

[2008 Report]



Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme of the **OSCE Mission to Moldova**

OSCE

Organization for Security and
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OSCE Mission to Moldova

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Cover Photo: Seth Gray PCV, Republic of Moldova

The cover image was selected because it represents hope and choice: a girl about to cross a bridge, about to enter puberty, active, aware of both risks and possibilities. She might become an agent of her own future.

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

The Organization 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. The OSCE Mission to Moldova is further mandated to provide advice and expertise on human and minority rights, democratic transformation, and repatriation of refugees within the "Human Dimension." In line with this portion of its mandate, the Mission expanded its human dimension portfolio in 2003 to work to combat trafficking in human beings and promote gender equality. 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 and protection of, 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.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND GENDER PROGRAMME OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Within the context of the mandate of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Moldova to "provide advice and expertise on human and minority rights [and] democratic transformation," in 2003 the Mission commenced its Anti-Trafficking and Gender activities, which have operated since 2007 as the Anti-Trafficking and Gender (ATG) Programme of the Mission.

2. In formulating the OSCE Mission to Moldova's ATG Programme objectives and implementing its activities and projects, the Mission is guided by its mandate, the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (Permanent Council Decision No. 557 of 24 July 2003), 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). 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 trafficking. The Action Plan recognizes the role of corruption in encouraging this 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 girls' rights, including full compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The OSCE Action Plan notes that ac-

tivities aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including trafficking in human beings, should be increased to ensure a safe environment for all citizens.

3. Through the Mission's 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 the identification and protection of 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 2008, the Mission's ATG Programme again concentrated its efforts to achieve these ends in the following areas: co-ordination 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 provided financial support to activities and initiatives focused on making Moldova a more secure county and ensuring rule of law and human rights for the most vulnerable people.

II. CO-ORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

A. Technical Co-ordination Meetings in Chişinău

4. Throughout 2008 the OSCE Mission to Moldova's ATG Programme hosted regular Technical Co-ordination Meetings (TCMs) in Chişinău to facilitate co-ordination among anti-trafficking actors and encourage a continual exchange of information, experience, and best practices about anti-trafficking activities and initiatives. Each meeting was conducted with simultaneous interpretation between Moldovan/Romanian and English. All TCMs in 2008 included reports on developments at the national level, reports on recent activities by the participants, and focal issue presentations on a substantive topic or activity relevant to the anti-trafficking community as a whole. Following each TCM, the Mission's ATG Programme prepared detailed minutes in English and Moldovan/Romanian, which were formally adopted by the participants. The minutes of all 2008 TCMs in Chişinău and the regions are published and distributed to all relevant representatives of government, civil society, and the international community.

5. In 2008 the Mission's ATG Programme hosted eleven TCMs in Chişinău according to the following schedule and with the following focal issue presentations:

| DATE | FOCAL ISSUE | PRESENTER | OTHER ISSUES PRESENTED |
|------------------|---|------------------|--|
| 16 January 2008 | State responsiveness to violence against children | UNICEF | |
| 13 February 2008 | Help the children of the country: Transnational and community actions, 2007-2008 results and perspectives | Terre des Hommes | La Strada presentation on reintegration of VoTs in Moldova using a multilateral approach |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| 12 March 2008 | International Labour Organization-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) supported project on combating trafficking in children and other worst forms of child labour | National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention | |
| 9 April 2008 | Trafficking in organs | Centre to Prevent Trafficking in Organs | |
| 14 May 2008 | 2007 statistical profile update | International Organization for Migration (IOM) | |
| 11 June 2008 | Domestic violence study | La Strada | Short presentations on study visit to Israel within the framework of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV) Program to Combat and Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings internship Information from seminar on Combating Human Trafficking for Forced Labour |
| 9 July 2008 | Media coverage of trafficking in human beings | Winrock International | Presentation by US Embassy on 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report |
| 10 September 2008 | Activities, results and trends | Medecins du Monde | |
| 8 October 2008 | FACT Project community-level action | Terre des Hommes | |
| 12 November 2008 | Results of hotline in Transnistrian region and church project | IOM | |
| 10 December 2008 | Law on Witness and Victim Protection | Center to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CCTiP) | Discussion and finalization of 2009 calendar of focal issue presentations |

6. Between 30 and 50 representatives of organizations attended each TCM. The following organizations were particularly active participants, attending at least six of the eleven TCMs in 2008:

American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLI), Assemblies of God World Mission “Project Rescue” (AGWM); Catholic Relief Services (CRS); Causeni Law Centre, Centre for Prevention of Trafficking in Women (CPTW), Center for Preventing Organ Harvesting, Children, Communities, Families (CCF) Moldova, Gender-Centru, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Interaction, IM/SOIR, International Labour Organization/International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC), La Strada, Medecins du Monde, National Child Abuse Prevention Center, Regina Pacis, Salvation Army, Turkish Embassy, United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United States Embassy, Winrock International’s New Perspectives for Women. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Prosecutor’s Office, and the Ministry of Interior’s Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTiP) and the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) attended TCMs for the first time in 2008. The Secretary of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings attended the April 2008 TCM.

B. Technical Co-ordination Meetings in the Regions

7. In 2008 the Mission’s ATG Programme, in partnership with Winrock International, organized five Regional TCMs in Tiraspol, Şoldăneşti, Vulcăneşti, Nisporeni and Ribniţa. In addition to promoting co-ordination and exchange of information between national and local government and civil society anti-trafficking actors, the regional TCMs sought to raise public awareness and gain insight into aspects of human trafficking in each region. Representatives of local public authorities, law enforcement, prosecutors’ offices, courts, social workers, media, and civil society participated in the Regional TCMs. All actors reported on the human trafficking situation in their respective regions and the initiatives undertaken locally to prevent and combat trafficking. An overview of the National Referral System (NRS) and how it has been developed and piloted in the districts by IOM and the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child was presented at each Regional TCM in 2008. Following each regional TCM, the Mission’s ATG Programme prepared detailed minutes in English and Moldovan/Romanian.

8. In 2008 the Mission’s ATG Programme and Winrock International organized five Regional TCMs according to the following schedule and with the following participants:

| DATE | LOCATION/PARTNER | REPORTS BY OFFICIALS |
|---------------|---|---|
| 20 March 2008 | Tiraspol: Interaction NGO, OSCE Office in Tiraspol, International Organization for Migration | Next Generation; Red Cross (Bender office); Transnistrian State Hygiene and Epidemiology Centre; Center on Preventing and Combating HIV/AIDS (Tiraspol) |
| 15 April 2008 | Şoldăneşti: Balti Regional Support Center of Winrock International’s New Perspectives for Women Project | Şoldăneşti District Administration; District Commission on Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings; Şoldăneşti Prosecutor’s Office; Şoldăneşti Police Commissariat; Şoldăneşti Education Directorate |
| 7 May 2008 | Vulcăneşti: Cahul Regional Support Center of Winrock International’s New Perspectives for Women Project | Vulcăneşti District Administration; Vulcăneşti Criminal Investigation Department; Vulcăneşti Prosecutor’s Office |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 25 September 2008 | Nisporeni: Balti Regional Support Center of Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women Project | Nisporeni district President; Nisporeni District Council; Nisporeni Prosecutor's Office; Nisporeni Social Assistance Department; Nisporeni Education Department |
| 16 October 2008 | Ribnița: Interaction, OSCE Office in Tiraspol, International Organization for Migration | Social Aspect; teaching staff of the Construction high school; Bulgarian cultural society Radomir of Parcani; Step Forward |

9. Representatives of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, the National Referral System Co-ordination Unit, Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women Project, and the IOM Mission to Moldova and its Rehabilitation Center attended all regional TCMs. Several meetings were also attended by Terre des Hommes, International Research and Exchanges Board/ Comprehensive Post Partum (IREX/ CPP), Medecins du Monde and other agencies.

