

Support Team for Women and Girls

Who we are

The Support Team for Women and Girls (STWG) of the International Center La Strada Moldova has been active since 2016. The team includes a lawyer and a psychologist, who provide [legal assistance and psychological support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence](#) throughout the criminal or civil procedure.

Our mission

- To ensure [the empathic communication](#) of our beneficiaries with the law enforcement and justice bodies throughout the criminal process
- [to avoid the re-victimization](#) of these women and girls
- to contribute to the achievement of a [restorative justice](#) for the survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence.

Who can reach out to us

- Anyone who is a victim of domestic violence or has suffered as a result of sexual assault
- Law enforcement and justice bodies.

Our services

- ✓ **Free legal assistance** - the lawyer defends the procedural rights of the beneficiaries, represents their interests in court and helps them to obtain financial compensation for the damage caused by the crime
- ✓ **Individual psychological counseling** - the psychologist helps the beneficiary to overcome the emotional and interpersonal crisis
- ✓ **Elaboration of psychological evaluation reports** - at the request of law enforcement.

Contacts

Tel.: 0 8008 8008 – from any fixed-line or mobile network

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All calls are anonymous, confidential and free of charge.

2020 Year: data and trends

During 2020, STWG provided legal assistance and psychological support to [131 women and girls across the country](#).

Many of the cases of sexual assault have reached us after being reported by law enforcement. Law enforcement has asked for our support motivated by the desire to comfort the victims during criminal and judicial proceedings and to improve cooperation with them.

[The lawyer](#) provided legal assistance to 68 women, and another 63 women were represented in court (21 criminal cases and 43 civil cases). The criminal files included 14 rapes, 6 cases of domestic violence and one murder. Civil cases reflect legal representation in divorce proceedings, child custody and alimony.

[The psychologist](#) conducted 100 counseling sessions and prepared 21 psychological evaluation reports (PERs). Requests for PER usually come from law enforcement. In 2020, we had 14 such requests from prosecuting officers.

When the efforts of the Support Team for Women and Girls can make a difference

During 2020, the psychologist was invited 5 times in court to mediate the communication between specialists and the victim with special needs, or to provide emotional support to the beneficiary. For example, in one case, the victim of sexual abuse had mental health deficiencies and the support of a psychologist was required during the court hearings.

In the case of a beneficiary who was constantly supposed to psychological violence by her husband, PER made it possible to demonstrate the consequences of the husband's violent actions. The court referred to that report [in the statement of reasons for the judgment](#).

There are also women who need us [to come to them](#). This is what happened in July, when the STWG went to one of the country's districts to talk to the victim who was hospitalized. She was brought there by ambulance, unconscious, after the former concubine raped her and caused her serious injuries with a saw.

The sessions during which the psychologist collects the necessary data for PER help the survivors [to become more confident](#) in their own powers and rights. Victims of abuse are vulnerable and, very often, under the pressure of aggressors and their relatives, they withdraw their complaints. During counseling, these women and girls have the opportunity to analyze their fear and trauma. Thus, a large part of our beneficiaries manage to overcome or reduce much of the negative psychological consequences of the abuse they have experienced. Such an approach and maintaining permanent contact with the specialists in the Support Team helps these women and girls [to go through the justice process more easily](#).