



## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Moldova Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme Factsheet

For further information, please consult the OSCE Mission's website at [www.osce.org/moldova](http://www.osce.org/moldova), where you can download official OSCE documents, including press releases, related to trafficking in human beings and gender equality. Information, documents, and news on anti-trafficking and gender equality activities in Moldova can be accessed at [www.atnet.md](http://www.atnet.md).

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## OSCE Mission to Moldova

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization with 56 participating States. The Mission to Moldova was established in 1993 to assist in negotiating a lasting political settlement of the conflict between the Republic of Moldova and Transnistria. The Mission is also mandated to provide advice and expertise on human and minority rights, democratic transformation, and repatriation of refugees within the "Human Dimension". The Mission expanded its human dimension portfolio in 2003 to work to combat trafficking in human beings and promote gender equality.

**Trafficking in persons** shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. *United Nations protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime (Palermo Protocol), 2000*

**Violence against women** means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. *United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993*

## Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme

The Mission's Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme seeks to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, address domestic violence and promote gender equality. The Mission helps Moldova to enhance identification, protection of and assistance to victims and vulnerable persons. In doing so, the Mission supports the observance of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

## The situation in Moldova

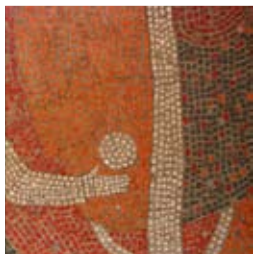
Poverty, inadequate public services, high levels of unemployment, discrimination against women and lack of parental care are factors that make Moldova a country of origin for trafficking in human beings. Most identified victims are women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. More than 90 per cent of these had experienced violence at home before being trafficked.



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## Programme activities

### Co-ordination

The Mission hosts monthly Technical Co-ordination Meetings (TCMs) in Chisinau and bi-monthly regional TCMs throughout Moldova. These meetings aim to achieve better co-ordination among anti-trafficking actors and to encourage exchange of information about activities and initiatives in the field. Regional TCMs include local public authorities and local civil society representatives.

### National capacity building

The Mission aims to enhance the capacity of government and civil society actors in the fields of combating trafficking in human beings, preventing domestic violence, promoting gender equality, and protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and domestic violence. The Mission sponsors training sessions for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers throughout the country. It provides equipment to national

authorities and translates and distributes key materials. It facilitates the participation of Moldovan officials and civil society representatives at international conferences.

### Anti-trafficking and gender network website

The Mission supports the anti-trafficking and gender network website [www.atnet.md](http://www.atnet.md). This website provides information on anti-trafficking activities, news and events in English, Romanian and Russian.

### Institutional support

The Mission attends, as an observer, all public sessions of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

### Legislative support

The Mission has facilitated and contributed to the development of:

- National Action Plans to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2005-2006 and 2008-2009);
- Law to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2005, in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR);
- Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2006);
- Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence (2008);
- Law on Victim and Witness Protection (2008);
- Draft Law on Preventing and Combating Discrimination (not yet adopted), in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR;
- Amendments to the criminal code related to trafficking in persons and trafficking in children.

### Project support

The Mission works with state institutions, non-governmental organizations and other social service providers on national, regional and local levels. It supports the development and implementation of projects in the following areas:

- Prevention of trafficking in human beings, including children;
- Protection and assistance to vulnerable persons;
- Gender equality and combating domestic violence;
- Promotion of women's rights and peace building;
- Development of migration policies;
- Capacity building for anti-trafficking and gender equality actors;
- Preventing and combating discrimination.

**Gender** is a term used to describe socially constructed roles for women and men. Gender is an acquired identity that is learned, changes over time, and varies widely within and across cultures. On the contrary, sex, identifies the biological differences between men and women. Sex roles are universal and do not change over time or across cultures. *OSCE Gender Glossary, 2006*

**Gender equality** is the absence of discrimination on the basis of gender in opportunities, in the allocation of resources or benefits, or in access to services. It is thus the full and equal exercise by men and women of their human rights. Gender disparities are inequalities or differences based on gender. *OSCE Gender Glossary, 2006*