10. In 2008, the Mission's ATG Programme worked with Transnistrian partners and IOM to hold two of the Regional TCMs jointly with the Transnistrian civil society co-ordination Round Tables for Social Partnership (see full description in paragraph 11). The March and October Regional TCMs were organized jointly with Interaction and the Tiraspol OSCE office, and held in Tiraspol and Ribnița. The Mission's ATG Programme benefited from exchange of information with Transnistrian colleagues, and provided information about Moldovan and international laws, standards, co-ordination mechanisms, and other information relevant to combating trafficking in human beings and violence against women. After analysis at the end of 2008, the Mission's ATG Programme decided to continue both Regional TCMs in right-bank districts and regular participation in and support to the Social Partnership Round Tables without engaging further in jointly organized meetings.

C. Transnistrian Civil Society Co-ordination Round Tables

11. In 2008, the Mission's ATG Programme participated in all 11 of the monthly Transnistrian civil society co-ordination Round Tables for Social Partnership (see preceding paragraph for information on joint meetings). The round tables are held throughout the Transnistrian region on the third Thursday of each month except August. Participants are social sector actors from both banks, including civil society, local and central authorities, donors and international organizations. Initiated by IOM and Interaction and modelled after the Mission's ATG Programme's Technical Co-ordination Meetings, the round tables foster collaboration and co-operation among civil society actors in the Transnistrian region in prevention of and assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings and violence against women. The round tables provide a forum to exchange information and are a platform for future multi-disciplinary assistance and prevention work in the Transnistrian region, including eventual expansion of the National Referral System. The topics addressed include youth activities, health, hotline operations, trafficking in human beings, gender equality, and violence against women. The Mission's ATG Programme, in partnership with IOM Moldova, will continue this initiative in 2009 by supporting and hosting some of the round tables at the OSCE Tiraspol office and capacity building for social NGOs to facilitate development of civil society actors addressing social issues, especially gender equality and human rights in the Transnistrian region.

C. Sectoral Donors' Meetings

12. In 2008, the Mission's ATG Programme participated in the Gender Task Force of Donor Agencies organized by Swedish International Development Agency, UNIFEM, and the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child. This forum seeks to promote co-ordina-

tion and information sharing among donors and to encourage partnerships with national authorities to strengthen national gender machinery¹ and promote cross-cutting gender principles and policies such as gender mainstreaming. The Mission contributed an article on Gender and Law to the second issue of the GENDER Newsletter, available at: http://www.un.md/UNIFEM/news/Gender_Newsletter2nd_%20issue_Dec.23.2008_eng.pdf.

13. In 2008, the Mission's ATG Programme participated in six Social Protection Donor Group meetings to further co-ordination efforts with government and donor agencies in the social assistance, gender, and anti-trafficking fields. This forum seeks to promote co-ordination and information sharing among donors and to encourage partnerships with national authorities to strengthen national social protection efforts. These meetings are organized every other month by the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child (MSPFC), Every Child Moldova and Oxford Policy Management Consortium.

14. The Mission's ATG Programme presented at the June donor's meeting at the World Bank premises. The presentation, "An Interagency Partnership Model in Protecting and Empowering Victims of Trafficking and Domestic Violence," was offered jointly by the Mission's ATG Programme and IOM Moldova with partners from UNDP and United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) present. It formally presented the new United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) project entitled "Protection and empowerment of victims of human trafficking and domestic violence in Moldova" to the Moldova Donor's Group.

D. Anti-Trafficking and Gender Network Website

15. The Mission's ATG Programme, in partnership with Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women, continued updating the Moldova Anti-Trafficking and Gender Network website, <http://www.atnet.md>. The website was launched in the autumn of 2006 in English, Moldovan/Romanian and Russian and 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 co-ordination information including minutes from all TCMs in Chişinău and the regions. Information about 340 partner organizations, some with multiple anti-trafficking activities, is also available on the website.

E. Co-ordination of the Moldova Country Steering Group of the Danish Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South Eastern Europe

16. In 2008 the Mission's ATG Programme continued co-ordinating the activities of the Moldovan Country Steering Group (CSG) of the Danish Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The Mission's ATG Programme, IOM Moldova, La Strada Moldova, and Center to Prevent Trafficking in Women comprise the Moldova CSG. The Mission's ATG Programme organized and created formal minutes for nine CSG meetings, including a CSG retreat to identify trends, needs and objectives for the 2009-2011 Country Programme. The Mission's ATG Programme organized and hosted a programme planning visit with the IOM Kiev Co-ordinator, the Danish MFA consultant, the CSG and national authorities. As well, the Mission's ATG Programme participated in a Regional Partner Forum and one regional conference on standards in social prevention of trafficking in persons in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine with partners from the respective countries. The first Danish programme carried out activities from 2006 to 2008, and the second programme will continue activities from 2009 to 2011. The overall programme objective is to support national authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations

¹ Machinery here indicates national policy-level actors, laws, rules, actions plans, activities, *etc.*

to combat trafficking through appropriate prevention, law enforcement and protection/assistance measures. Both programmes have four immediate objectives:

- strengthened national counter-trafficking strategies and referral mechanisms;
- strengthened capacity of national authorities and NGOs to respond to developing needs in the areas of prevention and protection;
- increased awareness amongst vulnerable groups and access to relevant migration information; and
- strengthened international and regional co-operation on approaches to counter-trafficking, including standardization of procedures and practices.

F. A Joint Project Proposal for the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

17. Throughout 2008, the Mission's ATG Programme, in partnership with UNDP, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and IOM Moldova, worked on a joint proposal for the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS). Utilizing the expertise of each agency, the partners built upon the 2007 concept note to jointly finalize the project proposal entitled "Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Trafficking and Domestic Violence and Vulnerable Persons in Moldova" to the UNTFHS, funded by the Government of Japan. The project's acceptance was formally launched with a press event on 6 November with representatives from all four implementing agencies, the Japanese government, and the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, Ministry of Local Public Authorities and Ministry of Reintegration. The project will address policy and service reforms in the priority areas of human trafficking and domestic violence at the national, district, and local levels in Moldova.

G. Co-ordination to Combat and Prevent Discrimination

18. The Mission's ATG Programme chaired the first Anti-Discrimination Co-ordination Meeting on 15 December. Representatives of the Anti-Discrimination Coalition were present, as well as the Ministry of Justice, General Prosecutor's Office and UN Country Office representative. Participants exchanged information on the status of the Anti-Discrimination draft law and future collaboration opportunities. The participants agreed to participate in quarterly Anti-Discrimination Co-ordination Meetings, and to expand the list of participants to include more government representatives.

H. Ad hoc and other Co-ordination

19. The Mission's ATG Programme facilitated two ad hoc co-ordination groups in response to requests from local authorities in 2008.

20. In response to requests from the Ministry of Interior's Center to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CCTiP) and IOM Moldova the Mission's ATG Programme hosted two ad hoc co-ordination meetings on assistance to victims of trafficking in the Transnistrian region. The meetings brought together representatives of NGOs from the Transnistrian region to facilitate co-operation with the CCTiP authorities in providing assistance to victims in the Transnistrian region. The ad hoc group consisted of representatives of IOM Moldova, Interaction and Step Towards Transnistrian NGOs, Causeni Law Center NGO, and CCTiP, and were facilitated by the Mission's ATG Programme. The participants discussed common areas of intervention, expressed concerns about potential collaboration, and agreed to work together on individual cases without further direct support from the Mission's ATG Programme. Meetings were held on 13 February and 24 April. Due to the sensitive nature of the region, cases are not tracked by place of origin in the Transnistrian region.

