



**2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

**ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND GENDER**

**PROGRAMME**

**OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA**

**27 February 2007**

**Chisinau**



Organizația pentru  
Securitate  
și Cooperare  
în Europa  
Misiunea în Moldova

Organization for  
Security and Co-operation  
in Europe  
Mission to Moldova

Организация по  
Безопасности  
и Сотрудничеству  
в Европе  
Миссия в Молдове

*The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization, whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver, Canada to Vladivostok, Russia. As a field presence of the OSCE, the Mission to Moldova was established in 1993 primarily to assist in negotiating a lasting political settlement of the conflict between the Republic of Moldova and the breakaway region of Transnistria. Within the so-called "human dimension", the Mission to Moldova is further mandated to provide advice and expertise on human and minority rights, democratic transformation, and repatriation of refugees. In 2003 the Mission expanded its human dimension portfolio to work to combat trafficking in human beings and promote gender issues. More specifically, the Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme of the Mission seeks to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings; to prevent and combat domestic violence; to promote gender equality and women's rights; to enhance identification, protection, and assistance to victims and vulnerable persons; to support the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to encourage the observance of the rule of law. The total authorized strength of the Mission is fourteen international members, supported by thirty-two local staff. Of these, one international member plus four local staff compose the Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme of the Mission.*

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Within the context of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to "provide advice and expertise on human and minority rights [and] democratic transformation", in 2003, the Mission commenced the Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme. The Mission continued to implement this ATG Programme throughout 2006, and will continue it further in 2007.

2. In formulating ATG Programme objectives and implementing ATG Programme activities and projects, the Mission is guided by the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (Permanent Council Decision No. 557 of 24 July 2003), as well as the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (Ministerial

Council Decision No. 14/04 of 7 December 2004) and the OSCE Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05 of 6 December 2005). With respect to trafficking in human beings, the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings addresses the issue comprehensively, covering protection of victims, prevention of trafficking, and prosecution of those who facilitate or commit the crime. The Action Plan further recognizes the role of corruption in encouraging this heinous crime, as well as the need to address the root causes of trafficking in both countries of origin and destination. With respect to other gender issues, the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality seeks to implement international standards and commitments concerning equality for women and men, non-discrimination, and women's and girl's rights, including full compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Action Plan notes that in order to ensure a safe environment for citizens, activities aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including trafficking in human beings, should be increased.

3. Thus, through the ATG Programme, and consistent with OSCE commitments, the Mission seeks to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings; to prevent and combat domestic violence; to promote gender equality and women's rights; to enhance identification, protection, and assistance to victims and vulnerable persons; to support the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to encourage the observance of the rule of law in the Republic of Moldova. In 2006, the ATG Programme concentrated its efforts in the fields of anti-trafficking and gender in the following areas: coordination and information sharing; institutional support; legislative support and advocacy; and national capacity building. Primarily through the implementation of projects by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations in Moldova, the ATG Programme further provided financial support to activities and initiatives focused on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and children, protection and assistance to victims and vulnerable persons, preventing and combating domestic violence, promoting gender equality and women's rights, and promoting gender and peace-building. Lastly, the ATG Programme contributed to implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR Trial Monitoring Programme for Moldova, through which cases of trafficking in human beings and domestic violence, among others, in the national courts in the Chisinau Municipality are monitored from a human rights-based perspective.

## **II. COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING**

### **A. Technical Coordination Meetings in Chisinau (TCMs)**

4. Throughout 2006, the ATG Programme hosted regular Technical Coordination Meetings (TCMs) in Chisinau in the sphere of anti-trafficking to further coordination among anti-trafficking actors and facilitate an ongoing exchange of information, experience, and best practices about anti-trafficking activities and initiatives. Each meeting was conducted with simultaneous translation between Moldovan/Romanian

and English languages. In addition to regular business, reports on developments at the national level, and reports on recent activities by the participants, each TCM also included a focal issue presentation on a substantive topic or activity relevant to the anti-trafficking community as a whole. Following each TCM, the ATG Programme prepared detailed minutes in English and Moldovan/Romanian, which were formally adopted by the participants. The minutes for the entire year of 2006 have been compiled together for distribution to all relevant members of Government, civil society, and the international community.

5. In 2006 the ATG Programme hosted ten such TCMs in Chisinau, according to the following schedule and with the following substantive focal issue presentations:

DATE	FOCAL ISSUE	PRESENTER	OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED/PRESENTED
8 February 2006	2005 Review of Trafficking Cases before the National Courts	Centre for Prevention of Trafficking in Women (CPTW)	Cooperation with the Government in connection with preparation of the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report by the US State Department.
14 March 2006	Updated Statistics, Profiles, and Trends in Human Trafficking in Moldova	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	“Presidential” decree banning foreign financing of NGOs in the separatist region of Transnistria and its effects on anti-trafficking efforts in the region.
12 April 2006	Monitoring Implementation of Anti-Trafficking Law and National Action Plan	La Strada	Presentation by Independent Journalist Centre on Media Monitoring, Methodology and Results in Trafficking in Human Beings Cases (2005-2006).
10 May 2006	Faith-Based Counter Trafficking Initiatives	Salvation Army	Presentation by World Council of Churches of the Moldova Partnership Programme.
14 June 2006	Child Abandonment	UNICEF and National Council for Protection of Child Rights	Presentation by La Strada on Identification of Trafficking Victims.

