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## On the Project Launch

On November 1, 2007 the Foundation Regina Pacis launched in the Republic of Moldova the project “Today’s Child – the Future of Tomorrow”, that is orientated towards reduction of illegal migration and prevention of trafficking of human beings.



### The Objectives of the Project Include:

- Raising awareness of the population as regards a range of problems and reflections on the present-day reality of migration, prevention of the phenomenon of trafficking of human beings, of the risks related to it, following the implementation of the project “Today’s Child – the Future of Tomorrow”
- Creation and instruction of 13 groups of facilitators, at least 330 persons in the domain, that will promote activities of disseminating information, preventing and ensuring prophylaxis of the phenomenon of emigration in Dondușeni, Ocnîța, Edineț, Florești, Soroca, Șoldănești, Rezina, Telenești, Orhei, Criuleni, Călărași and Strășeni districts and in Chișinău



The beneficiaries of the project are: educators (civil servants from local government, teachers, psychologists, nurses, social workers )

Geographic area: the project foresees follow-up activities within the network of the rural places from the following districts: Dondușeni, Ocnîța, Edineț, Florești, Soroca, Șoldănești, Rezina, Telenești, Orhei, Criuleni, Călărași and Strășeni districts and Chișinău which have already been created by the

Foundation to promote other educational projects which were implemented earlier.

Three two – day seminars – trainings have been already organized and conducted in Dondușeni, Ocnîța and Râșcani , three places located in the northern part of Moldova.

Participants at the training were deputy directors for the educational process in the pre - university educational institutions of the above-mentioned districts.

**Mons. Cesare Lodeserto,  
President of the Foundation**



## Trafficking of human beings – a serious form of infringement of human rights

The trafficking of human beings and the forced prostitution are considered to be serious forms of abuse and infringement of human rights which are pretty widely spread in the Republic of Moldova. The trafficking of human rights emerged in Moldova as a phenomenon at the beginning of the 1990's as a result of the socio – economic crisis the country had to face. We obviously don't know the real proportions of the phenomenon, we only know with approximation and from indirect sources what the phenomenon of trafficking of human being is. By definition, this phenomenon is an illegal activity and, thus, it is missing from any official registers.



According to some estimations, from 600.000 to 1 million citizens of the Republic of Moldova have left for foreign countries whereas the official data confirm for the year 2001 only the figure of 200.000 persons, 70% being women and girls. Thus, young women are in a category that is mostly affected by the phenomenon of migration, and, respectively, by the phenomenon of trafficking of human beings.

The only pieces of information that outline the proportions of spreading of the phenomenon of trafficking of human beings are the number of victims of trafficking that have been repatriated with the assistance provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and some NGOs from Moldova. According to IOM Chişinău, in the period between May 2000 and June 2003, 1,076 victims of trafficking of human beings had been repatriated, 43 of which (8.92%) were minors. The majority of victims (57.96%) are already 18-24 years old. 21.74% of victims are 25-30 years old.

According to some conducted studies, traffickers resort to various methods of recruitment: firms that are apparently legal with some ghostlike agents who offer places of work abroad, tourist and matrimonial agencies. In addition, lately, the direct recruitment of young women by traffickers has become a common practice. A network of traffickers “in a cascade” has been created which lure adolescents or young women in their places of residence – 88% of the victims are descendants from the rural area and small towns.

The biggest part of the trafficked adolescents – approximately 90% - descend from socially-vulnerable often one-parent families, with a very low or no income, with parents abusing alcoholic drinks, and showing authoritarian or violent behaviour. Parents of 60% of the under age victims work abroad, 20% of the victims were orphans at the moment of recruitment and were raised in residential institutions being deprived of any guardianship and financial support. Thus, it is 15-16-year-old girls descended from orphanages and boarding schools who are exposed to the risk of being trafficked.

Being vulnerable from the social and economic point of view, girls from the risk group are also vulnerable from the psycho - social standpoint. According to some reports presented by the psychologists from IOM, the majority of victims of trafficking of human beings and of sex industry haven't been offered good upbringing in family and have had poor access to quality education in school and, as a consequence, show a reduced level of self-respect and an inadequate self-image, and have complexes of



inferiority. Many of them do not share positive moral and social values, are infantile, psychologically and financially dependent upon other people and are often subconsciously dependent on the aggressor.

