



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

List of issues and questions in relation to the seventh periodic report of the Republic of Moldova*

Legislative framework and definition of discrimination

1. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Committee's previous concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6](#)) and in line with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention, please indicate the steps taken to amend the Law on Ensuring Equality between Women and Men and/or the Law on the Enforcement of Equality to include a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women that covers, in addition to direct and indirect discrimination, discrimination in the public and private spheres and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Visibility of the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations

2. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

(a) Efforts made to give visibility to the Convention, including awareness-raising campaigns about women's rights under the Convention, the procedures under the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations;

(b) The impact of awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes for judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials on the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations.

Women and peace and security

3. Please provide information on:

(a) Humanitarian services specifically focused on women's and girls' needs under the second national action plan (2023–2027) in response to Ukrainian refugees;

(b) Steps taken to implement pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum on refugee inclusion, gender equality, education and ending statelessness, particularly as they relate to women and girls;

(c) Measures taken to integrate feminist diplomacy into peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts, including in the context of regional diplomatic initiatives, such as the fourth Ukraine-Southeast Europe Summit, held in Odesa in June 2025.

* Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-first session (16 June–4 July 2025).



Access to justice

4. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

- (a) Steps taken to amend article 78 of the Contravention Code to remove the provision that exempts perpetrators of violence against women from criminal liability;
- (b) Measures taken to encourage women to report cases of gender-based violence to relevant authorities and ensure their access to criminal justice;
- (c) Efforts to raise awareness among women, including those belonging to ethnic minority groups, women with disabilities, migrant women, older women and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, about their rights and the legal remedies available to them to claim those rights;
- (d) Efforts to provide adequate human, technical and financial resources for the provision of free legal aid under Act No. 196/2016, amending Act No. 45-XVI on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence;
- (e) Measures to address challenges to physical and communication accessibility in courts of law, including the lack of procedural accommodation in court procedures and the deprivation of legal capacity on grounds of disability;
- (f) Oversight mechanisms in place to ensure that alternative dispute resolution procedures comply with the Convention in that they do not replace effective access to justice or the need for free and informed consent and that they are not used in cases of gender-based violence;
- (g) Measures taken to implement the views of United Nations treaty bodies on individual communications, in particular the implementation of the Committee's views on the case of *Ciobanu v. Republic of Moldova* (CEDAW/C/74/D/104/2016), including the provision of adequate financial compensation for material and moral damages, and its views on the case of *Promo-LEX v. Republic of Moldova* (CEDAW/C/76/D/105/2016), including post-mortem acknowledgement of the status of "V.C." as a victim of domestic violence.

National machinery for the advancement of women

5. With reference to paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on the steps taken to:

- (a) Clearly define the mandates and responsibilities of the gender coordination groups in the various ministries with regard to implementation of national legislation and policy frameworks on gender equality;
- (b) Implement and monitor regular gender equality training for civil servants to ensure gender mainstreaming across all sectors;
- (c) Ensure the application of gender-responsive budgeting, using an intersectional approach across all government departments, and include marginalized groups of women, in particular women belonging to ethnic minority groups, women with disabilities, migrant women, older women and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, in the budget planning processes;
- (d) Establish mechanisms to monitor gender-responsive budgeting, including other compliance and regulatory systems, for meeting the principles of the Convention in all sectors;
- (e) Strengthen the institutional capacity of and provide adequate and sustainable resources for the work of the Department of Policies for Ensuring Gender Equality of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection;

- (f) Strengthen collaboration and support with women's civil society organizations and other relevant civil society actors;
- (g) Engage with and strengthen the gender dimensions of the process of the application for membership in the European Union.

National human rights institution

6. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on the steps taken to:

- (a) Provide adequate human, technical and financial resources to allow the Office of the People's Advocate to effectively fulfil its mandate;
- (b) Ensure the independence of the Ombudsperson of the Office of the People's Advocate and fully implement the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in 2018.

Temporary special measures

7. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

- (a) Whether the State Party is considering the introduction of parity for the representation of women and men in the Government, with an emphasis on women belonging to national minorities, women with disabilities and women from rural areas;
- (b) Activities to raise awareness among legislators, policymakers, other public officials and employers in the public and private sectors of the nature and importance of temporary special measures;
- (c) Temporary special measures in place to accelerate equal access to public positions, education and employment for women belonging to national minorities, rural women, older women, women with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups of women.

Gender stereotypes and harmful practices

8. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide detailed information on the measures taken to:

- (a) Provide capacity-building for the media and relevant public officials on gender-sensitive language and on how to enforce the prohibition of the use of sexist language contained in the national legislation;
- (b) Raise public awareness to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society;
- (c) Expedite the adoption and implementation of the national action plan for the implementation of the cross-sectoral strategy on developing parental abilities and competencies;
- (d) Review school curricula and textbooks to eliminate all discriminatory gender stereotypes and provide capacity-building programmes for teachers to ensure that they do not perpetuate or tolerate such stereotypes;
- (e) Combat, in legislation and in practice, forced sterilization against Roma women and women with disabilities, including those living in nomadic settings and in residential care centres.