12 July 2006	Domestic Violence as a Root Cause of Human Trafficking	Gender-Centru	Oral report on "History of Human Slavery from Ancient Times to Modern Times" (awarded 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize in Chisinau City History Competition); and US Embassy presentation on the newly issued 2006 TIP Report by the US Department of State.
13 September 2006	Economic Empowerment Activities to Counter Human Trafficking	Italian Consortium for Solidarity (ICS)	Amendments to Moldovan Criminal Code (regarding crime of pimping and enhancement of victim/witness rights); Results of Operation of Hotline to Prevent Trafficking in Transnistria by NGO Interaction; and Media presentation of television program " <i>Destinies and Destinations</i> " by Winrock International.
11 October 2006	Migration Strategies to Counter Human Trafficking	ILO/Migrant	Presentation by US Embassy on recent Analysis of Closed Trafficking Cases; and Report on 5 Years of Operation of the Hotline in Moldova by La Strada.
8 November 2006	Research Findings on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation	IOM	Presentation by IOM on Mobilizing Church Networks for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons.
13 December 2006	Activities of the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTIP)	US Embassy	Presentation on CEDAW Assessment Tool by ABA/CEELI; and Presentation on ICMPD Programme to Support the Development of Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in SEE by La Strada.

6. On average 30 people attended each TCM in 2006. The following 15 organizations were particularly active participants, attending at least six of the ten TCMs in 2006: ABA CEELI, UNDP Project "Better Opportunities for Youth and Women", Catholic Relief Services "Moldova Employment & Training Alliance

(META)", Centre for Prevention of Trafficking in Women (CPTW), Gender-Centru, International Organization for Migration (IOM), La Strada, Medecins du Monde, Regina Pacis, Salvation Army, Swiss Development Corporation, UNICEF, US Embassy, Winrock International "New Perspectives for Women", and World Council of Churches "Moldova Partnerships Program". In 2006, Mr. Ion Focsa, Secretary of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, attended four TCMs.

## B. Technical Coordination Meetings in the Regions

7. Similar to the TCMs in Chisinau, in 2006 the ATG Programme organized TCMs in the regions of Moldova. In addition to seeking to promote coordination and exchange of information between national and local anti-trafficking actors, including both governmental and civil society actors, through the regional TCMs, the ATG Programme further sought to raise public awareness and to gain specialized insight into the unique aspects of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings in each region. The regional TCMs included the participation of local public authorities, law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, courts, social workers, media, and civil society, who offered reports on the trafficking situation in their respective region and the initiatives undertaken by local actors to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. Especially through the last meeting, held in Bendery/Tighina, the Programme sought to encourage dialogue between anti-trafficking actors on both sides of the Nistru River and to familiarize Transnistrian authorities with activities carried out in the anti-trafficking field on the right bank of the Nistru River. Following each regional TCM, the ATG Programme prepared detailed minutes in English and Moldovan/Romanian, which are included in the compilation of 2006 minutes for distribution to all relevant members of Government, civil society, and the international community.

8. In 2006, the ATG Programme organized five regional TCMs in partnership with local partners, as follows:

DATE	LOCATION/PARTNER	REPORTS BY OFFICIALS
28 February 2006	Causeni: CPTW Branch Office in Causeni	Chairman of Regional Committee to Combat Trafficking; Prosecutors from Stefan Voda and Anenii Noi; Representative of District Education Department; Village Mayors
20 June 2006	Ungheni: CPTW Branch Office in Ungheni	Chairman of Regional Committee to Combat Trafficking; Ungheni Mayor; Representatives of Police Commissariat, Prosecutor's Office, and Court of Ungheni District; Head of Sculeni Custom's Department

27 September 2006	Orhei: Association "Pro-Democratia" in Orhei	Vice-Chairman of Regional Committee to Combat Trafficking; Representatives of Police Commissariat, Prosecutor's Office, and Mayor's Office, and Education Department
24 October 2006	Soroca: Regional Office of Terre des Hommes F.A.C.T. Project in Soroca	Chairman of Regional Committee to Combat Trafficking; Representatives of Police Commissariat, Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Information Development, and Department of Social Assistance
16 November 2006	Bendery/Tighina: OSCE Mission Office in Bendery, Region of Transnistria	Transnistrian Human Rights Representative, Representatives from Administration, Supreme Soviet, Prosecutor's Office, and Education Department in Tiraspol

### C. Sectoral Donors Meetings

9. On 19 September 2006, the ATG Programme organized and hosted a Sectoral Donor's Meeting in the Field of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Representatives of more than 20 embassies, consulates, and donors present in Moldova joined special guests from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark to discuss their priorities in the anti-trafficking sector and best practices in working with Moldovan Government partners on counter-trafficking initiatives.

10. In 2006, the ATG Programme participated in the Gender Task Force Meetings of Donor Agencies organized by Sida in Moldova. This forum seeks to promote coordination and information sharing among donors throughout the gender sector in Moldova. It further seeks to encourage partnerships with national authorities to strengthen national gender machinery and promote cross-cutting gender principles and policies such as gender-mainstreaming.

