

SILENCE IS BROKEN!

**WOMEN
AGAINST
VIOLENCE.**



National round tables report

In the period from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, the Human Rights Day, the world celebrated 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. During the said period in 2014 partners of the regional advocacy campaign "Women against Violence" from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine joined the initiative and organized round table discussions with law enforcement representatives and other community stakeholders to raise awareness about police violence against women who use drugs as well as to discuss possible solutions and cooperation opportunities to combat it.

With support of:



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE.

103 PARTICIPANTS

FROM 5 COUNTRIES: GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA AND UKRAINE AND 8 CITIES: BATUMI, CHISINAU, KIEV, KUTAISI, TEMIRTAU, TERNOPOL, YEKATERINBURG, ZAPOROZHYE

“Due to the country's preparation to join the European Union, the Moldovan police is concerned about its image and reputation. We proposed them to be more open and proactive in building relations with the community, and more actively use social media, like Facebook, in publicizing their events and activities. They received these proposals very positively”



Oxana Buzovici, social worker at UOHR, Balti, Moldova

“During this round table we further strengthened cooperation with the human rights and advocacy organization Promo-LEX. Their representatives were interested in internal police oversight mechanism – the online platform through which citizens of Moldova can submit their complaints against police officers. They are to conduct a legal analysis of the way this platform functions”



Ala Iatco, president of UORN, Balti, Moldova

“After this round table a private law firm offered their pro bono services in dealing with cases of police violence against women who use drugs. We decided to try different police oversight mechanisms – submitting complaints to police authority, prosecutor's office, ombudsmen, etc. We want to see how these mechanisms work in regard to cases of police violence against women who use drugs”



Ludmila Vins, head of the public organization "Shans Plus", Yekaterinburg, Russia

- 19 LAW ENFORCEMENT REPRESENTATIVES
- 10 PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS
- 40 PROVIDERS OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS
- 15 HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS
- 4 POLITICIANS
- 7 REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
- 8 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES



MOLDOVA
Declaration on cooperation signed to combat police violence against women who use drugs



UKRAINE
Recommendations developed on how to improve protection of human rights of women who use drugs



RUSSIA
Memorandum of agreement to combat police violence developed



KAZAKHSTAN
Memorandum of cooperation with police signed to combat violence against women who use drugs



GEORGIA
Governmental institution expressed readiness to cooperate to stop police violence against women who use drugs

RESULTS:

MOLDOVA

- Declaration on necessity to combat police violence against women who use drugs signed by all round table participants.
- Partners role and functions defined in combating police violence against women who use drugs.

UKRAINE

- The problem of police violence against women who use drugs brought to the attention of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine; relations established with women organizations, UNAIDS, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNODC, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Social Policy.
- Recommendations developed to improve the mechanism of protecting human rights of women who use drugs. Recommendations are aimed at decision makers from the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Policy. Consultation with women who use drugs was organized before the round table to discuss the recommendations.
- Recommendations to improve the mechanism of protecting human rights of women who use drugs included into the National Plan of Action draft "Women, Peace and Security" for the period up to 2019.

KAZAKHSTAN

- Memorandum of cooperation signed between the public organization "My House" and the police department of Temirtau.
- The round table further strengthened relationship with the senior inspector working on the issue of violence against women. The "Women against Violence" campaign partners together with senior inspector are working together on elaborating an effective model to respond to police violence against women who use drugs. The pilot model contains the idea to set up a special gender-sensitive police unit to deal with the issue of police violence. It is expected that this could significantly increase the number of official reports concerning police violence.

GEORGIA

- Participants agreed that service development is crucial for women who use drugs.
- Participants from government and public service agencies expressed readiness to cooperate and build referral system with NGOs working in the field, namely in Batumi.
- Participants from Georgian Young Lawyers Association agreed that cooperation is vital to overcome legal barriers to human rights violation against WUDs.
- Media is aware about the problem of police violence against women who use drugs. The issue was featured in local media.

RUSSIA

- Memorandum of agreement developed between "Shans Plus", Ministry of Internal Affairs, Public Commission for Monitoring and the Penitentiary Service concerning cooperation to stop police violence against women who use drugs.
- Agreement was reached that members of the Public Commission for Monitoring will have access to all detained women who use drugs in Sverdlovskaja region.

“During the coffee break we took pictures with police officers wearing specifically designed t-shirts calling to stop violence against women. We had so much fun”



Olha Ponomarova, social worker at "Club Svitanok", Donetsk, Ukraine

“In the beginning we all felt uneasy. We had definitely expected sarcasm, smirks and scornful attitude towards everything to be said. But nothing of the kind happened! Everything went great, and, thank God, our "expectations" were not confirmed”



Natasha Minaeva, social worker at the public organization "My House", Temirtau, Kazakhstan

“It is a pity police officers didn't participate at the round tables. The situation with police is quite difficult here in Georgia, and it is nearly impossible to involve them in cooperation. However, we are really glad representatives of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs of Georgia attended the discussion and received information about the need of services for women who use drugs”



Zurab Tatanashvili, expert in social work and organizational development, Tbilisi, Georgia

“Silence was really broken. People who attended the round table discussion didn't even imagine that such things could happen. We put the issue on the agendas of those people and organizations who hadn't previously dealt with women who use drugs or police violence. No one remained indifferent after this round table”



Olena Davis, project coordinator of the Coalition of HIV-Service NGOs, Kiev, Ukraine

Coordinator of the campaign:



Campaign partners:



A.O. Pentru Present si Viitor



The Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) is a regional network with a mission to promote humane, evidence-based harm reduction approaches to drug use, with the aim of improving health and protecting human rights at the individual, community, and societal level.

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)
Svitrigailos St. 11B, Vilnius LT-03228, Lithuania
Tel: +370 5 2691 600 Fax: +370 5 2691 601
www.harm-reduction.org