21. Following the 29 July meeting of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the Mission's ATG Programme received a request from the Director of the CCTiP to assist in formulating a response and next steps for several unaccompanied Moldovan minors identified by local authorities in Italy. The CCTiP was charged by Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc to create a report on Moldova's obligations to prosecute parents for sending their children abroad illegally. The Mission's ATG Programme facilitated exchange of information among various government actors and experts to uphold both the best interests of the children and rule of law. The Mission's ATG Programme convened and facilitated four meetings from October to December, with participation from the CCTiP, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, UNICEF, IOM Moldova, La Strada, Causeni Law Center, and the General Prosecutor's Office. The meetings served as a forum to exchange information and develop joint actions in order to expedite the repatriation of the unaccompanied minors from Italy to the Republic of Moldova. As a result, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assisted the General Prosecutor's Office in receiving information on the rogatory commissions sent to the Italian authorities. The Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child elaborated a comprehensive report on the situation of unaccompanied Moldovan children in Italy. The group determined that they may reconvene, as needed, by requesting the Mission's ATG Programme to organize further meetings.

22. On 6 September the Mission's ATG Programme hosted a half-day roundtable for a delegation from the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (BpB in Russian). Over 30 German professionals met with representatives of the Mission's ATG Programme, the Ministry of Interior's Center to Combat Trafficking in Persons, La Strada, Terres des Hommes, and the Center to Prevent Trafficking in Women.

23. From 6-7 October the Mission's ATG programme hosted focus groups with anti-trafficking and gender partners to identify key problems and trends from 2008 and establish well-grounded goals for the Mission's ATG Programme in 2009. Three focus groups were held on trafficking in persons (13 participants), gender equality and domestic violence (nine participants), and anti-discrimination (seven participants). Each group discussed trends and needs identified in 2008, capacity building needs, and advocacy goals. Priority policy goals identified by the first two groups included co-ordination and consistency in working with victims and potential victims of trafficking and violence and better implementation of laws. The anti-discrimination group highlighted the need to improve the capacity and planning of the Anti-Discrimination Coalition and the legal framework to uphold human rights and fulfil Moldova's relevant commitments. The focus groups were effective in gathering partners both for strategic information sharing, and for the Mission's ATG Programme to develop strategic 2009 priorities.

24. On 9 December the Mission hosted a briefing with the Ministry of Reintegration. The ATG Programme presented on activities in the Transnistrian region, and welcomed representatives of the Ministry to participate in the monthly TCMs and the Social Partnership round tables.

III. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

A. National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings

25. The OSCE Mission to Moldova's ATG Programme participated as an observer in sessions of the National Committee (NC) to combat trafficking in human beings, which held three open sessions and one closed session in 2008. The President of the NC was not designated at the beginning of 2008, and Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs Valentin Zubic chaired the first meeting. Mr. Victor Stepaniuc was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and President of the NC in March, and Mr. Valentin Mejinschi, formerly Minister of Internal Affairs, was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and

President of the NC in October 2008. The third and fourth meetings, chaired by Mr. Stepaniuc, focused on responding to the US State Department TIP report Tier 3 ranking of Moldova.

26. The first meeting, on 4 February, chaired by Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs Zubic, was held at the CCTiP. ILO-Migrant, La Strada, IOM, and the OSCE Mission to Moldova, as well as members of the NC, attended. Participants decided on steps to update and finalize the 2007-2009 National Action Plan (NAP), in order to have an active 2008-2009 NAP, and discussed the creation of a Permanent Secretariat (PS) to support implementation of the NAP and the work of the NC.

27. On 17 April in Chişinău, the first NC meeting with newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc was held; it was closed to outside observers.

28. On 3 July the Mission's ATG Programme attended a round table hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc on efforts to co-ordinate government and civil society actions related to trafficking in human beings. The Mission's ATG Programme urged the Government of Moldova to increase efforts to collaborate and communicate with other anti-trafficking actors both within and outside the Government, to implement the National Action Plan to Combat trafficking in persons including budgetary support for the relevant legislative framework, and for a representative of the National Committee to participate in the monthly Technical Co-ordination Meetings. Mr. Stepaniuc agreed that establishing the Permanent Secretariat was of the highest priority.

29. On 29 July, the Mission's ATG Programme attended the second open meeting of the NC, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc in the Government building, as an observer. Mr. Stepaniuc elaborated on the Moldovan government response to the US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report released in June which downgraded Moldova to Tier 3. Representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Prosecutor's Office, and the Ministry of Social Protection Family and Child presented quantitative reports on anti-trafficking activities. Non-governmental and international representatives raised concerns about ensuring human rights of victims and vulnerable people. Mr. Stepaniuc called for the creation of a database of all Moldovan migrants, and asked about the complicated case of over 15 unaccompanied Moldovan minors in Italy. These cases appear to be family reunification but were identified by some members of the NC as trafficking. The NC presented the supplementary action plan developed in reaction to the US State Department TIP report. The creation of a Permanent Secretariat was not mentioned.

30. On 17 October, the Mission's ATG Programme attended the third open meeting of the NC, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc in the Government building, as an observer. Discussion again centred on the US TIP Report, creation of databases and other quantitative controls of the population, licensing employment and tourism agencies, etc.

31. On 28 October, the US State Department returned Moldova to the Tier 2 Watch List category based on the Government of Moldova's appearance to earnestly address the problems identified in the June TIP report. No NC meetings were held subsequent to this announcement.

32. Since 2005 the Mission's ATG Programme has been advocating for the creation of a Permanent Secretariat to support the work of the National Committee to combat trafficking in human beings. This work continued in 2008, with advocacy at the February National Committee meeting and meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc, president of the National Committee and his staff in April and May, and the July round table with Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc and non-government anti-trafficking actors in Moldova. The Mission's ATG Programme finalized terms of reference for two full-time staff to be supported by international organizations in their first two years and circulated a project plan for the Permanent Secretariat in Romanian to members of the National Committee. During the Follow-up Technical Seminar to the 6th Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference on National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms in Vienna in

September, the Mission's ATG Programme received positive indications from the representative of the Moldovan MFA on this project. However, no actions were taken by the national authorities to establish the Permanent Secretariat in 2008.

B. Gender Equality Committee

33. The Gender Equality Committee, formed in accordance with the 2006 law on equal opportunity for women and men, held meetings in June and November 2008. Participants discussed harmonization of the national legislative framework with the law on preventing and combating family violence and implementation of the 2006-2009 Action Plan for Promoting Gender Equality in Society. At the June meeting participants decided to prepare a detailed report on the implementation of the action plan. This report was circulated for comments in December to members of the Gender Task Force of Donor Agencies. At the November meeting participants reviewed the draft gender equality strategy and began drafting the next action plan. The Mission's ATG Programme did not observe these meetings, as the Committee had decided to involve international actors on a rotating basis without regular observers. The Mission's ATG Programme has advised the Committee to invite observers consistently to facilitate better exchange of information and expertise.

C. Chişinău Municipal Anti-Trafficking Committee

34. On 25 November, the Mission's ATG Programme attended a session of the Chişinău municipal anti-trafficking committee as an observer. The Committee is chaired by a Deputy Mayor and is comprised of heads of municipal departments and heads of Chişinău sectors. The agenda of the meeting included end-of-year activity reports from the attendees, as well as activity results of the municipal multidisciplinary team.

IV. LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

A. Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family

35. On 1 March 2007 the Moldovan Parliament adopted the Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family. After adoption, the law was sent for promulgation to the President but was returned to Parliament for re-examination. The Office of the President objected to the fact that the law did not specify the financial means for creating rehabilitation centres for aggressors. Parliament postponed re-examining the draft law during its 2007 sessions. The OSCE Mission to Moldova's ATG Programme supported drafting of the law in 2006 and 2007.

36. On 29 February 2008 the Mission's ATG Programme attended the plenary session of the Parliament, at which the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence was re-adopted in a final reading with 72 votes for and none against. The main amendments to the text included the modification of provisions relating to responsibilities for central and local public administration authorities and funding for social insurance policies for victims and aggressors. The latter provision was excluded from the law because, on paper, these services are already covered by the state insurance policy provided in separate legislation.

37. On 11 March 2008, the Moldovan President promulgated the Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family. On 18 March, the law was published in the Official Monitor. The Government had three months from the date of publication to update the legislative framework to be in line with the respective law. On 11 April the Mission's ATG Programme met with IOM, UNDP, UNIFEM and UNFPA to plan a mapping project to support the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child in implementing the new Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence.