### D. Anti-Trafficking & Gender Network Website

11. The ATG Programme, in partnership with Winrock International's "New Perspectives for Women", developed the Moldova Anti-Trafficking & Gender Network Website, registered as <http://www.atnet.md/>. The Website, which launched in autumn 2006 in English, Moldovan/Romanian, and Russian languages, includes a description of the human trafficking situation in Moldova; a database of partner organizations, projects, and activities throughout the country; events and announcements; publications and resources; and coordination information, including minutes from all

the TCMs in Chisinau and the regions. Information about some 240 partner organizations, some with multiple anti-trafficking activities, is available on the Website.

**E. Coordination of Moldova Country Steering Group of the Danish Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South Eastern Europe**

12. In 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark initiated the Danish Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South Eastern Europe for the period of 2006 to 2008. The Mission (through its ATG Programme), along with IOM in Chisinau, La Strada Moldova, and the Centre for Prevention of Trafficking in Women (CPTW) compose the Country Steering Group for Moldova (CSG), which is responsible for defining the Moldova Country Programme and deciding, on the basis of consensus, upon project proposals and allocating available funds. Within this context, the Mission serves as the coordinator of the CSG, while the other organizations serve as implementing partners. The Mission organizes and hosts quarterly meetings of the CSG and prepares minutes of the meetings thereafter; three such meetings were held in 2006 in February, July, and September. In addition, in September 2006, the Mission organized and hosted a Regional Steering Group Meeting, attended by all the members of the CSG, as well as representatives of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM Kyiv, IOM Bucharest, and Animus Association from Bulgaria.

**F. Partnership with Council of Europe Information Office**

13. To assist Moldova to implement its commitments under the new Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ratified by Moldova on 30 March 2006), the Council of Europe Information Office (CoEIO) initiated a series of seminars with regional authorities: the first in Causeni in October and the second in Balti in November. At each seminar, the Council of Europe Declaration on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings was presented to regional authorities for signature. The ATG Programme joined the CoEIO in this initiative and offered an address at the seminars. In addition, the CoEIO attended the regional TCM in Bendery/Tighina to raise awareness about the Convention in Transnistria. As explained more below, in November the ATG Programme further joined with the CoEIO to facilitate a roundtable with the Parliament to strengthen measures to combat trafficking.

**III. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

**A. National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings**

14. In 2006 the ATG Programme attended as an observer 6 of the 7 public sessions of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (NC): 10 February in



Ialoveni; 15 May in Leova; 19 June in Cahul; 25 July in Cantemir; 20 October in Basarabasca; and 24 November in Causeni. During these sessions the ATG Programme presented its initiatives in the field of anti-trafficking and offered information on activities in the regions and its partnerships with civil society. The Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser officially presented the ATG Programme's activities to the NC at the 24 November session in Causeni. The ATG Programme further shared the information gained through attendance at these NC sessions with anti-trafficking actors in Moldova through the forum of the regular and regional TCMs.

## **B. Gender Equality Committee**

15. On 6 October 2006, the ATG Programme attended the inaugural session of the Gender Equality Committee. This inter-disciplinary Committee was created in accordance with the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, which entered into force on 24 March 2006. The Chairman of the Committee is a Deputy Prime Minister, and members are representatives, at the deputy minister level, of relevant ministries, departments, and trade unions, as well as representatives of prominent NGOs in the gender field. The ATG Programme participated, and will continue to participate, with official observer status on the Gender Equality Committee.

## **C. Parliament**

16. On November 28 2006, the ATG Programme joined together with the Council of Europe Information Office in Moldova to facilitate a roundtable with the Parliament on "*Strengthening Measures for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*". This was the first roundtable of its kind on the topic of anti-trafficking, and it aimed to bring together members of Parliament with representatives of civil society and international organizations working in the field. The Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser offered an address on enhanced human rights protections applicable to victims of trafficking and also facilitated discussion on the topics of the ongoing process to improve the applicable legal framework and to monitor implementation of the Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

# **IV. LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY**

## **A. Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men**

17. In early 2006, the ATG Programme continued its advocacy and support for the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, which was adopted on 9 February and entered into force on 24 March 2006. Among other things, this Law ensures representation without gender discrimination for women and men on electoral lists.

18. On 26 June 2006, the ATG Programme, together with the International Republican Institute (IRI), organized and facilitated a roundtable on *“Implementation of the new Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men”*. The guest of honour of was Mrs. Sonja Lokar, Chairwoman of the Stability Pact Gender Task Force (GTF), visiting Moldova to assess the local situation vis-à-vis gender equality and women’s participation in the political process. Mrs. Lokar presented the GTF’s new project: *“Gender Mainstreaming in Southeast European Political Parties 2006-2007”* (intended to build upon the earlier *“Women Can Do It”* project). Moldova is specifically designated as a target country in this new project. The roundtable was designed to bring together representatives of political parties, trade unions, women’s NGOs, donors, and the media for an active discussion with Mrs. Lokar on gender equality issues. Some 42 people attended the roundtable, including 9 men. The agenda was structured around the new Gender Equality Law, with discussions focused on equal opportunities in the public domain, equal opportunities in the socio-economic domain, and institutional mechanisms for implementation.