**Emilia Moraru,**  
**programme coordinator, Regina Pacis Foundation**

### **Street Children – is it a personal drama or the society problem?**



Living on the streets, in (railway) station buildings, in the halls of many-storeyed buildings or in some other socially deprived areas, without keeping permanent bonds or without having any links with their families anymore, street children are deprived of protection and are considered to be the most vulnerable group of children. The majority of them chose the street because they had felt rejected, left to the mercy of fate (because of some irresponsible parents), or simply because they had no other alternative.

These children find a shelter in various Settlement Centres where they get food, clothes and accomodation. Such an institution for street children is the Centre of Settlement of Children (CSC) created by the Foundation Regina Pacis. The Centre of Settlement of Children “Regina Pacis” has been functioning for two years and in this space of time a lot of street children have benefitted from various services offered here. At present, the Centre accomodates 13 children who are guided and helped by the social worker and the psychologist.

From our experience gained within the Centre of Settlement of Children “Regina Pacis”, we can mention that maltreatment of children by their parents is the major cause of their going into the street. The fact that children are treated inadequately in their families, and are subjected to abuse and violence which in their turn inflict serious damage of health affects both their physical and mental health. Due to the unfavourable family climate, especially because of the hypersevere parental conduct children develop various behavioral disorders. The child develops aggressive behaviour as well as reactions of flight and escape. While being mistreated, the under age child develops such traits of character as submission, taciturnity, rigidity, restraint, timidity, distrust and at the same time he/she becomes rude, aggressive, poor in spirit etc.

The contribution of social workers from the Centre of Settlement of Children “Regina Pacis” consists in devising strategic plans for intervention/activity (integration of the child into the system of education and community, the instillment and development of abilities and life skills, counselling of family members and of the child, completing the file with the necessary documents) with a view to the rehabilitation and reintegration of the child into the family/society.

Since the creation of the Centre up to now, positive results regarding the rehabilitation and integration of children in family/society have been achieved although there have been some impediments, and insignificant failures in solving some cases as



the children are coming from socially unfavourable environment with various family problems.

One of the impediments would be called “the taste of freedom”. It refers to the cases when children, after a long period of time spent carelessly in the street without any obligations and restrictions, are placed into a Centre where they have to obey some rules and where they do not enjoy so much freedom as before. In such a situation are the children who yield to the temptation to return to the street only to inhale noxious substances and to lead an independent way of life. At the same time, some other children fight hard against their dependence on noxious substances and the libertine way of life because they want to change their destiny.

Despite all the impediments, we still hope that street children will choose the right way. The social worker will be beside them and will support them as much time as they need. We hope they will follow the example of other people, the ones who have managed to change their fate. The social worker will help children to overcome the difficult situations they face so that they may find their own role in the society.

**Dina Scutaru, social worker,  
Center for Settlement of Children “Regina Pacis”**

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### **A she-pimp from Bender is liable to a five-year-long imprisonment**

According to the news agency NOVOSTI-MOLDOVA with reference to the reports presented by the Press Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, officers from the Department of Combating of Trafficking of Human Beings arrested at the International Airport Chișinău a she-pimp from Bender. The woman intended to dispatch to Turkey two young girls.

During the investigation it came out that Oxana Eshanu, a 29 - year - old woman coming from Bender (known in the underworld as “Mamochika”) together with her concubine Mehmet for more than two years had lured and dispatched girls from Transnistria to different places of entertainment in Turkey. She had promised them high wages, up to 2000\$ a month and other “goods”. Unfortunately, everything turned out to be a fraud and they were subjected to sexual slavery.

The police also stated that the she-pimp had repeatedly got via Western Union huge amounts of money. Oxana Eshanu was instigated a criminal suit in accordance with Art.220 of the Criminal Code “Procurement” and, in case her guilt is confirmed by the court she will be liable to a five-year-long imprisonment.

Reporter of “Novosti – Moldova” Dumitru Dimcioglo

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### **Is there Sexual Harassment in the Republic of Moldova?**

In the Republic of Moldova sexual harassment is not sanctioned in public. Although in the juridical practice they often invoke Art.173 from the Criminal Code, which refers to “coercion to actions with sexual character”, we can state that this article



does not include all elements of sexual harassment and it would be very difficult to prove that sexual harassment did take place. Only in case the act of sexual intercourse is exhausted (rape or pregnancy), there is a possibility to attribute responsibility for such an offence. Such situations as the creation of some conditions of intimidation, making objections, playing jokes with sexual connotations, indecent gestures or glances with a sexual message are not reflected in the legislation of Republic of Moldova.