38. From June to October the Mission supported an independent expert to lead the mapping and to draft a compatibility report on Moldovan legislation with the provisions of the Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family. The report includes an article-by-article analysis of the law, as well as recommendations to modify current legislation to align it with the provisions of the law. The report was presented publicly for endorsement by the Government on 18 November 2008. The Government created a working group to analyze and validate the recommendations to the legislation proposed by the experts. The Mission's ATG Programme and the Mission's expert participated in the first working groups, which convened five times in November, twice in December, and will continue in 2009.

B. Draft Law on Preventing and Combating Discrimination

39. In 2007 the Mission's ATG Programme provided support to the Anti-Discrimination Coalition, which consists of more than ten Moldovan NGOs, to develop and promote a draft anti-discrimination law in line with the EU-Moldova Action Plan and other international commitments and standards. The draft law and the accompanying commentary were submitted to the Ministry of Justice on 3 October 2007.

40. On 28 January 2008 the Anti-Discrimination Coalition held its first meeting of the year to plan its activities for 2008. A representative from the Mission's ATG Programme attended as an observer. The NGOs present agreed to organize awareness raising campaigns and roundtables in regions of Moldova outside the capital on the topic of combating discrimination against students, vulnerable groups and other target communities. The Anti-Discrimination Coalition aimed to collect data on cases of discrimination and to collaborate with the Ministry of Justice to promote the draft Law on Preventing and Combating Discrimination in Moldova.

41. In February 2008 the Mission's ATG Programme met with representatives from the Ministry of Justice to discuss further collaboration on promoting the Draft Law on Anti-Discrimination. The Mission's ATG Programme provided copies of the Draft Law and accompanying Commentary in English and Romanian, as well as relevant international human rights documents in the field applicable to Moldova. The Mission's ATG Programme agreed to attend working group meetings at the Ministry of Justice and to contribute to the finalization of a draft law to be presented to the Government by autumn 2008.

42. In June 2008 the Ministry of Justice Working Group requested commentary from the Mission's ATG Programme on their draft Law on Preventing and Combating Discrimination. In the Mission's assessment, the Ministry of Justice draft lacked a clear implementation mechanism and had other substantive gaps in light of international minimum standards. The Mission's ATG Programme requested that ODIHR develop comprehensive commentary on the law to be presented to the Ministry of Justice.

43. On 24 and 30 June the Mission's ATG Programme met with representatives of the Anti-Discrimination Coalition to discuss co-ordination of commentary on the Government's draft Law to Prevent and Combat Discrimination.

44. On 8 July, 17 September and 22 September the Mission's ATG Programme attended the Ministry of Justice working group meeting on the anti-discrimination draft law. The Mission encouraged the Government to comply with international and national commitments to human rights, to create a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that includes religion and sexual orientation or sexual minorities as protected categories.

45. The Mission's ATG Programme submitted the completed ODIHR/Mission Commentary on the draft Law to Prevent and Combat Discrimination in September. On 1 October

the Ministry of Justice forwarded the draft Law on Preventing and Combating Discrimination to the Government. At year end the draft law was still circulating in Government.

C. Victim and Witness Protection Law

46. In 2007 the Witness/Victim Protection Section at the Centre to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CCTiP) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs requested the Mission's ATG Programme's assistance in developing a new draft Law on Victim and Witness Protection. Throughout 2007 the OSCE-supported expert worked together with the CCTiP specialists in developing a new draft law, which was presented to the Government in December 2007.

47. On 4 April 2008 the draft Law on Victim and Witness Protection was adopted in its first reading by Parliament. The new law provides stronger protections and assistance to victims and witnesses, especially in cases of human trafficking, and creates a new Directorate for Witness Protection in the Ministry of Interior. The new law replaces the 1998 law that covered witness protection. The Mission's ATG Programme, in partnership with the US Embassy, supported drafting this law through an expert from the Institute for Penal Reform.

48. On 24 April the Mission's ATG Programme hosted a meeting with the Center to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CCTiP), IOM, US Embassy, and relevant NGO actors to discuss further steps to support or enhance legal guarantees for victims and witnesses. CCTiP proposed drafting a new law to provide protection and social assistance to people who are doubly victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings. The participants agreed to elaborate a concept note for this proposed law, and CCTiP officially requested collaboration from the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child.

49. On 16 May the draft Law on Victim and Witness Protection was adopted in its second reading by Parliament. Its official title is Law on Protection of Witnesses and other Participants in the Criminal Cases. After its promulgation by the President, it was published in the Official Monitor on 27 June 2008. The law provides for the security of participants in criminal cases whose lives, physical safety, freedom or property are threatened due to their participation in legal proceedings for serious crimes. The law establishes a detailed and comprehensive legal framework. However, effective implementation depends on financial support, and the law lacks a strong financial mechanism. The law entered into force on 27 September 2008.

D. The Family Code of the Republic of Moldova

50. The family code of Moldova was modified in July to incorporate several recommendations from the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The marriage age is now the same for both men and women (18 years). The Code also includes new provisions to protect children from parental corporal punishment and for improved measures to keep children with their biological families and lessen the institutionalization of children. The Mission supports these amendments as they are in line with the international standards in the field of promoting women's and girls' rights and preventing and combating violence in the family, including CEDAW recommendations.

E. New Repatriation Procedure Adopted

51. On 7 August the Government adopted a Regulation on the Procedure for Repatriation of Child and Adult Victims of Human Trafficking, including Illegal Migrants and Unaccompanied Children. The Regulation stipulates voluntary repatriation and that *inter alia* the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child be involved. This requirement will facilitate support for victims

by placing them within the National Referral System for victims of trafficking. Co-operation with destination country authorities and diplomatic missions of Moldova and special procedures for children are also described in the Regulation. The Mission has been involved in facilitating the implementation of this Regulation by hosting ad hoc Coordination meetings in the field with the relevant ministries, described in detail above (see paragraph 21).

F. National Referral Strategy Approved

52. On 18 November the National Referral Strategy for assisting victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking was approved by the Government. It will enter into force as soon as it is published in the Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova. The strategy is in line with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development transnational referral mechanism and includes an action plan for 2009-2011. The Mission's ATG Programme contributed to efforts to draft and lobby for the National Referral Strategy.

V. NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

A. Judicial and Prosecutorial Training

53. The OSCE Mission to Moldova's ATG Programme supported a training seminar on Human Trafficking as a Criminal Offence and Victims' Rights in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Moldovan National Institute of Justice at the latter's premises on 29 to 30 May. This course trained 30 future judges and prosecutors in the comprehensive training framework of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings. The course used case studies, role-playing, mock court proceedings and guidelines for interviewing victims to train participants on international law and best practices according to human rights standards.

54. In May the Mission's ATG Programme, in partnership with the American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative, implemented a Domestic Violence Seminar for Judiciary and Prosecutors to educate participants on the new Law on preventing and combating family violence, to change attitudes toward the crime of domestic violence and improve institutional responses to victims' requests for assistance. The seminar was organized in Causeni because of the particularly high reported rate of domestic abuse in rural areas of that district and the lack of legal information available to people living there. The seminar focused on social, legal, and practical issues involved in the prosecution and adjudication of domestic violence cases. Participants discussed improving investigation of complaints, collecting evidence in addition to victim statements, using Criminal Code provisions to prosecute cases of domestic violence, and identifying alternative remedies for defendants and victims.

55. The Mission's ATG Programme assisted Causeni Law Center in organizing three roundtables in Causeni, Anenii Noi and Stefan Voda for local law enforcement representatives. Participants received an updated compilation of normative acts on trafficking and domestic violence, and discussed problems in their districts.