#### **B. Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family**

19. On 6 February 2006, the Government approved the draft Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family and submitted it to Parliament for examination. On 1 March, the Parliamentary Committee on Social Protection, Health, and Family held a public session to discuss the draft Law prior to its submission to Parliament for first reading. The Mission’s Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser and ODIHR’s Gender Adviser attended this public session, and afterwards, met with the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee to offer additional support for the draft Law. To facilitate compliance of the draft Law with international human rights standards, the ATG Programme hired a team of two legal consultants to prepare extensive analytic comments on the draft Law, including proposed revised text. The ATG Programme submitted these comments in Moldovan/Romanian to the Parliamentary Committee on 22 March 2006. The ATG Programme further lobbied other international organizations and local NGOs to submit written comments, and supported a project implemented by the NGO Gender-Centru to compile into the matrix format preferred by the Parliament these comments, primarily from the social assistance perspective, to assist the Committee in preparing the draft Law for first reading. On 20 July, the ATG Programme attended, as an observer, the Parliamentary session during which the draft Law was adopted in the first reading.

20. Further related to preparation of the draft Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family, from 21 to 24 May 2006, a delegation of seven Moldovans participated in a study tour, financed by ODIHR in cooperation with the ATG Programme, to Romania to exchange experience, strengthen capacity, and strengthen advocacy in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence. Members of the delegation were key persons in promoting the draft Law in Moldova, including Ms. Valentina Buliga (Head

of Parliamentary Committee on Social Protection, Health, and Family), Ms. Eva Gudumac (Member of Parliamentary Committee on Social Protection, Health, and Family), Mr. Ion Bucur (Head of Division on Prevention in the Ministry of Interior), and Ms. Ecaterina Berejan (Head of Division on Equal Opportunities and Family Policy in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection). During the study tour the Moldovan delegation met with representatives of the Romanian Parliament, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, General Inspectorate of Police, and other authorities and NGOs involved in preventing or combating domestic violence in Romania.

21. In November and December 2006, the ATG Programme actively participated in the meetings of the Working Group constituted by the Parliamentary Committee on Social Protection, Health, and Family to prepare the draft Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family for second reading. The members of the Working Group included representatives from relevant ministries and departments, one Parliamentary lawyer, and one leading NGO in the gender field, as well as select representatives of international organizations who had submitted written comments to the draft Law, namely, the ATG Programme, UNICEF, and ABA/CEELI on behalf of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. Through this process, the draft Law was revised to comply with international human rights standards relating to the definitions of violence and family, the scope and subjects, the specific duties of state bodies in dealing with domestic violence complaints, as well as the institution of protection orders. Thereafter, the Parliamentary Committee submitted the revised draft Law to Parliament for inclusion in its agenda for second reading.

22. Meanwhile, the ATG Programme, ODIHR, and the Soros Foundation further co-financed a project implemented by the NGO Gender-Centru to organize a regional conference on *“Best Practices in Drafting and Enforcing Domestic Violence Laws”*, held on 4-5 December 2006 in Chisinau. This conference created a forum for high-level experts from Ukraine, Belarus, Romania, Russia, and Moldova to discuss the topic of domestic violence legislation, to review international experience in implementing domestic violence laws and standards, and to develop recommendations for improving the Moldovan draft Law. The ATG Programme was actively involved in preparing the agenda for the conference, as well as presenting at and facilitating the conference. Gender-Centru compiled the results of the conference together in a book on *“Best Practices in Elaborating and Advocating for Domestic Violence Legislation”*, which is being widely distributed to relevant officials and civil society representatives as a means to advocate for adoption of the draft Law by Parliament.

## V. NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

### A. Judicial and Prosecutorial Training

23. On 18 September 2006, the ATG Programme entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (within the framework of the UNODC Project “Building Capacity to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Republic of Moldova”) jointly to implement a series of three trainings for judges and prosecutors on “*Human Trafficking as a Criminal Offence and Victims’ Rights*”. In cooperation with the Superior Council of Magistracy and the General Prosecutor’s Office, the three two-day trainings for judges and prosecutors from Chisinau and the regions took place on 2-3, 4-5 and 9-10 October 2006. The trainings focused on human trafficking as a criminal offence and victims’ rights, emphasizing the difference between a law enforcement approach and a human rights approach. During the trainings, a select group of predominantly local trainers plus the Mission’s Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser presented topics such as the phenomenon of trafficking in persons and the role of the judiciary; special investigatory and prosecutorial techniques; national and international legal standards; and victim protection and assistance. The trainings applied inter-active exercises utilizing case studies and mock presentations of court proceedings and deliberation. Representatives of the ATG Programme, UNODC, and the Judicial Training Centre hosted the closing ceremonies and awarded certificates of participation. A total of 34 prosecutors and 32 judges successfully completed the three training courses.

### B. Law Enforcement Training

24. From 6 to 23 June 2006, the ATG Programme, jointly with its implementing partner La Strada, conducted two training courses for Moldovan law enforcement bodies under the framework of the SPMU Regional Law Enforcement Project on “Investigating Trafficking without Relying on a Victim: A Multi-Agency Training Programme”. The trainings consisted of one basic course on “*Multi-Agency Pro-active Investigations into Trafficking in Human Beings*” (6-19 June) for 15 participants and one “*Train-the-Trainers Skills Course for Anti-Trafficking Trainers*” (19-23 June) for 8 participants. Participants included representatives from the Centre to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CCTIP) of the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Police Academy, and the NGO La Strada. The basic course was a follow-up to the law enforcement training conducted by the ATG Programme and the SPMU in early 2005. New and innovative aspects of this training included the participation of one national expert trainer identified during the previous training; the involvement of local professional actors to play the roles of the victims, recruiters, and traffickers; as well as exercises to learn techniques for interviewing victims as differentiated from techniques for interrogating criminals. The Train-the-Trainers Course was a completely new offering in Moldova intended to develop the skills of local law enforcement

trainers and to provide for the sustainability of the pro-active methodology. The two training courses culminated in an award's ceremony and reception at the Mission's premises, during which the Deputy Head of Mission, joined by the Deputy Head of the CCTIP, awarded certificates to the participants for successful completion.

