



Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Recommendation CP(2016)6 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Republic of Moldova

*adopted at the 18th meeting of the Committee of the Parties
on 23 May 2016*

The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), acting under the terms of Article 38(7) of the Convention;

Having regard to the purposes of the Convention to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, while guaranteeing gender equality, protect the human rights of victims of trafficking, design a comprehensive framework for the protection and assistance of victims and witnesses, ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of the offences related to trafficking in human beings, and promote international co-operation;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 36(1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the implementation of the Convention;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by the Republic of Moldova on 19 May 2006;

Recalling Committee of the Parties’ Recommendation CP(2012)6 of 11 June 2012 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Republic of Moldova and the report of the Moldovan authorities on measures taken to comply with this recommendation, submitted on 12 June 2014;

Having examined the second report concerning the implementation of the Convention by the Republic of Moldova, adopted by GRETA at its 25th meeting (7-11 March 2016), as well as the comments of the Moldovan Government received on 20 May 2016;

1. Welcomes the progress made since the first round of evaluation in the following areas:
 - the further development of the legal framework for combating trafficking in human beings, including by increasing the sanctions envisaged for trafficking in adults and child trafficking, and criminalising the use of services of a victim of human trafficking, with the knowledge that the person has been trafficked;
 - the strengthening of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the setting up of a co-ordination group consisting of specialists from relevant institutions;
 - the carrying out of independent evaluations of the implementation of the National Action Plans and the continuing efforts to develop and maintain a comprehensive and coherent statistical system on trafficking in human beings;

- the efforts made to provide training on human trafficking to relevant professionals, to expand the categories of staff targeted, and to promote a multi-stakeholder approach;
- the steps taken to raise awareness of human trafficking, prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, promote a safe use of the internet, and reduce the vulnerability to trafficking of certain social groups;
- the setting up of multidisciplinary teams across the country at district and local level to identify and refer to assistance victims of trafficking and the approval of guidelines on inter-institutional co-operation for the identification, referral, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of different forms of abuse, including human trafficking;
- the progress made in the area of providing assistance to victims of trafficking, by considerably increasing the number of places available in centres for assistance and protection of victims and potential victims of human trafficking;
- the efforts made in the area of international co-operation, both when it comes to police co-operation, by enabling the setting up joint investigation teams, and keeping human trafficking high on the international agenda.

2. Recommends that the Moldovan authorities take measures to address the following issues for immediate action identified in GRETA's report:

- ensure that all presumed and identified victims of trafficking receive adequate assistance and support, according to their needs, including by:
 - providing adequate funding to the centres for assistance and protection of victims and potential victims of human trafficking, including by using confiscated proceeds of human trafficking offences, as foreseen in Article 15, paragraph 4, of the Convention;
 - ensuring that all victims of human trafficking are guaranteed effective access to public health care;
 - ensuring adequate long-term assistance to victims of human trafficking and facilitate their reintegration into society;
- improve the identification and assistance of child victims of trafficking, in particular by:
 - ensuring that the relevant actors take a proactive approach and increase their outreach work to identify child victims of human trafficking;
 - providing adequate support and services to child victims of trafficking, including appropriate accommodation;
 - ensuring long-term monitoring of the reintegration of child victims of trafficking;
 - assessing the efficiency of the co-operation of stakeholders provided for by law, in particular at the local level;
- facilitate and guarantee access to compensation to victims of human trafficking, including children, in particular by:
 - enabling victims of human trafficking to exercise their right to compensation, by building the capacity of legal practitioners to support victims to claim compensation;

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- including victim compensation into training programmes for law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges;
 - making use of assets confiscated from traffickers to provide compensation to victims of trafficking;
 - setting up a State compensation scheme which is accessible to all victims of human trafficking, regardless of their nationality and residence status;
- make full use of the available measures to protect victims and witnesses of human trafficking, in particular children, before, during, and after criminal proceedings, and allocate the necessary funds for implementing such measures.
3. Requests the Government of the Republic of Moldova to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to improve the implementation of the Convention in the above-mentioned areas by **23 May 2017**.
4. Recommends that the Government of the Republic of Moldova takes measures to implement the further conclusions of GRETA's second evaluation report.
5. Invites the Government of the Republic of Moldova to continue the dialogue in progress with GRETA and to keep GRETA regularly informed of the measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.