B. Civil Society Training

56. The Mission's ATG Programme supported Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women project to conduct training courses on preventing and combating family violence for social workers, law enforcement and other community service professionals from May to December. With financial assistance from the Mission's ATG Programme, New Perspectives for Women implemented the project Combating Domestic Violence. The project's purpose was to train local law enforcement authorities and social workers in providing essential services to victims of domestic

violence and those at risk, while strengthening their capacity to undertake local advocacy initiatives to improve government response. During the implementation period of the project (May–December 2008) 12 seminars were held for 291 professionals: 285 police officers, two prosecutors, three social workers and one national security representative were trained in victim identification, working with domestic violence victims, or Moldovan domestic violence/family violence legislation. Seminars focused on victim identification, developing a victim-sensitive approach to working with domestic violence victims, and included a component to educate law enforcement professionals on Moldova's new family violence law. Twelve policy makers who participated in the training programs reported that they implemented aspects of their training in their ministry or committee, or attempted to pursue policy change at the national or local level to improve government responsiveness. New referrals were made to shelters, assistance programs, or other appropriate government or private service providers. The seminars were held in 12 districts, all identified as districts that had not yet had a similar seminar in the previous year under the New Perspectives for Women project, and where need and interest for the seminar had been identified through Regional OSCE Technical Co-ordination Meetings: Șoldănești, Vulcănești, Nisporeni, Rezina, Rîșcani, Călărași, Ceadâr-Lunga, Strășeni, Anenii-Noi, Basarabeasca, Criuleni and Florești.

57. The Mission's ATG Programme organized and hosted a one-day Implementing Partner Technical Meeting to discuss increasing Mission and Secretariat reporting requirements, focused on linking implementation and reporting to proposal and Implementing Agency Agreement documents. The seminar included contributions from the Fund Administration Unit on financial reporting details, and the Press Office on use of the OSCE Mission to Moldova logo and acknowledging the OSCE Mission to Moldova's support for activities. Representatives of over 30 partner organizations attended the day-long event.

C. Participation in International Events

58. The Mission's ATG Programme supported 14 national experts and representatives of national authorities, including law enforcement, at international events in 2008.

59. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the participation of the Chief of the Analytical Department of the La Strada International Centre and the Director of the Casa Marioarei Shelter at the Seminar on Combating Human Trafficking for Forced Labour in Haifa from 11-18 May 2008. The seminar was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV), the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre (MCTC) in Haifa, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Centre for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) in Jerusalem, the Israeli Ministry of Justice (National Coordinator), and the US Embassy in Israel. The seminar provided a forum to share good practices from national and international perspectives; to contribute to setting international and national standards; to promote cross-border collaboration in combating and preventing human trafficking and to establish a network and a framework for collaboration between professional counterparts in Israel and countries of origin.

60. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the participation of the Manager of the La Strada drop-in centre for victims of trafficking and the Head of the Analytical Department of the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTiP) under the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Republic of Moldova at the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons, Child Trafficking: Responses and Challenges at Local Level conference from 26-27 May 2008 in Vienna, Austria. The event focused on lessons learned and experiences in the field of combating child trafficking in the OSCE Region at the local level, including international collaboration.

61. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the participation of the President of the NGO Gender-Centru and Associate Professor at Moldova State University at the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women including Domestic Violence event from 10-11 June 2008 in Strasbourg, France. At this conference, the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women including Domestic Violence presented its assessment of the impact of the campaign in Council of Europe member states and of the national measures taken to prevent and combat violence against women, as well as relevant recommendations.
62. The Mission supported La Strada expert to participate in a Restorative Justice seminar organized by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support in Portugal within 14-17 June 2008 to increase her expertise in the areas of research and development of mechanisms to protect child victims during investigative interviewing in cases of child trafficking and/or sexual exploitation.
63. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the participation of a judge in the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Moldova and the Deputy Head of Section on Ecology, Minors and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the General Prosecutors' Office of Moldova at the conference on Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking—Challenges and Good Practices, held in Helsinki, Finland from 10-11 September 2008. The conference was organized by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, in co-operation with the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship, and aimed at enhancing the participating States' capacity to more successfully prosecute cases of all forms of human trafficking. The event included information on the needs of trafficking victims for adequate protection and assistance, and building political will of participating States and partners for co-operation to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings.
64. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the participation of the Chief of Consular Law Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, at the Follow-up Technical Seminar to the 6th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms from 22-23 September 2008 in Vienna, Austria. The event aimed at developing a broader understanding of reporting mechanisms in order to identify common elements for the work of a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism in line with OSCE commitments.
65. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the participation of the Consultant within the Department of Elaboration of Normative Acts in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova; the Principal Consultant within the Department of Authorizing Normative Acts in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova and a leader in the Anti-Discrimination Coalition to attend the sessions on tolerance and non-discrimination at the ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting between 1-3 October 2008 in Warsaw, Poland. One session provided information on successful initiatives addressing Roma and Sinti access to public services including education. Another session addressed equality of opportunity for women and men, implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, prevention of violence against women, and strengthening co-operation between governments and civil society for the advancement of gender equality.
66. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the participation of the President of the Causeni Law Center NGO to attend working sessions on anti-trafficking of the ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Poland on 8 October 2008. The sessions focused on identification, assistance and access to justice for the victims of trafficking, ensuring that practices of identification of trafficked persons are inclusive and empowering and result in the protection of the rights of those exploited.

67. The Mission's ATG Programme sponsored the participation of the newly appointed Director of Casa Marioarei Shelter and the Consultant within the Department of Equal Opportunities and Preventing Violence under the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child at the Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, held from 20-22 October 2008 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The seminar brought together 89 international experts, policy makers, NGO activists and representatives of international organizations from 21 countries with presentations on innovative practices on prevention of violence against women, protection for survivors and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women. Special attention was given to efforts to engage young people and men of all ages in combating violence against women.

68. The Mission's ATG Programme in partnership with the Mission's Human Rights and Democratization Programme provided financial support to the Legal Consultant of the Public Defender's Office, to participate in the Trial Monitoring Meeting, organized by the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje on 5-6 November 2008 in Skopje, Macedonia. Ms. Hriptievschi co-presented with Mission representatives on the experience of monitoring trafficking in human beings cases in the Mission's Trial Monitoring Programme.

VI. PROJECT SUPPORT

69. In 2008, the OSCE Mission to Moldova's ATG Programme supported selected organizations and institutions in developing and implementing 21 anti-trafficking and gender projects in Chişinău and other regions of Moldova. The Mission's ATG Programme worked with both established and new partners, including state institutions, NGOs, and social service providers at the national, district, and local levels. Through these projects the Mission's ATG Programme reached, directly and indirectly, beneficiaries such as state and local authorities, civil society representatives, vulnerable persons and victims of trafficking and domestic violence.

A. Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

70. With the financial support of the Mission's ATG Programme, Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women published the final report on its project entitled "Media Monitoring Bulletin: Media Coverage of Human Trafficking and its Prevention, January 2005 – May 2008." Implemented in partnership with the Independent Journalism Centre, the project monitored seven national papers and four regional publications. Over 41 months, it analyzed 419 articles featuring aspects of internal and external human trafficking for purposes of prostitution, forced labour, begging and petty crime, and/or organ harvesting. General conclusions are that newspaper coverage of trafficking in Moldova frequently fails the tests of accuracy and depth; stories on these issues are overwhelmingly generated by press releases from government officials and omit perspectives of anti-trafficking organizations and non-government experts; the use of illustrations in stories about human trafficking generally fails to meet professional standards. The report concludes with a series of recommendations for reporters, media development NGOs, and specialized anti-trafficking bodies. It can be accessed at <http://www.winrock.org.md>.

71. With support from the Mission's ATG Programme, the Institute for Democracy NGO in Comrat implemented a project on increasing the role of police and civil society in fighting trafficking in women and girls from May to December 2008 in the Gagauzia region. The project goals were to decrease the level of trafficking in women and girls, to increase the role and proficiency of police officers and teachers in fighting trafficking and to improve the knowledge of students and professors of the Pedagogical Faculty of the Comrat State University about Moldovan legislation regarding gender equality in order to prevent and fight trafficking in women. The project provided two seminars for 40 police officers and five seminars for 126 students of the Pedagogical Faculty in Comrat

State University to increase awareness about human trafficking. After a series of round table meetings with professors from Comrat State University professors began to use new information about preventing trafficking. Due to project advocacy, local mass media published five articles on human trafficking issues to increase public awareness.