25. In 2006, the ATG Programme supported the project "*Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Moldova: Capacity-Building of Police Officers*", implemented by the NGO Gender-Centru. In October-November, Gender-Centru organized three two-day trainings for a total of 60 police officers to address gender-based violence. The trainings included information about prevention of gender-based violence and methods to identify and work with potential abusers. Gender-Centru further elaborated and published 500 copies of the booklet "*Potential Abuser Profile*", which was utilized in the trainings and other information activities.

### C. Law Student Training

26. On 7 June 2006, the Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser and the US Embassy's Resident Legal Advisor (RLA) conducted a half-day training, organized by the NGO "World Window" in Tiraspol, for some 30 law students and young lawyers from the Tiraspol Legal Clinic. The Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser elaborated international standards and guidelines in the sphere of human trafficking, whilst the US Embassy's RLA described her experiences as a US prosecutor in cases of international human trafficking.

## VI. PROJECT SUPPORT

27. In 2006, the Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme of the Mission supported interested organizations and institutions in developing and implementing some 20 projects in the anti-trafficking and gender spheres in Chisinau and other regions of Moldova. The ATG Programme worked with both established partners and new partners, including state institutions, NGOs, and other social service providers on national, regional, and local levels. Through these various projects, the ATG Programme reached, directly and indirectly, beneficiaries such as state and local authorities, civil society representatives, and vulnerable persons and victims.

### A. Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

28. With financial support from the ATG Programme, the NGO La Strada elaborated and printed a publication on "*Trafficking in Human Beings in Moldova: Normative Acts*", including relevant excerpts from the Criminal Code, the Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the National Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, and relevant Decisions of the Government and Supreme Court of Justice. La Strada printed 2000 copies of the *Normative Acts* in

Moldovan/Romanian and Russian languages and 500 copies in Moldovan/Romanian and English languages. The publication was widely distributed throughout Moldova to national and local authorities and other relevant actors in the anti-trafficking field.

29. The ATG Programme provided financial support to the NGO Causeni Law Centre to implement in southeastern Moldova (including the region of Transnistria) the project *“Trafficking in Human Beings Prevention: From Words to Actions”* from May to December 2006. The Causeni Law Centre conducted 13 informative meetings and seminars with students and teachers from schools in Causeni, Stefan Voda, and Anenii Noi regions, as well as Tiraspol and Tighina. Through these meetings and seminars, 726 students and teachers were informed about the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and the risks related to illegal migration. The Causeni Law Centre collaborated closely with national, regional, and local media, which published 16 articles on human trafficking and illegal migration. To increase its effectiveness on the local level, the Causeni Law Centre further initiated the creation of a “Regional Coalition for Human Rights and against Human Trafficking”: to date 14 local public administrations, NGOs, and media have joined the Coalition. Within the framework of the project, the Causeni Law Centre also launched a drawing contest on the theme of human trafficking: 57 children and youth from Causeni, Anenii Noi, and Stefan Voda regions submitted drawings. In partnership with the ATG Programme, the Causeni Law Centre selected 16 drawings for recognition and prizes and in 2007 will publish an album of the winning drawings entitled *“Trafficking in Human Beings through the Eyes of Children”*. As a result of these awareness-raising activities, the Causeni Law Centre received new requests from parents and victims of trafficking for legal assistance, counselling, and representation in court proceedings.

30. With financial support from the ATG Programme, the NGO Honour and Rights of the Contemporary Woman in Balti implemented in northern Moldova the project *“Methods to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings”* during the period of July to December 2006. The NGO lead a public awareness-raising campaign organized mainly in schools and employment offices for a target population of women 16 to 24 years old. The NGO conducted 47 one-day seminars on the topics of “Legal Employment Abroad” (17 seminars); “Methods to Combat Violence against Women” (13 seminars); and “Leadership Development Training to Combat Trafficking in Women” (17 seminars). The NGO further elaborated and published a series of information materials on trafficking in human beings and illegal migration: leaflets, booklets, and wallet calendars (3500 copies in total). A total of 748 beneficiaries from the Balti region benefited from the activities organized by the NGO within the framework of the project.

31. In partnership with IOM Moldova, the ATG Programme provided financial support to a local representative of IOM Moldova and an acclaimed Swedish photojournalist to conduct an in-depth photographic investigation into the fate and

route of Moldovan trafficking victims subjected to sexual exploitation in Turkey. This investigation took place from 16 to 22 October 2006 within the scope of the project *“The Women of Moldova”*. The team commenced their investigation in Istanbul, Turkey and then travelled by boat to Odessa, Ukraine and by car to Chisinau, along side a Moldovan trafficking victim. The photographs and narrative stories of *“The Women of Moldova”* project are expected to be published in late 2007.