Gender-based violence against women

9. With reference to paragraph 23 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

- (a) The current status of legislative initiative No. 70 of 6 March 2025, which is aimed at strengthening protection for victims of domestic violence and violence against women;
- (b) The number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed, over the past four years, in cases of gender-based violence against women, disaggregated by the age of the victim, disability (whether congenital or acquired as a result of gender-based violence), the type of violence and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator;
- (c) The allocation of resources for the provision of financial compensation to victims of domestic violence under Act No. 196/2016 and to victims of other crimes of gender-based violence under Act No. 137/2016 on the Rehabilitation of Victims of Crimes;
- (d) The allocation of human, technical and financial resources for the adoption and effective implementation, in all parts of the State Party, of a new national strategy on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence beyond 2023 and the related action plan;
- (e) Capacity-building efforts for the judiciary and law enforcement officers on gender-sensitive investigations in cases of gender-based violence against women;
- (f) Implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, in which it assessed the implementation of the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention);
- (g) The provision of funding to civil society organizations in Transnistria that provide accessible and inclusive support and assistance to women who are victims of gender-based violence and efforts to raise the need to ensure the availability of such services with the de facto authorities in Transnistria;
- (h) Measures taken to address violence against children as a form of violence against women ("vicarious violence" or "violence by proxy"), including the use of children to control, coerce or harm their mothers, and protection mechanisms for children who witness domestic violence.

Trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution

10. With reference to paragraph 25 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, and in the light of the Committee's general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, please provide information on:

- (a) The measures in place to promote educational and income-generating opportunities for women and girls in Transnistria and Gagauzia, undocumented and stateless women and Roma women as a preventive measure against trafficking;
- (b) The steps being taken to decriminalize women in prostitution and provide alternative income-generating opportunities, educational programmes and exit programmes for women in prostitution;
- (c) Measures to eliminate stigma and discrimination against women and girls in prostitution to ensure that they have adequate access to healthcare, legal services and shelters.

Participation in political and public life

11. With reference to paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, recalling its general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems and in the light of the sexist and misogynistic speech directed at female candidates during the 2024 presidential election campaign, please provide information on the following:

- (a) Legal and institutional measures taken to prevent and sanction hate speech and sex-based discrimination in the professional environment, particularly in electoral processes;
- (b) Measures to provide incentives for political parties to nominate an equal number of female and male candidates for elections, to strengthen sanctions for non-compliance with the State Party's minimum quota of 40 per cent, aimed at achieving parity, and to provide for special recruitment programmes for women, including preferential recruitment of women, where needed, to the civil service, paying particular attention to women belonging to disadvantaged groups;
- (c) Measures in place to provide capacity-building on political campaigning and leadership skills and to ensure access to adequate campaign financing for women candidates.

Nationality

12. With reference to paragraph 29 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please indicate the steps that have been taken to address the remaining challenges to the birth registration of children born in Transnistria and Gagauzia and of Roma children, such as the remoteness of communities, the lack of parental documents, poverty, discrimination and the mobility of Roma families.

Education

13. With reference to paragraph 31 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide detailed information on:

- (a) Measures to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of study and career paths, including science, technology, engineering, mathematics, information technology, climate science and law and eliminate traditional stereotypes among women and girls and their families that may deter them from enrolling in such fields of study;
- (b) Measures taken to ensure education for all disadvantaged women and girls, including Roma women and girls, pregnant women and girls and young mothers;
- (c) Efforts to reduce the school dropout rate and boost retention rates among girls, including by raising awareness among parents, community leaders and women and girls about the importance of education for personal development and career prospects;
- (d) The number of women and girls with disabilities and women and girls from other disadvantaged groups, including Roma women and girls, who have had access to inclusive education under the programme for the development of inclusive education in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2024–2027 (Government Decision No. 950/2023), with data disaggregated by relevant factors;
- (e) Measures to combat bullying and violence against women and girls, particularly Roma girls and girls with disabilities, in schools;
- (f) Measures to address period poverty and the availability of menstrual hygiene products in schools in disadvantaged communities.

Employment

14. With reference to paragraph 33 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide detailed information on:

- (a) Progress made towards enforcing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value;
- (b) Steps taken to repeal article 248 of the Labour Code to remove restrictions on the employment of certain categories of women in the listed professions, to shift to conducting individual assessments and to improve the working conditions in all industries;
- (c) Steps taken to formalize specific sanctions for harassment and discrimination in the workplace under the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), of the International Labour Organization (ILO), ratified by the State through Act No. 440/2023 and in line with the Istanbul Convention;
- (d) Training provided to judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials on the strict application of criminal law provisions on sexual harassment in the workplace and awareness-raising efforts aimed at employers and the general public on the criminal nature of sexual harassment;
- (e) Efforts to promote the equal sharing of family and domestic responsibilities between women and men, including by encouraging men to take paternity leave, and to increase access to affordable, inclusive and accessible childcare facilities;
- (f) Measures to strengthen social protection for self-employed women and ensure that they have equal access as employed women to maternity benefits;
- (g) Steps taken to monitor and prevent the discriminatory dismissal of older women through article 86 of the Labour Code.