Only Article 10, point d) of the Law on guaranteeing equality between men and women (adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in 2006) emphasizes the fact that “in order to ensure equality between men and women, the employer is obliged to take measures of prevention of sexual harassment of women and men at work place, as well as of persecution for bringing complaints to competent organs against discrimination.” Unfortunately, the law can only make statements, without offering proper solutions to the problem.

The term “sexual harassment” itself is new and began to be used only in the 1960s of the XX-th century, having the meaning “of a more intent look fixed on certain parts of the body, an innocent on the face of it “flirt” but which produces undesirable consequences either for women or men.” If “sexual harassment” had confined itself only to these situations, the problem perhaps would not have become so serious. The moment such situations become accompanied by imposing certain conditions such as, for example, the increase of the wages, promotion on the part of a boss; passing an exam or assessing the graduation paper with a higher grade on the part of a teacher of either sexes, things take a serious turn because somebody’s refusal to submit to such a request is risky: the person may lose not only the opportunity to get promoted but can even get fired or are likely to get a bad grade at the examination or for the graduation paper.

Within the framework of the Campaign “16 days of actions against gender-based violence”, the National Centre for Studies and Informing in the Domain of Women’s Problems “Partnership for Development” from Chişinău launched the investigation “The Phenomenon of Sexual Harassment in the Republic of Moldova” which is conducted by IMAS-INC with the financial support of the Institute for Open Society New York and the Foundation Soros-Moldova. It should be noted that such an investigation has been conducted for the first time in the Republic of Moldova. Till recently, this subject hasn’t practically been tackled with the exception of some NGOs which had applied this terminology when dealing with the range of problems related to gender equality.

Hurtful acts of intimidation of a person, either in a verbal or non-verbal manner, take place usually in situations when forces are not equal and a person who is more powerful from the social point of view ventures to hurl abuse at a person with a lower social position. Thus, on the basis of the suggested investigation, as well as some other studies conducted in various countries, it has been stated that most frequently, cases of sexual harassment appear at workplace or in educational institutions. In the investigation conducted in the Republic of Moldova it has been stated that “the thing which differentiates sexual harassment from other types of behaviour through which sexual attraction is expressed is the fact that sexual pressures are not desired by the person they are orientated to. On the contrary, they bring about disgust, sentiments of humiliation and hurt, behaviour of avoidance of the person who practices such patterns



of behaviour.” (“The Phenomenon of Sexual Harassment in the Republic of Moldova”. Chișinău, 2007, p.4)

The target group of the poll conducted by IMAS included women. The sample was constituted of 1,139 women, of which 816 women (aged 18-50) had a job, and 323 (aged 18-30) were students. The given investigation was focused not only on the evaluation of the women’s spirit but also on the identification of gender-based stereotypes and prejudices against women. An analysis of situations displaying gender-based discrimination at workplace and in educational institutions has been made. A definition for sexual harassment based on the Moldovan women’s way of thinking and experience has been formulated.

On the Values of success scale, it has been stated that in both cases, family was ranked as the main option, health being the second, followed by material values, a well-paid job, etc.

Regarding the phenomenon of sexual harassment itself, 96% of employed women and 97% of students ascertain that it consists in the “use of force by men in order to commit an act of sexual intercourse”. An alarming number of employed women (95%) and students (93%) ascertain that another indicator of sexual harassment is constituted of “threatening aiming at committing acts of sexual intercourse”. 92% of employed women and 88% of students are requested to have sexual relations “while being promised to get some rewards”. “Kisses without permission” are on the fourth place (91 and 90%), followed by “invitations to an amorous date in exchange for some advantages” (86 and 82%), “impermissible hugs” (85 and 83%), “language or jokes with a sexual connotation” (75 and 74%). “Inappropriate glances” are on the last place (27 and, respectively 32%).

Seven in ten persons answered that the phenomenon of sexual harassment is very /and quite important problem (32 – 40% and 25 – 45%). According to the respondents, sexual harassment influences negatively their professional/academic achievements (80%), their relationships with colleagues at work/study (83%), their relationships with their husbands/partners as well as the personality of the person subjected to harassment (87%).