## **B. Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children**

32. Continuing its financial support from 2005, in 2006 the ATG Programme again joined together with UNICEF and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SCD) to finance the Terre des Hommes Foundation to implement the second year of its project *“Fight against Child Trafficking (F.A.C.T.) in Moldova”* in three high-risk regions of Moldova, namely Soroca, Ungheni, and Chisinau. The ATG Programme’s funding was restricted to Axis II (Coordination and Empowerment) and Axis III (Prevention of Child Trafficking) of the FACT Project. Through the FACT Project, Terre des Hommes worked to reduce child trafficking by increasing participation of child victims of trafficking and high-risk children in appropriate local programs provided and coordinated by multi-sector local networks. Terre des Hommes elaborated a participatory baseline study of child trafficking in four regions of Moldova to better understand the mechanisms utilized by traffickers, the routes to the destination region of Moscow, Russia, and the magnitude, characteristics, risk factors, and protective factors of child trafficking. It facilitated communication, coordination, networking, and capacity building of public and private actors with the aim to increase effectiveness of interventions against child trafficking. It further organized structures and agents in the fields of protection and rehabilitation of children at the local level to enhance identification, recovery, and protection of child victims of internal trafficking and to develop a victim protection system and protection and reintegration services in each target community for child victims of trafficking.

33. With financial support from the ATG Programme, in 2006 the NGO League for the Defence of Human Rights in Moldova (LADOM) implemented the project *“Rights of At-Risk Children”*. LADOM published ten pages in the newspaper *“Florile Dalbe”* entitled *“My Rights – What Can I Do with Them?”* These pages contain information for youth about human rights and child rights, anti-trafficking in children, illegal migration, and case studies and life stories of children who have experienced difficulties related to human rights. These informative pages promoted human rights standards and mechanisms among readers, as well as sought to raise awareness by sensitizing society to human rights issues faced by children in difficulty. Within the project, LADOM subscribed 1500 schools, boarding schools, and libraries to receive more than 2000 copies of the newspaper *“Florile Dalbe”*, to ensure youth audiences access to the published information. LADOM further organized four informative seminars in schools and one in the Juvenile Penitentiary in Lipcani aimed at

familiarizing the participants with fundamental human rights. Lastly, LADOM conducted an essay contest on the topic of human rights, and 13 children and adolescents from different localities of Moldova received awards for their essays.

34. On 13 October 2006, the ATG Programme partnered with the NGO Children, Communities, Families – Moldova (CCF) to host an art exhibition in the Mission’s premises entitled “*Children’s Voices against Human Trafficking*” to raise public awareness and highlight the insights of children in combating human trafficking. The exhibition arose out of the project “Youth against Human Trafficking,” implemented by CCF with financial support from the German Technical Assistance Bureau, which included an art contest for children and youth from 12 villages in Ialoveni District. The exhibition included art works such as posters, paintings, drawings, collages, embroideries, and knitted works, all on the theme of human trafficking. The exhibition was supplemented by children’s art works contributed by the NGO La Strada and IOM Moldova from a children’s art contest they hosted in connection with the Festival “Orange Sunbeam” in spring 2006 for children from boarding schools throughout Moldova. The youth who participated in the CCF art contest, accompanied by their parents, were special guests at the opening reception for the exhibition. The Chairman of the Local Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings of Ialoveni, the Director of CCF, and the Mission’s Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser offered remarks to the public and the press on the theme of preventing trafficking in children and human beings.

35. Supported by the ATG Programme, the NGO Association of Young Trainers from Moldova implemented the project “*Stop Human Trafficking: Today in Scene, Tomorrow in Life!*” from October to December 2006. Applying the methodology of forum theatre presentations, this project aimed at preventing human trafficking among young people by providing them with important information and developing their skills to recognize and act against the cycle of trafficking. Assisted by two local expert trainers in forum theatre techniques and one expert from La Strada, a team of 16 volunteer actors developed a unique forum theatre presentation on the topic of human trafficking. The actors then staged four performances of the human trafficking forum theater in Chisinau, Balti, Crihana Veche Village, and Cosnita Village. During the performances, audiences were provided the opportunity to enter the performance on stage and present new solutions or suggestions on how to avoid becoming a victim of trafficking or how to escape from a trafficking situation. More than 1000 adolescents and 40 adults attended the performances and learned about the risks related to human trafficking.

### **C. Protection and Assistance to Victims and Vulnerable Persons**

36. In 2005-2006, the ATG Programme provided co-funding to the NGO La Strada to implement the Social Campaign “*What Can You Do? – I Care Too!*”, focused on



cultivating a fair and tolerant public attitude toward trafficking victims and vulnerable persons. La Strada implemented the Campaign in three phases: 1) an awareness phase, carried out in Chisinau to encourage the public directly to assist and refer victims to assistance and to promote the hotline as a resources for victims and vulnerable persons to access assistance and protection (including a press conference, research on public attitudes, video and audio spots, street advertising, talk show on national television, mobile offices); 2) an awareness and assistance phase, carried out throughout Moldova (including awareness raising and information in the regions; seminars; media spots, and advertising); and 3) a monitoring and evaluation phase. The Social Campaign concluded with a press conference on 23 August 2006 in Chisinau, at which La Strada presented the results and the Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser and IOM's Chief of Mission offered remarks. The Social Campaign was widely recognized as a success, as through the Campaign, the attitude of the Moldovan population toward trafficking victims became more tolerant overall and many people recognized that the phenomenon requires an urgent solution.