72. In 2008 the Mission's ATG Programme supported Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women to implement a series of television programmes entitled "Destinies and Destinations." Two episodes of this programme were produced in November and December and distributed on DVD to TV and radio stations, interested organizations, and relevant institutions. Since 2006, in partnership with the Independent Journalism Centre and OWH TV Studio, Winrock has produced 30 episodes of this TV programme, and more than 60 episodes of the radio version, about migration, domestic violence, and entrepreneurship. The programmes present Moldovan audiences, especially women, with information and alternatives to going abroad in their search for well-paid jobs.

73. With the support of the Mission's ATG Programme, the Renal Foundation NGO implemented a project on prevention of trafficking in human beings for organ harvesting. The project goals were to prevent the number of cases of trafficking in human beings for organ harvesting through actively involving youth and medical staff in identification and referral of victims and potential victims of trafficking for medical and other services. As a result of the project, which was implemented from May to December, 98 family doctors from villages in the Orhei, Hincesti and Cimisia districts participated in one-day seminars to about the phenomenon of human trafficking and good practices in working with victims of organ trafficking with 18 round tables to follow up. Nine youth groups totalling 90 people from these localities were trained in prevention of human trafficking and awareness raising techniques; 600 people benefited from the youth awareness raising campaigns. Action plans were elaborated to identify victims of organ trafficking at the local level based on the collaboration between youth volunteers, local administration and local NGOs. This project identified 22 victims of human trafficking for the purpose of illegal organ removal; eight of the victims were interviewed and five received social and medical assistance. Three local newspapers published articles on human trafficking.

74. The Mission's ATG Programme supported Causeni Law Center in printing the updated compilation *Normative Acts on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender Equality*. The compilation was subsequently distributed to prosecutors, judges, police and anti-trafficking and gender equality actors. It is available at <http://www.osce.org/moldova/13429.html>.

75. With the support of the Mission's ATG Programme the Transnistrian NGO Social Aspect, in partnership with the NGO Interaction, implemented a Social Partnership Roundtables project. The project brings together NGOs and actors from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru interested in partnership and exchanging experience. The goal of the roundtables is to create a Transnistrian Social Partnership to provide quality social services for victims of trafficking and domestic violence and vulnerable groups. Discussions at monthly roundtables focus on improving the current situation in the social sector and the quality of social services for victims of trafficking and domestic violence and vulnerable groups. The Mission's ATG Programme supported three of the monthly round tables: in October at the Ribnița vocational school on employment in the region; in November at the Dubasari public library on domestic violence identification, prevention and support; and in December at the Interaction office in Tiraspol on capacities to combating human trafficking in the region.

B. Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children

76. In 2008 the Mission's ATG Programme supported for the fourth year the Terre des Hommes project Fight against Child Trafficking (F.A.C.T.) – Phase 2 in Moldova. Terre des Hommes contin-

ued to promote the child protection system by trying to re-start the municipal Local Councils for Child Rights Protection (LCCRP) and promote methodology to assist children at risk or victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking and their families. The FACT team supported networks of civil society organisations at local and regional levels to improve the identification of and responses to complex child protection cases and strengthen standardization as well as co-ordination of services and partner co-operation in 18 rural municipalities. The project provided assistance to 192 child victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation and their parents.

77. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the NGO Child's Rights Information Centre (CRIC) in implementing a project entitled "Social Inclusion of Children Left Behind by Migrating Parents." This contributed to reducing the vulnerability of such children by raising awareness and building the capacity of children, parents and professionals working with children. The interconnected activities reached a broad audience in five districts of Moldova with quality information, and included a radio programme, a media campaign, a guide for professionals, pocket books for migrating parents and children left behind, and training, monitoring and coaching for educational professionals. Activities are estimated to have reached 300,000 children and adults with information about the psycho-social consequences of parental migration and existing support services for children and families. The project produced and distributed 1,000 copies of a *Guide for Professionals*, 20,000 copies of *My Child Home Alone*, a pocket book for parents, and a pocket book for children entitled *Home Alone*. The publications were presented with recommendations to the Ministry of Education and Youth (MEY).

78. With the support of the Mission's ATG Programme, La Strada NGO developed their expertise in assessment of current practices in the field of investigative interviewing in cases of child trafficking and/or sexual exploitation. La Strada is preparing to conduct research to improve the mechanisms to protect under-aged victims of sexual abuse. They will develop recommendations based on analysis of national and international practices and standards in the area of investigative interviews, focusing on children's psycho-emotional status during criminal investigations.

79. With financial support from the Mission's ATG Programme, from March to December 2008 the NGO League for the Defence of Human Rights in Moldova (LADOM) implemented Project Caravan: the Rights of Children in Difficulties. The primary goal was to provide children and adolescents in need with information regarding their problems, interests, rights, and responsibilities. In co-operation with *Florile Dalbe*, a magazine for youth, LADOM donated more than 1000 magazine subscriptions to children in orphanages, boarding schools, and detention institutions. LADOM published a special page with information on youth rights, case studies, anti-trafficking projects, and illegal migration in ten issues of *Florile Dalbe*. LADOM organized six seminars on the rights of children in need for 159 children and adolescents in six villages. LADOM held a contest of essays, poems, and drawings on these topics and published a compilation of the winning essays, *The Right to Know My Rights*.

80. With the support of the Mission's ATG Programme, the Association of Youth Trainers NGO implemented a project entitled "You Can Prevent Human Trafficking: Today on Stage, Tomorrow in Your Life!" to raise awareness and help prevent trafficking among adolescents and young people. These interactive forum theatre presentations on anti-trafficking issues relevant to the Moldovan context teach youth life skills, responsible attitudes, tolerance and safe behaviour. The play tells the story of a young Moldovan who leaves home after suffering domestic violence and takes a risky opportunity to work abroad, is exploited and abused but manages to escape. The audience got involved in the story, asked the characters questions and suggested alternative choices. Fifteen Moldovan student and young adult volunteers were trained as actors, presented 20 open forum theatre pres-

entations in four districts (Causeni, Criuleni, Calarasi, and Dubasari). The performances reached 2133 adolescents aged 13 to 19 years and 104 adults (teachers, parents, public servants, youth workers, etc.). On 18 October, the OSCE Mission to Moldova commemorated EU Anti-Trafficking Day with a performance of this play for an audience of more than 150 youth from a boarding school in Chişinău. The project was presented in the December 2008 issue of OSCE Magazine (*see the last page of this Report for the full article*).

C. Protection and Assistance to Victims and Vulnerable Persons

81. With the support of the Mission's ATG Programme and IOM, the Tiraspol-based NGO Interaction implemented a project entitled "Strengthening Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking, Adults and Minors in Transnistria." The project goals were prevention of illegal migration and counteraction of human trafficking by providing information through a hotline and volunteer peer-to-peer activities and assisting victims. In 2008 the hotline received 1113 calls. 33 assistance cases were begun. The hotline, operated since 2006, provides information about the laws and realities of migration, potential consequences of illegal migration, and risks of trafficking in human beings. It is used to identify victims of trafficking in the Transnistrian region and to refer beneficiaries to other services when needed. In addition to the hotline, Interaction created and developed a group of 50 volunteers aged 16-25. The project trained volunteers to organize public campaigns and write project proposals and supported volunteers' in conducting 168 information sessions and outreach activities. The hotline has been operating since February 2006.

