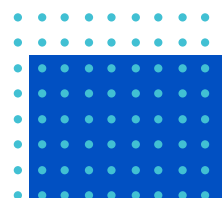
HOW DOES IT MANIFEST?

- ▶ controls who you speak to and where you go;
- ▶ checks your phone, messages, or social media accounts;
- ▶ decides how you spend your money or prevents you from working;
- ▶ isolates you from family and friends;
- ▶ humiliates or threatens you, or makes you doubt your own perception of reality;
- ▶ uses the children, jealousy, or fear to control you.

WHY IS IT SO DANGEROUS?

Coercive control gradually erodes the victim's self-confidence and sense of safety. In many cases, it precedes severe forms of violence and may be an indicator of the risk of femicide.

Recognising these behaviours early can save lives. A healthy relationship is based on respect, trust, and freedom – not control and fear.



Together we change lives!



The TransFormation Programme



**Comprehensive support for
a life free from violence**



A woman's TransFormation begins
when someone says:

"I care."

When a woman is seen, heard, and supported,
her story changes. From a victim, she becomes
a survivor. From fear, courage emerges.
From silence, a life lived with purpose.

*Your support can give her the
chance of a life without fear.*

DONATE HERE



Donate by SMS

Send an SMS to **0880**

MDL 50*

* for Moldcell subscribers

Thank you for standing with us!



WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE

WHO ARE WE?

The **Women's Law Centre (WLC)** is a non-governmental organisation established in 2009 by women lawyers to promote gender equality between women and men in public life and within the family, and to prevent and reduce domestic violence and violence against women in the Republic of Moldova.

Green Line - **0 8008 0000**
Free calls for legal counselling

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