Health

15. With reference to paragraph 35 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to incentivize qualified medical and health personnel to work and remain in the State Party, particularly in rural areas, and to combat corruption in medical and health services;
- (b) The provision of human, technical and financial resources to combat communicable diseases, in particular tuberculosis, as well as noncommunicable diseases, and to ensure the availability of accessible medical equipment in order to improve the prevention, early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer;
- (c) Measures to ensure that Act No. 138/2012 on Reproductive Health is effectively implemented in rural areas as well, so that women and girls in those areas have access to safe abortion and post-abortion services;
- (d) The approval status of the national programme on sexual and reproductive health and rights for 2024–2027;
- (e) Measures to raise awareness among women, men, girls and boys about modern contraceptives, with a view to reducing unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion;
- (f) Progress made in introducing accessible and age-appropriate comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls and boys in school curricula at all levels;
- (g) Measures to eliminate discrimination and stigma against women living with HIV/AIDS through awareness-raising and to extend the programme on the

prevention and control of HIV/AIDS to women belonging to disadvantaged groups, particularly transgender women;

(h) The availability of mental health services to women victims of violence and trafficking;

(i) How mental health services take gender issues into account and whether such services are available in the community.

Economic empowerment of women

16. With reference to paragraph 37 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide detailed information on measures taken to:

(a) Extend the coverage of existing social protection schemes to women belonging to disadvantaged groups, including Roma women, women in rural areas, women with disabilities and women with care-giving responsibilities for children and family members with disabilities and the elderly, as well as to retired women in difficult economic situations, and strengthen funding for such schemes and ensure that they are gender-sensitive;

(b) Ratify the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), of ILO.

Rural women

17. Please indicate the progress made in, and resources allocated to, addressing the inequalities faced by rural women resulting from poverty, underdeveloped infrastructure, traditional gender norms and limited access to justice, education, health and other public and economic services. Please describe efforts to:

(a) Ensure that rural women, including women living in the Transnistrian region, have effective access to justice, education, healthcare, social protection, land, agricultural technology and financial credit;

(b) Eliminate barriers and obstacles faced by rural women to starting their own business and create adequate job opportunities with decent pay for them;

(c) Ensure that women and girls in rural areas have access to safe abortion and post-abortion services on an equal basis with women in urban areas and that all costs relating to those services are covered by health insurance.

18. Please indicate what specific steps are being taken to address the gender pension gap experienced by rural women in the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.

Women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination

19. With reference to paragraph 41 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide additional information on:

(a) Measures taken to restore the legal capacity of women with disabilities, and for their deinstitutionalization, following the 2017 amendments to the Civil Code (No. 1107/2002), the Code of Civil Procedure (No. 225/2003), the Family Code (No. 1316/2000), the Criminal Enforcement Code (No. 443/2004) and the Act on Mental Health (No. 1402/1997), as well as updated statistical data thereon;

(b) The main results achieved by the implementation of the action plan on the support of the Roma population in the Republic of Moldova (2016–2020) and the national programme for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities (2017–2022), with a focus on promoting the social inclusion of Roma women and women with

disabilities, as well as measures undertaken for adoption of the new targeted plans and programmes for the periods after the completion of the previous ones;

(c) Measures taken to protect women and girls with disabilities from abuse and violence, including details on the regular monitoring of residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals, the establishment of independent and confidential complaint mechanisms within those facilities and the adoption of protocols to ensure that no medical procedures are performed without their free, prior and informed consent, as well as the results achieved by those measures;

(d) Measures taken to improve the conditions in detention facilities where women are deprived of their liberty and ensure the provision of adequate access to healthcare and personal hygiene items for women in detention, in accordance with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

Climate change and disaster risk reduction

20. Please provide information on gender perspectives in the national integrated energy and climate plan, which contains an outline for climate change mitigation from 2030 to 2050.

Marriage and family relations

21. With reference to paragraph 43 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please inform the Committee about measures taken to:

(a) Amend article 14 of the Family Code to remove all exceptions to the legal minimum age of marriage of 18 years and to raise awareness among Roma communities about the negative effects of child marriage on the health and well-being of women and girls and their access to education and employment;

(b) Amend article 24 of the Civil Code and the Family Code to ensure the rights of women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities to enter into marriage and exercise parental responsibilities;

(c) Repeal mandatory mediation requirements in divorce proceedings in cases involving domestic violence and amend the Civil Procedural Code accordingly;

(d) Address barriers and obstacles faced by widows to exercising their inheritance rights;

(e) Recognize unregistered Roma marriages, which may leave women with limited or no economic rights.

Data collection and analysis

22. With regard to paragraph 44 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please describe the specific steps taken to address the lack of comprehensive and updated data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, geographical location and other relevant factors. Please indicate efforts to improve the collection of intersectional data on gender and disability, age and other factors. Furthermore, please provide information on partnerships established or leveraged with development partners, such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in order to gain access to global frameworks and technical expertise in gender data collection and analysis. Please also provide information on collaboration with donors to secure funding for data collection and describe partnerships with academic institutions for gender-focused research.