82. With the support of the Mission's ATG Programme, the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (NCCAP) implemented a project entitled "Implementation of the National Referral System for Victims of Trafficking," which aims to provide multidisciplinary assistance to child victims of trafficking and family violence within the framework of the National Referral System (NRS). Within this project, NCCAP received and assessed 72 notifications of suspected child abuse, neglect, and trafficking between October and December 2008 and directly assisted child victims of abuse (social, mental, legal) in 40 cases. Out of 124 children assisted with support from the Mission's ATG Programme, 99 benefited from social assistance, 44 from psychological assistance and 25 child victims and their families received legal assistance.

83. The Mission's ATG Programme supported the Child, Community, Family NGO in implementing its Safety and Protection of Children summer school programme. The project was designed to increase the participation of children and parent-educators from family type homes (foster care homes) in 21 districts to prevent child exploitation and increase awareness of children's rights to protection from abuse and exploitation and to develop in a protected and safe environment. Learning activities for children by age group (preschool, primary school, preadolescent and teenagers/young adults) and parent-educators were organized on the topics of Safety and Protection, Growing and Development, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Most Serious Forms of Exploitation using approaches and activities such as playing, peer education, interactive activities, role plays, simulation and field trips. About 180 children of different ages from family type homes in Moldova were involved in the activities and learned about child abuse, their rights and responsibilities, self-protection and safety. Thirty teenagers were informed about professional and job opportunities and 73 parent-educators were informed about child protection and behaviour management techniques which respect children's rights.

84. The Mission's ATG Programme allocated humanitarian aid to 60 disabled children at the winter holidays. Disabled children are especially vulnerable to trafficking for forced begging and petty crime, and older children (adolescents aged 13-17) are vulnerable to trafficking for forced labour, forced begging, petty crime, and sexual exploitation, often in combination. Three NGOs (Stoicii, assisting children with loco-motor dysfunction; Motivație, working on the social integration of

disabled youth; and Incredere, working with children from vulnerable families) that focus on identifying, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable persons were selected to assist with disseminating the aid to their beneficiaries. ATG staff purchased and delivered all material support directly to the beneficiaries, including bed linens, food packages, hygiene packages, winter gloves/hats/scarves, and school supplies.

D. Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence

85. In 2008 the NGO World Window, from the Transnistrian region, implemented a seminar with an international expert on Domestic Violence, Gender, and Peacebuilding to follow up a similar activity in 2006. The seminar provided 22 young leaders from both banks with information related to domestic violence and gender issues, such as gender theories, gender identity, gender power relations, gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and peacebuilding. The project purpose was to introduce participants to international standards on the protection of women's rights and the role of women in peacebuilding and security, including international agreements and national laws and commitments, to encourage future leaders of Moldova and Transnistria to work together to reach solutions for resolving conflict; and for promoting increased gender equality. The five-day seminar included workshops, lectures, movies, group discussions, and personal work on an array of topics: negotiation processes and progress regarding the Transnistrian conflict; gender, domestic violence, and the peacebuilding process; causes and consequences of domestic violence; interrelation of conflict and domestic violence; prevention of domestic violence; mechanisms and strategies for social change; the concept of victim-blaming; and project skills on these subjects for participants to translate learning into action. The seminar was designed to be a platform for activities to address gender equality, domestic violence and peacebuilding in the work of the NGO leader-participants, which were designed and implemented in late 2008 and into 2009.

86. With financial assistance from the Mission's ATG Programme, the Artemida Family Planning NGO implemented a project entitled "Informed Professionals, Safer Communities." The series of one-day seminars in seven Drochia localities educated 97 local professionals (social worker, family doctor or medical assistant, police officer, local public administration representatives, and education professionals) on their roles and responsibilities towards victims and potential victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. The seminar content included Moldovan legislation; existing support systems for victims and methods of intervention and prevention; professional contact and relation building to facilitate referral and improve services for victims and potential victims of trafficking and violence; and appropriate attitudes towards victims of trafficking and gender-based violence. Evaluations included requests to return with provide seminars for adolescents on trafficking and gender based violence information and activities.

87. With financial support from the Mission's ATG Programme, the International Centre for Women's Rights Protection and Promotion La Strada printed 500 copies (300 Russian/Romanian and 200 English) of the publication *La Strada Express* on the problem of domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova: reality and perspectives. The publication is a call to action for professions and actors to improving the current mechanism of victims' assistance specifically from a perspective of gender as a human rights issue and to create a mechanism for assistance to aggressors as domestic violence prevention.

88. For the fourth year the Mission's ATG Programme supported Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women in implementing the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The 2008 theme was Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All: Celebrating 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The purpose of the campaign was to mobilize active participation by government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and citizens alike in the prevention of and fight against gender and family violence. Efforts to achieve this goal in-

clude helping to protect human rights, raising public awareness about gender violence in Moldova and its consequences, promoting societal dialogue on ways to help eliminate all forms of violence against women, and highlighting international attitudes towards gender violence. On 25 November the Mission's ATG Programme hosted a press conference to launch the campaign. During the launch, representatives of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, Winrock International, Gender-Centru, and the OSCE Mission affirmed the need to pool their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women by raising awareness at the local, national and regional levels, strengthening local efforts, linking local and national efforts and demonstrating solidarity with activists around the world. The campaign supported training courses, roundtables, public debates, conferences, and television and radio programs addressing human rights, gender issues and the problem of domestic violence throughout the country from 25 November to 10 December 2008. The Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child and Winrock International shared leading roles in organizing and coordinating the work of this campaign in partnership with over 15 other international, national and local organizations and national and local authorities.

E. Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights

89. In 2008 the Mission's ATG Programme supported Winrock International's New Perspectives for Women in implementing a project entitled "Empowering Young Women through Leadership Development Summer Camps 2008" to organize three summer camps for disadvantaged young women, especially from rural areas. The three camps are Winrock's Summer School of Leadership (SSL), TARE (Young, Active, Responsible, Equal) and GLOW (Girls Leading Our World). All three camps help to develop young women's leadership capacities and the labour market skills, and to provide information on human trafficking, domestic violence, communication, gender equality, self-esteem and health; teambuilding; and leisure activities such as sport, theatre and crafts. Over 450 young women from rural areas were reached through these camps. Each camp included specific follow-up activities to support the girls in implementing what they learned in activities in their home communities.

90. The NGO Centre for Partnership and Development (CPD) received support from the Mission's ATG Programme to open activities to promote gender equality in the 2009 Parliamentary elections. The project activities include advocating for gender equality within political parties, mass-media institutions, the electoral commission and NGOs through awareness raising, providing advocacy and expertise, and developing a Gender Equality Code of Conduct for the Central Election Commission, parties, and the media. CPD elaborated the Code of Conduct on Promoting Gender Equality within the Election Process in November-December 2008 for use in early 2009 activities. Since the Law on Gender Equality adopted in 2006 implicates political parties, mass-media and electoral institutions to promote gender equality within their activities, the Code of Conduct is a starting point promoting gender equality in the 2009 national elections. The document includes recommendations for stakeholders on how to promote and/or ensure gender equality. In 2009, CPD plans to have at least 10 political parties and 10 mass media institutions sign the Code of Conduct and publicly commit to promoting gender equality in the electoral process. 15-20 NGOs will be actively involved within the activities of the PasProGen Alliance 2009.

VII. MISSION GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACTIVITIES

91. The Mission's ATG Programme hosted officers from the Secretariat's Gender and Training section to train Mission staff on Gender Mainstreaming on 16-17 June. The training was planned for all Mission programmatic staff. ATG programme staff and several other Mission members used this opportunity to learn about OSCE gender equality commitments in all dimensions, and how they might best implement OSCE commitments in their work.

92. Following a request from the Secretariat's Gender Office, the ATG Programme Officer worked with the Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR) Officer to gender mainstream one political-military project in 2008. The officers choose to mainstream a military resettlement project by considering the effects on (female) spouses of the (male) military members resettled to civilian life. Factors considered were employment opportunities and retraining for spouses as well as for the (usually male) military staff, especially in cases of geographic movement accompanying the resettlement away from established economic and social support systems. The project will ensure that female ex-members of the uniformed services have equal access to the re-training opportunities and that appropriate provisions are made to address their needs. Implementation is delayed due to limiting factors unrelated to the mainstreaming process. The CPR Officer remains committed to preserving the additional components in the project.

