

***Comments of the Republic of Moldova on the Recommendation concerning
domestic violence and trafficking in persons***

Recommendation: Recognize the differences between domestic violence and trafficking in persons and ensure that responses to domestic violence are not simply incorporated into programs that are primarily designed to combat human trafficking. While there are some response capabilities that are similar (e.g., safe shelter and services for sexual violence and other trauma), the dynamics of trafficking differ from those of domestic violence in important ways. A targeted approach to each problem is needed in order to combat it successfully.

Comment: The Republic of Moldova would like to express its appreciation to the Special Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office on Gender Issues for the efforts and for the presented constructive report on the gender perspectives.

The Republic of Moldova appreciates the assessment and comments made by the OSCE Special Representative on the ways to strengthen domestic violence and trafficking in persons and would like to point out the following comment.

The national authorities are recognizing domestic violence phenomena as a social problem, being respectively addressed as a human rights violation. The prevention process has been designed as a cross-cutting process being realized throughout a series of relevant policies. At the same time major government efforts to combat domestic violence have been incorporated into pre-existing programs that focus on combating trafficking in persons.

The Moldovan Government in all the implemented actions, inclusively in partnership with civil society tackles separately the both phenomena. Specific normative acts and measures are implemented for each category of victims.

The problem of domestic violence is among the main push factors contributing to Moldova being a country of origin of victims of trafficking.

Taking into consideration that domestic violence is a root cause of trafficking in women and that women are at high risk of being trafficked and moreover that victims' medical, psychological, social, economic and residential needs are often similar, creating a comprehensive, interconnected Government-led system for protection and assistance and protection.

In this respect, for example the National Referral System was created in order to provide comprehensive assistance to victims and potential victims of THB (N.B. it was not expanded it was supposed from the very beginning to provide assistance to victims of DV too).