37. With financing provided by the ATG Programme, the NGO La Strada implemented the project *"Quick Impact Actions: Direct Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings"* throughout 2006. The project encompassed a range of quick impact actions aimed at delivering direct assistance to victims of trafficking and their children. The project included the provision of humanitarian aid to 131 persons (91 women and 40 children), scholarship grants for university education and vocational courses to 4 young women, and emergency support for trafficking victims (107 services provided, such as medical care, legal assistance, material aid, immediate psychological counselling, and support for victims' children).

38. In December 2006, the ATG Programme provided emergency financial support through IOM to finance return plane tickets to Moldova for two Moldovan women rescued by Interpol from a trafficking situation in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. These victims were identified through the hotline in Transnistria operated by the NGO Interaction as a result of rescue calls initiated by their families in Transnistria. Upon their safe return to Moldova, they were offered protection and reintegration assistance by IOM and Interaction.

#### **D. Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence**

39. From October 2005 to May 2006, the ATG Programme provided financial support to the NGO Centre for Legal, Psychological, and Social Assistance to Women in Crisis: Casa Marioarei for implementation of the project *"Assistance, Protection, and Rehabilitation for Domestic Violence Victims"*. The primary aim of this project was to protect, support, and rehabilitate domestic violence victims and their children through the provision of a minimum package of necessary services. The project provided the following four kinds of assistance: 1) social assistance, including information and referrals to necessary specialized services (such as medical, police, legal, employment,

or housing services); 2) legal assistance, that is, information about and assistance with gaining access to substantive and procedural legal rights through the judicial system; 3) psychological counselling to overcome crisis situations and the destructive consequences of domestic violence; and 4) emergency assistance to address unforeseen needs of victims in crisis, including humanitarian aid.

40. With financial support from the ATG Programme, on 15-16 June 2006, the NGO Casa Marioarei organized a two-day training in Chisinau entitled "*Take Control!*". During this training, victims of domestic violence learned self-appreciation, self-defence, and new techniques for coping with abuse. Some 20 victims of domestic violence attended the training, including many from rural areas of Moldova.

41. Facilitated by the ATG Programme, in July the NGO Casa Marioarei was selected to receive extra-budgetary funding from the proceeds of the 2006 OSCE Ball, an annual charity event in Vienna, for its project "*Violence – A Hotline for Our Life*". This project is being implemented under the supervision of the ATG Programme from July 2006 to July 2007. On 14 September 2006, the ATG Programme participated in the launch of the project, which was combined together with a tribute to the late Mrs. Lucinschi, wife of the former president of Moldova, who founded Casa Marioarei. The Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser, representatives of civil society and the media, as well as former President Lucinschi participated in the event and offered remarks. Through the project, Casa Marioarei has established a hotline dedicated to providing emergency psychological assistance to victims of domestic violence and other forms of abuse, as well as to referring them to other psychological, social, legal, and housing services provided by the shelter to assist with their recovery and social rehabilitation.

42. In 2006, the ATG Programme provided financial support to the NGO National Association of Women with University Diplomas in Balti to implement in northern Moldova the project "*Violence in the Family – An Alarming Reality*". The NGO organized a series of 4 trainings with 140 volunteers, including social volunteers, police officers, school psychologists, and emergency doctors, to address domestic violence cases. The NGO further offered psychological and social assistance to victims of domestic violence and provided support for their social reintegration. The NGO published 5000 copies of the book "*Successful Way*" in Moldovan/Romanian and Russian and used this book in its trainings. The book presents theoretical and practical aspects of domestic violence and explains ways to re-educate aggressors and to work with victims.

43. With co-funding from the ATG Programme, Winrock International's "*New Perspectives for Women*", its five Regional Support Centres, and the NGO Gender-Centru implemented in November and December 2006 a series of activities related to the global campaign "*16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence*" (25 November – 10 December), which seeks to raise public awareness about the phenomenon of

domestic violence and the need to address it as a matter of priority as a violation of the most fundamental human rights. On 23 November, the Campaign was launched in Moldova in the premises of the Mission; the Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser, among others, offered remarks and answered questions from the press. At the press launch, Gender-Centru also exhibited a silent witness exhibition of life-sized statues of the women killed in Moldova as a result of domestic violence in 2006. During the 16 days, Winrock broadcasted one television and two radio programs entitled "*Destinies and Destinations*" focused on topics of protecting the rights of people working abroad, perspectives of graduates from boarding schools, and domestic violence. On 24 November, the popular national television show "*Buna Seara*" addressed the theme "Stop Violence against Women. What Can You Do?" Throughout the regions of Moldova drawing contests, exhibitions, roundtables, conferences, trainings for youth and law enforcement, and other mobile activities were performed in order to inform the public about the Campaign and to raise public awareness about domestic violence, trafficking in human beings, and gender equality.

#### **E. Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights**

44. The NGO National Women's Studies and Information Centre "Partnership for Development" commenced in September 2006 a year-long project entitled "*Increasing Juridical Culture of the Population*". Funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the French Delegation to the OSCE and facilitated and supervised by the ATG Programme, this project aims at increasing the legal culture of the population. Through the project, *Schools of Legal Training* are being established for the general public in rural areas of Moldova with a special focus on women. To date, the project has elaborated and published a guide on "*Empowerment through Legal Education*", which includes chapters on human rights and relevant national legislation.