VIII. CONCLUSION

93. Through its activities in 2008 the OSCE Mission to Moldova's ATG Programme contributed to the implementation of the OSCE Mission to Moldova's mandate and to the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and the OSCE Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women. The Mission's ATG Programme supported coordination of efforts, including by the Government of Moldova, to combat trafficking human beings and domestic violence, assist victims, and ensure access to fundamental human rights for the most vulnerable on both banks of the Nistru/Dniester. ATG Programme objectives and activities in 2009 will build upon earlier achievements and will contribute to the observance of human rights and the establishment of a safe and secure environment for vulnerable people in Moldova. The Programme will continue to balance responsiveness to local needs and changing conditions with continuity, expertise and good practices in the fields of countering trafficking in human beings and gender equality.

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OSCE Mission to Moldova
Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

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Acting against trafficking

Self-directing the theatre of life's hard knocks

Focus on anti-trafficking

Eastern Europe

Moldova

BY JUDITH HALE

Nicon Caraman, aged 22, spends many Saturdays driving several hours on bumpy, zigzag roads. His destinations are schools in the most remote corners of Moldova, usually run-down structures with shattered windows and poor heating — if any — even in the dead of winter. Upon arrival, Nicon finds no welcome mat laid out for him; in fact the reception can be downright frosty. But he is too focused on the job at hand to take it personally. Warming up with a generous dose of tea, which he keeps piping hot in a thermos, he prepares to get into character.

Along with 14 associates, Nicon is a volunteer actor and trainer whose aim is to reach out to young people in rural and isolated parts of the country by bringing the “Forum Theatre” right to their doorstep. This year, the Association of Young Trainers from Moldova, as the group calls itself, has decided to shine a spotlight on the harsh realities of trafficking.

The plot is fictional but realistic at the same time, simple and easy to follow although it deals with complex issues: A young Moldovan is confronted

with a seemingly insurmountable set of problems. Gets into heated argument with parents. Hears about an attractive job offer that sounds like it could be the way out of a desperate situation. Takes a risk. Becomes easy prey for traffickers. Winds up in deep trouble.

The initially sceptical students, ranging in age from early teens to early twenties, stay glued to their uncomfortable chairs through the twists and turns of the story. But — hold on — this is no ordinary theatre; the ending is not quite the ending. Members of the audience get to “rewind” the scenes, go back in time and start with a clean slate.

By exchanging views with the characters, the students start reflecting about how their own goals and values and their concern for their safety and self-respect might influence their choices if they found themselves in a similar dilemma. They discover that they can interrupt the action on stage and say: “Stop, that’s risky! Why don’t you try taking another route instead?”

The second time around, the plot unfolds differently and so does the protagonist’s destiny.

When Ion (not his real name) walked into the cold, makeshift theatre — actually the school gym — he could not resist making fun of the whole event and announcing out loud for all to hear that he would not stay until the end. But then, transfixed by the scene played out in front of him, Ion’s expression changed from cynical to alarmed as

A village school in Calarasi, western Moldova, 11 September. More than 200 students and their teachers watch the unfolding of a scene on human trafficking, after which they can interact with actors and shape the plot.
Photo: OSCE/Dumitru Berzan

Reaching out to vulnerable groups in Moldova. Over the past few months, I have attended many of the performances of the "Forum Theatre" all across Moldova — in Causeni, Criuleni, Calarasi and Dubasari — and I must say that I have never seen such intent-looking young audiences following every move on stage and listening to the dialogue with rapt attention.

These adolescents are the prime target group of our outreach campaign. Their age range, their economic background and their family situation combine to make them among the most vulnerable to trafficking in Moldova today.

As is widely known, Moldova is a major source country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of exploitation. We hope that when they realize what can happen to their friends and relatives abroad, these young people will behave more responsibly if and when they decide to join the exodus abroad, and that they will think twice about "helping" others to migrate.

Up to around 30 per cent of the work force, or about 750,000 people, are believed to have left this country of four million, either legally or illegally, in search of greener pastures. NGOs believe that more than one per cent of these migrants have been — or will be — trafficked at some point.

And so, when we take the travelling play on human trafficking to schools in the far reaches of the country, including areas close to or inside Transdniestria, these staggering figures are uppermost in our minds: Close to half of the student population in Moldova has at least one parent who has been absent for months or even years. An estimated 20 per cent of children have both parents living and working abroad.

With parentless households, poor job prospects, and television touting the good life in the West, it is hardly surprising that people are convinced they are making a perfectly rational choice when they decide to remove themselves from their irrational situation. At least 25 per cent of young Moldovan women, for example, experience violence in the home. Victims of domestic abuse are more likely to be trafficked: 90 per cent of identified trafficked victims had experienced violence at home.

Since 2001, more than 2,500 people from Moldova have been identified as victims of trafficking by the International Organization for Migration and its partners. Although the majority of them are women, more and more male victims of exploitation in the labour force have been seeking assistance. Cases of children and minors being trafficked for begging and petty crime are also increasingly coming to light.

Working with more than 25 implementing partners, the OSCE Mission to Moldova has been co-ordinating efforts to combat trafficking, assist victims and improve the efficiency of the prosecution process since 2003. Directly or through its partners, the Mission provides public officials and representatives of civil society with policy, legislative and institutional support.

Veaceslav Balan, Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme Assistant in the OSCE Mission to Moldova



Confronting the harsh realities of human trafficking.

OSCE/DUMITRU BERZAN

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Nicon, playing the role of a violent father, raised his hand against his child.

Ion felt compelled to make himself heard once again, this time to seek answers to some concerns troubling him. He proposed wiser choices for the characters and asked them why they behaved the way they did. And he could not resist giving the father some advice on how he could perhaps be a better parent.

"This could easily happen to any of us," Ion said, turning to the audience. "Let us not break off our

friendships with people who return home from their horrible experiences in a foreign place. That is exactly when they need our love and sympathy the most."

By year's end, Nicon and his friends will have presented 20 performances to about 8,000 young people, teachers, social workers and local public officials. "We deliberately seek out schools that we know offer poor-quality education, where students are given few opportunities to broaden their minds," says Dumitru Berzan, a 26-year-old former professor of German language and literature, who is the driving force behind the Forum Theatre.

He describes some of the challenges that the group has encountered along the way: having to deal with wary school administrators who cancel the event at the last minute, for example, or having to perform in less than ideal spaces such as school corridors and classrooms, and even in a forest.

"Once, a teacher demanded that we stop in the middle of what she felt was an ugly scene," recounts Dumitru. "We managed somehow to get her to let us continue, and she ended up thanking us profusely. She said she could not have imagined that such a dark narrative could prove so enlightening."

Dumitru credits some friends for bringing the innovative outreach technique to his attention after discovering it during a stay in Italy. "Social theatre using the 'psychosocial animation' method is new to Moldova," he says. "It works really well in large groups, even in front of an audience of more than 200 people." The OSCE Mission to Moldova is an enthusiastic supporter and provides generous funding for the miscellaneous expenses of the six-month project.

"We have found the perfect art form that reflects reality," Dumitru says. "The interactive approach makes the audience more receptive to messages because they are passed on from trainers who are also relatively young. By involving themselves in the plot, students learn what it feels like to go through some wrenching decision-making. They realize that it is within their power to make wise choices for themselves. The hope is that the whole theatre experience will be a deterrent to their having anything to do with the trafficking trade in the future, either as victims or as perpetrators."

Dumitru never tires of jotting down his observations from each performance and indulging in some self-analysis on how he and his fellow volunteers are also benefiting from their Saturday activity. "In our efforts to make Moldova a better place to live in," he writes, "we've become more open to all sorts of people and circumstances, and this has been good for our personal growth. I can't think of a more worthwhile way to spend a weekend."

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