

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING TEAM

## Who are we?

**The Child Safeguarding Team** (established in 2010) within the Issues Affecting Children Program of International Center “La Strada” consists of an attorney and several psychologists, who provide assistance throughout the criminal proceedings to the children victims and witnesses of sexual abuse and exploitation.



## Our mission

To ensure the rights and interests of children are respected throughout the entire criminal procedure in order to avoid repeated victimization; and to ensure that all the principles of restorative justice are followed.

## Area of competence

Any form of sexual violence against children, whether it is sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, represents our area of activity. The use of informational technologies as a means of recruiting, enticing or as an environment to commit the abuse or exploitation, represents the defining element of our specialization. We provide legal and psychological assistance to the child victim or witness of the following offences:

- Rape (art. 171 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova);
- Non-consensual sexual acts (art. 172 of the Criminal Code of the RM);
- Sexual harassment (art. 173 of the Criminal Code of the RM);
- Sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 16 (art. 174 of the Criminal Code of the RM);
- Actions of a sexual nature committed with a person under the age of 16 (art. 175 of the Criminal Code of the RM);
- Child enticement for sexual purposes (art. 175/1 of the Criminal Code of the RM);
- Child trafficking (art. 206 para. (1) a) of the Criminal Code of the RM);
- Child pornography (art. 208/1 of the Criminal Code of the RM);
- Child prostitution (art. 208/2 of the Criminal Code of the RM).

## Our principles

- ✓ Ensure the balance between criminal justice and the best interests of the child;
- ✓ Confidentiality and protection of the identity of the victim;
- ✓ Avoid interventions that have low benefit for the child, but where the risk of damage is high;
- ✓ Involving the child in the decision-making process that concerns him/her.

## Working hours:

24/24, 7 days a week.

## Our services

Assist and consult law enforcement agencies during the period of investigation;

Provide specialized psychological assistance to the children and the members of their families throughout the criminal proceedings;

Provide specialized legal assistance and consultation to the children and the members of their families;

Child-friendly hearing spaces for children victims/witnesses of sexual abuse or exploitation.



## Who can request our services?

- ✓ Law enforcement agencies;
- ✓ Professionals in the field of child protection and related fields (social assistance, education, health).

## Contacts



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