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CILD

Italian Coalition
for Civil Liberties and Rights



JUSTICE FOR WOMEN – Towards a more effective rights protection and access to judicial procedures for victims of crimes

NATIONAL EXPERTS WORKING GROUP

On 21 March 2019 Association Pro Refugiu organized at Bucharest a national experts working group. The event had a multi-disciplinary approach being attended by professionals representing courts, police authority, general directorates of social assistance, bars, non-governmental organizations. At the national event attended 33 participants (6 judges, 2 police officers, 14 lawyers, 5 social workers, 3 psychologists, 3 representatives of non-governmental organizations). The event started with a presentation of the information from the publication *Violence against women – Key findings and strategies to tackle unreported cases and to enforce the protection order*. As speakers were involved 3 of the Romanian experts that had an active contribution in developing this study report (Silvia Antoaneta Berbec Lawyer Bucharest Bar, Alina Petronela Mosneagu Judge at Bucharest Appeal Court, Gabriela Ionescu Psychologist). The event continued with interactive discussions between the Romanian experts and the other participants on topics regarding difficulties encountered by women victims of violence when they want to access the justice system, strategies to improve the reporting of violent cases towards authorities, the efficiency of the protection order that can be issued by police and court. Some of the proposals made by those present at the event include: standardize the practice of accepting in court the evaluations carried out by NGOs who provide assistance and shelter to women victims of violence; better referral of victims between authorities and NGOs in order to receive in due time proper housing on non-determined period of time (for women and their children victims of violence), for a better accountability of the aggressor the authorities should also keep a “social behavior record” similar with the “criminal record”, mandatory presence of the aggressor at all legal terms in court, extending the application of the protection order to all forms of violence against women (not only in the case of domestic violence). Participants appreciated such an event as being particularly useful because it gave them the opportunity to discuss, exchange ideas and knowledge with specialists from other fields.

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