

SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE BEST PRACTICES IMPACT REPORT: MOLDOVA

Global Rights for Women worked together with NGO advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and forensic medical personnel to demonstrate the progressive approach to sexual violence present in Minnesota and assist Moldovan professionals in applying these ideas in their own system in order to effectively respond to and prevent sexual violence. Starting in 2015 with a 3-day training program joined by members of LaStrada, participants discussed sexual assault response best practices and received training on the Minnesota developed Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). This was followed by a 2016 Study Visit and 2017 Curriculum Training of Trainers (ToT).

GOALS

- Address sexual violence in a jointly shared concept by working with a multidisciplinary team including judiciary, prosecutors, police enforcement, and NGO advocates in order to generate teamwork, collaboration, and healthy discussion.
- Discuss the developed conceptual approaches used in Minnesota to respond to sexual violence to allow participants to see the value of human touch rather than funding.
- Lead and participate in discussions focusing on a victim centered approach to responding to sexual assault.
- Train Moldovan professionals to sustain a system of effective response to sexual assault
- Highlight the success in legislation and sexual violence response in Minnesota and apply to the context of the national legal framework in Moldova.

"We only met in February but I consider you all as close friends, just as close as those I was in the academy with."

- Grigore Moga, Chief of Criminal Investigation Unit, General Inspectorate for Police

"Global Rights for Women puts their heart into the justice system. Men think they are doing the serious work, but the real change comes from women."

- Ruslan Popov, Chief Prosecutor of District; Member, Supreme Council of Prosecutors



2016 STUDY VISIT

Global Rights for Women and a multidisciplinary delegation from Moldova and Minnesota participated in this visit, collaborating with local leaders such as law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, forensic specialists, medical personnel, advocates, and lawyers in sexual violence prevention and participating in panel discussions and peer-to-peer interactions.

MN PARTICIPANTS

- MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA)
- Ramsey County SOS Sexual Violence Services
- SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) at Regions Hospital
- St. Paul Police Department
- Ramsey County Attorney's Office
- Break the Silence

MOLDOVAN RESPONSE

- *"I was especially interested in the SANE exam. I was impressed and surprised by the nurse involvement. The study visit showed how it's possible to use nurses to do the exams."* - Andre Padure, Deputy Director of the Center for Forensic Examinations

"I have learned more during the study visit about how an advocate helps victims in an investigation. I will now ask LaStrada to assist victims in all sexual assault cases now and ask for psychological help for victims from the local authorities."

- Ruslan Popov, Chief Prosecutor of District;
Member, Supreme Council of Prosecutors

"I was impressed by the SANE team, interviewing techniques, FETI, and collaboration between different disciplines. I have been reading LaStrada's research and identified a lot of gaps in how we are conducting investigations and documentation of sexual assault. By training investigators to investigate sexual assaults we can avoid

questions that blame victims." - Grigore Moga, Chief of Criminal Investigation Unit, General Inspectorate for Police

"This is unprecedented information. We have to change our protocol." - Participant

"One of the most inspiring meetings we've had in terms of emotional impact and motivation to change things to come." - Participant



2017 ADVANCED TRAINING (ToT)

This program created by Global Rights for Women targeted a specially selected group of Moldovan national justice system representatives, consisting of prosecutors and judges. The training course was prepared and delivered by international trainers with extensive experience in prosecution and the judiciary of sexual assault crimes. The program was based around the existing training courses, and tailored with relevant case studies. The role of a successful team was discussed and related to the Moldovan context where it could be adapted and implemented within the limits of Moldovan law and society.

TRAINING STEPS

- Sexual Violence Perpetration and Prevalence
- Victimization
- The Role of Law Enforcement in Investigation
- Prosecution
- Judicial Response to Sexual Violence
- Models for Coordination and Implementation to Address Sexual Violence

PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

After the program commenced, 16 participants completed a survey rating the effectiveness of their experiences.

93% of participants rated the training as either 'excellent' or 'very good'.

87% of participants rated the training as 'extremely helpful' or 'very helpful'.

81% of participants rated all steps of the training as useful

"The training was interactive, very useful, and informative."

"The content and training methods were very helpful, and trainers were inspiring examples. The adult teaching methods were very useful and could be replicated in other trainings on counteracting sexual assault crimes."

"The topic is a sensitive one with many stereotypes - thank you for a very professional approach."

"The trainers were the best, very professional and captivating."

"I'm looking forward to more trainings like these."

FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS

Participants and experts gave recommendations for Global Rights for Women on ideas for future program content.

- More video and real examples, practical exercises, case studies, and information about investigation of child sexual abuse.
- Examples of negative practices for responding to sexual violence found in the USA to learn what to avoid.
- It could have been helpful for GRW to learn more about what the participants wanted so protocols could have been customized on their particular interests. Some participants were interested in disenfranchised populations and sexual assault as a tool of colonization. They felt that Native American cultural issues could have been discussed and parallels could have been drawn to Moldova's similar minority populations.

WORKSHOP PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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**To learn more about Global Rights for Women, please visit our website at:
www.globalrightsforwomen.org.**

**For specific questions about the Spring 2017 and future workshops, please contact
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