

A Review on the Economic Costs of Domestic Violence in the Republic of Moldova

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Abstract: Domestic violence (DV) is one of the most frequent crimes committed in any society and country all over the world, with broad and various consequences, including financial one. The economic consequences of DV affect both victims and countries' economies overall. The aim of the study is to highlight the financial impact and costs of the domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova. The paper provides a comprehensive synthesis of the latest studies and publications on this particular topic. According to a study on the costs of domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova carried out by the Women's Law Centre in 2016, assessed expenses in the areas of social protection, medicine and justice of around 36 million MDL. Due to the response mechanism, which currently focuses on mitigation of DV and not on prevention, the highest costs are for the health sector, especially for hospital treatment of victims. The second highest spending is that of the legal sector, which is due to the procedures of the justice system once a domestic violence case enters the criminal law system. In 2012-2016 more than 81,450 Euro have been paid in reparations by the Moldovan Government to women victims of violence based on the European Court of Human Rights rulings. Studies showed that 60% of social services are covered by the CSOs. It should be noted that the victims' contribution to covering attorney services exceeds four times the state's contribution. To address these challenges, the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) strongly encourages the authorities in the Republic of Moldova to put in place a dedicated, transparent and accountable public procedure under which all NGOs providing specialist support services to victims of all forms of violence against women and their children can apply for funding. It is important to underline that the Republic of Moldova grapples with significant costs stemming from domestic violence, underscoring the urgent need for effective measures to address this pervasive issue. Studying the cost of domestic violence is a crucial initiative to raise awareness about the multifaceted impact of such incidents on individuals, families, and society as a whole.

Keywords: domestic violence, economic consequences, domestic violence costs.