Even if we confine ourselves only to these data, we can point out the existence and gravity of the phenomenon of sexual harassment in the Republic of Moldova, while the persons harassed are aware of the fact that they are subjected to a type of abuse which is not mentioned in radio programmes and is not described in press. The reaction of women subjected to sexual harassment is meaningful: more than half of the them haven’t done anything or almost nothing to solve the problem; they only “complained” to a colleague or friend of theirs. The great majority of women don’t even know whom to appeal to in case of some acts of sexual harassment, all the more as many of them share a patriarchal mentality (uneasiness, shame, fear not to be gossiped about) which doesn’t allow them to reveal such situations.

The study has ascertained that 9 in 10 interviewees consider that it is necessary to pass a law which would decide upon the exact forms of sexual harassment and its sanctioning. Thus, it is the legislators who should do their duty.

Larisa Ungureanu

**Source: info-prim. md**



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## One Billion Dollars Sent Home by the Moldovan Emigrants



The Moldovan emigrants have sent home over one billion American dollars. The representatives of the National Bank of Moldova claim that it is for the first time in history that the value of the money sent by the Moldovans who have left for foreign countries in search of work has reached such a magnitude.

More than three - quarters of this sum have been transferred via rapid systems, such as Western Union or MoneyGramm. The money sent by the emigrants represent the main source of the

economic growth in the Republic of Moldova. The largest part of the money originates from the countries of the European Union.

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## The Minimum Level of Subsistence Has Increased by One Quarter in the Republic of Moldova in the Course of One Year



At the end of the third quarter of 2007, the minimum level of subsistence in the Republic of Moldova constituted on average 1,025 lei (\$91), by 209 lei more than in the same period of 2006. According to the official statistics, with this money a person can provide themselves in the course of one month with food products and clothes, as well as pay for public utilities.

According to some sources from the National Bureau of Statistics that were reported to the News Agency INFOTAG, men with a regular place of work need a larger sum of money. Their minimum level of subsistence has increased in the course of one year from 1,086 to 1,145 lei (\$101). At the same time, women with a regular place of work need only 1,018 lei (\$90.4).

The minimum level of subsistence for pensioners and children amounts to 883 (\$78.5) and 929 lei (\$82.5), respectively, at the same time, the level of expenditures on children aged 7-16 is valued at 1,036 lei (\$92) monthly. The lowest level of expenditures is required for children aged under 1 – 378 lei (\$34).

The average size of pension in Moldova amounts to 552.13 lei which accounts only for 57% the minimum level of subsistence. The minimum old-age pension for workers from the agricultural domain totals 361.5 lei (\$32), whereas for other beneficiaries it makes up 406.06 lei (\$36). The annual indexation of the pension by 10 - 20% cannot provide the elderly with a decent level of life.

In the period from January to November 2007, the average income has reached the level of 2,014 lei (\$177.9) and has increased by 22% in comparison with the same period of 2006, at the same time the inflation rate accounted for 13.1% in comparison with the anticipated 10%.

**Source: infotag.md**



### **Children and Television: Too Much Sex and Violence, but Also Much Education**

According to a study conducted at the request of the UPC, parents from many European countries believe that television broadcasts too many programmes full of sexually - explicit and violent scenes. At the same time, they consider that television also produces positive effects upon children.

When talking about the monitoring of children's habits of watching TV as users, we can ascertain that 57% of parents from European countries would expect a more strict supervision over the content of TV programmes. Only 3% of the parents included in the study wish to establish less supervision over the content of TV programmes.

The violent and sexually-explicit content of some TV programmes is also responsible for the prohibition imposed on certain TV programmes with two thirds of the parents that participated at this study resorting to this method.

Thus, who controls the remote control: parents or children?

Still, in Holland, Belgium and Hungary children seem to be masters of the remote control. 40, 41 and 47% of children, respectively, make a decision by themselves on what to watch on TV, without being necessary to consult their parents. In France, 96% of parents are involved in making decisions on watching a specific TV programme.

Almost one out of three parents (29%) allows children younger than 2 years of age to watch TV, however, this quantity differs a lot from country to country in Europe. In Romania, 36% of children younger than 2 years of age are allowed to watch TV as compared with 40% in Holland, Belgium and Ireland. In German – speaking countries (Germany, Switzerland and Austria) less than 15% of children of this age are allowed to watch TV.

85% of parents from European countries with underage children believe that watching TV brings about positive effects. They have been mentioning most frequently that watching TV produces effects of educational value, such as, collection of general information (68%) and a better understanding of the language (48%).

**Source: Hot.News.ro**