45. In 2006, the ATG Programme provided co-funding for the publication of the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasia Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI)'s publication of its "*CEDAW Assessment Tool Report for Moldova*", launched on 8 November 2006. The Report is designed to measure the status of women in the country through the lens of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It examines Moldova's laws and measures the degree to which these laws promote and protect the rights of women as mandated by CEDAW, both *de jure* and *de facto*, focusing on "real life" impediments to equality. ABA/CEELI printed some 2200 copies of the Report in Moldovan/Romanian and 700 copies in English for distribution throughout Moldova and the international community. The launch was attended by more than 100 persons, including representatives of key Ministries, members of Parliament, members of the new Gender Equality Committee, local and international NGOs, and the media. The event also included in-depth discussions on: Identifying, Defining and Fighting Discrimination against Women; Addressing Violence against Women; and Enforcing Women's Rights in the Labour

Market. The Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser offered an address at the launch and facilitated one panel discussion.

#### **F. Promoting Gender and Peace-Building**

46. From 10 to 14 April 2006, the ATG Programme supported the participation of one representative from Gender-Centru (a Moldovan NGO) and one representative from World Window (a Transnistrian NGO) at the advanced international training entitled "*Gender and Peace-Building*" organized by TRANSCEND and the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR) in Cluj, Romania. Facilitated by international gender specialist Gal Harmat, participants explored the role of women in resolving conflicts in hot spots around the world, focusing on gender mainstreaming, gender-based power relations that may contribute to prolonging conflict situations, as well as specific examples of application of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (on women, peace, and security).

47. Following the above training, the ATG Programme provided financial support to the NGO World Window to implement the project "*International Training: Domestic Violence, Gender and Peace-Building*", through which the NGO organized the training "*Domestic Violence, Gender and Peace-Building*" in Vadul lui Voda from 14 to 18 August 2006. The training was attended by 24 Moldovan participants from both sides of the Nistru River and was facilitated by the international gender expert Gal Harmat. Using an interactive training methodology, participants were trained on domestic violence and gender issues, such as gender theories, gender identity, gender power relations, gender equality, and gender mainstreaming. They were further introduced to international standards on women's rights and the role of women in peace-building, conflict resolution, and security, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (on women, peace, and security). After being offered neutral insights by the Deputy Head of Mission into the process of negotiating lasting peace between the Republic of Moldova and the region of Transnistria, participants reflected upon methods and strategies to promote gender equality, enhance prevention of domestic violence, and contribute to peace-building within their organizations, communities, and regions in Moldova.

#### **VII. TRIAL MONITORING PROGRAMME**

48. After nearly two years of preparatory work, on 21 March 2006, the OSCE Mission and the ODIHR jointly launched the Trial Monitoring Programme for Moldova. Utilizing a human rights-based approach, the purpose of this TM Programme is to analyze actual compliance of the Moldovan judicial system with both national and international fair trial standards, to draw the attention of national

authorities to areas for needed improvement, and to encourage and assist national authorities to find solutions to enhance human rights protection and strengthen the rule of law. Cases selected for monitoring focus on trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, trafficking in arms, crimes against justice, and corruption and other crimes committed by public officials. During the first eight full months of the TM Programme, from 19 April to 31 December 2006, under the supervision of the National Coordinator of the TM Programme, some 20 national trial observers monitored more than 1350 trial court hearings (excluding any pre-trial hearings) in criminal cases in all five district courts in the Chisinau Municipality, plus the Chisinau Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Justice.

49. Throughout 2005 and 2006, the ATG Programme was integrally involved in the design, development, and implementation of the TM Programme. The Mission's Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser serves as co-Programme Manager of the TM Programme, along with the Mission's Senior Human Dimension Adviser. Dividing the necessary tasks and responsibilities, the Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser prepared the TM Programme Document of 17 July 2005. The ATG Programme provided necessary supplemental funding for a team of two legal experts to prepare a comprehensive *OSCE Trial Observation Manual* for the TM Programme. The Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser further supervised the preparation of and edited the Manual. This 230-page Manual, dated 28 February 2006, is specifically tailored to the Moldovan legal system and includes chapters on the following topics: national and international fair trial standards; victim and witness protection; trafficking in human beings; domestic violence; and public corruption. In addition, the Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser designed and developed an intensive 6-day training course for trial monitors on international fair trial standards and human rights, held 15 to 21 March 2006, as well as a follow-up 2-day workshop for trial monitors, held 19 to 20 October 2006. Lastly, in November and December 2006, she supervised the preparation of and edited the 6-Month Analytic Report of the TM Programme entitled "*Preliminary Findings on the Experience of Going to Court in Moldova*", dated 30 November 2006 (due to be released in March 2007).

50. Through its support for and direct involvement in implementation of the TM Programme, the ATG Programme has contributed substantive expertise in the fields of anti-trafficking, domestic violence, victim-witness protection, and related gender, human rights, and rule of law topics. It has further gained invaluable insight into how the Moldovan judicial system addresses cases of human trafficking and domestic violence and treats victims and vulnerable persons. This information, in turn, has been utilized in and built upon in ATG Programme activities, creating synergy between these two complimentary human rights Programmes of the Mission.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

51. Through its activities in 2006, the ATG Programme contributed to implementation of the Mission's mandate as well as implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. ATG Programme objectives and activities in 2007 are planned to build upon earlier achievements and to contribute to the observance of human rights and the establishment of a safe and secure environment for vulnerable people in Moldova.

Tuesday, 27 February 2007  
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova



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