

National Coalition “ Life without Violence”

PROMOTING

TOGETHER

**THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN MOLDOVA**

3 year review

April 2015



Women's Law Center

Founded in 2009, the Women's Law Center is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promote recognition, respect and enforcement of the rights of women as human rights and to contribute to the prevention and combating of domestic violence in Moldova.

Our vision is to create a world where women and their children are better protected through effective systems of monitoring, prevention and combating domestic violence established at local and national level.

Women's Law Center

Currently member of the national group of experts drafting amendments to Moldova's DV law based on the 2012 Monitoring Report Recommendations developed by the Advocates for Human Rights and the Report on Compatibility of National Legislation with the Istanbul Convention provisions developed by WLC in 2013.

Women's Law Center

- During 2013-2014 trained more than 550 police officers on effective police response to cases of DV, based on a ToT conducted together with the Advocates for Human Rights for a group of police officers and civil society representatives in 2012.
- WLC provided direct assistance to more than 150 women victims of DV and other forms of VAW received legal advice and representation.
- Holds the Secretariat of the National Coalition “Life without Domestic Violence” comprising 14 organizations.
- OAK Foundation support fundamental!

National statistics on DV

- Official data indicate that violence affects many women in Moldova, the prevalence rate of violence by a spouse/partner during life starting with 15 years, including all forms of violence is of 63% - NBS 2011;
- Highest rates of prevalence of DV have been reported by women in rural areas;
- About 60% of women reported being abused psychologically by their spouse/partner;
- About 40% of women reported being abused physically by their spouse/partner;
- More than 19% reported being abused sexually.
- Number of protection orders increasing: in 2010 – 23, in 2014 – 696;
- Number of cases investigated under Criminal Code increasing: in 2010 – 63, in 2014 – 1704.

National Domestic Violence legislation: accomplishments

- Moldova is a leader in the region: has a special law with provisions in its civil and criminal law;
- Law Nr. 45 includes ample provisions covering the following subjects:
 - Definitions: domestic violence, and the following forms of violence: physical, psychological, sexual, spiritual and economic;
 - Includes an extended list of subjects members of the family: married persons, divorced persons, persons in de facto marriage, custody, guardianship, relatives and other supported persons living together (Art. 3);
 - Multi-sectorial responsibilities (main actors are the police and social assistant);
 - Multidisciplinary approach to handling cases;
- The National Referral System.

Who we are? and who we serve?

“The signatories of this Declaration of Principles Established a Coalition, being devoted to the idea of eliminating violence against women and children on a personal level and in society, to contribute to the creation of a society without violence, centered on the promotion and respect of human rights of victims of family violence, in order to achieve the common following agreed actions”

Declaration of Principles

signed by 14 organizations

2012-2015

2012 ... *Yesterday we were just separate organizations*

2015

**TODAY WE ARE BUILDING
AND MOBILISING A
STRONG AND VIBRANT
COALITION**

We need leaders



Togheter we are stronger!



Actions agreed on:

- Creation of Service Standards
- Exchanging information to improve services
- Building individual organization's capacity and the coalition's capacity
- Increasing the public's awareness of domestic violence
- Using the coalition to create public policy to address the needs of beneficiaries and aggressors.



Accomplishments 2012-2015:

- ✓ **Established a Secretariat**
- ✓ **Signed the Declaration of Principles**
- ✓ **Approved the Coalition Regulation**
- ✓ **Governing bodies election**
- ✓ **Strengthening capacities of members of NC**

Accomplishments 2012-2015

- More than 10 meetings of the members of the NC held;
- 2 Capacity building, three-days training courses conducted by Karen Tronsgart-Scott ,Vermont Coalition, USA and Lindsay McDaniel from the National DV Coalition, to solidify Coalition internal structures and policies May, 2013; May 2014
- 1 Capacity building workshop for women shelters conducted by Maria ROSSLHUMER, Director of Autonomous Woman Shelters Austria, September 2013
- 3 Service providers training “Theoretical and practical aspects in working with DV survivors“ June, 2014, Chisinau, Center Anna
- Research Capacity gap analysis study of the service providers working with women victim of DV , December2014 (WAVE);
- 3 Capacity building training courses on legal remedies conducted under USAID/ROLISP project;2013, 2014

Small grants program for members of NC:

**8 Members of the
Coalition
received
1000 USD
to
Support
DV activities or
services**

- ✓ Causeni Maternal Center
- ✓ Drochia Maternal Center
- ✓ Drochia Center working with Batterers
- ✓ Balti Maternal Center
- ✓ Balti , NGO Sotis center
- ✓ Balti, NGO the Honour and Rights Contemporary Women
- ✓ Ungheni maternal Center
- ✓ National Center for Training, Assistance and Counseling” (CAP)

Taking actions

- Developed amendments to improve DV legislation;
- Developed Draft National Plan of Action to prevent and combat DV, *July 2014*
- Advocacy with members of Parliament for the signature of Istanbul Convention, at *Public Political Forum March 2014, 2015;*
- Contributed to effective implementation and enforcement of existing legislation

NC key messages for change:

- (1) Improving current legislation by introducing emergency Protection Orders, a compensation mechanism for victims of DV, and clear and predictable mechanism of funding Protection and Assistance shelters for victims
- (2) Signing and ratifying the Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and DV(the Istanbul Convention) by the end of 2015.
- (3) Increasing public funds for extension of services and programs for both victims and perpetrators of DV, so that by 2018, these services are available in each rayon, according to European minimum quality standards – one spot for every 10,000 people.

NC key messages for change

- (4) Developing a clear and ambitious public policy in 2015 in the field of preventing and combating DV. This policy needs to include firm commitments regarding improving: (I) the mechanism of signaling DV cases; (II) the work of Multi-disciplinary Teams; (III) the Monitoring of the implementation or violation of protection orders; (IV) continuous capacity development for representatives of all relevant public institutions (MAI, LPA, etc.)
- (5) Setting up a special department within the relevant ministry to be exclusively responsible for coordinating the implementation of public policy in preventing and combating DV. Furthermore, we demand setting up special units within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Health and Local Public Authorities, to deal exclusively with domestic violence and gender-based violence cases.
- (6) A firm commitment from the Government to publish an annual report dealing with DV and gender-based violence. Furthermore, we demand that this report engages all relevant institutions and is made public in the first quarter of the subsequent year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE THAT SUPPORT US:

- OAK FOUNDATION;
- US EMBASSY IN MOLDOVA: Speakers Program and Criminal Law Program, USAID/ROLISP;
- AUSTRIAN EMBASSY in Moldova (BMASK);
- UNFPA Moldova Office;
- OSCE Mission to Moldova;
- WAVE Network;
- Anna Center, Russia.