

## **American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative's CEDAW Assessment Tool Report for Moldova**

The American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative's [CEDAW Assessment Tool Report for Moldova](#) (PDF, 144 pages) ([Romanian](#); PDF, 160 pages) measures the degree to which Moldova's legal framework promotes and protects the rights of women as required by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the degree to which women are accorded these rights in practice. The report includes concrete recommendations for future action to improve the status of women and reflects concerns raised by Moldovans who were interviewed for the assessment. It also identifies where Moldova's legal obligations under CEDAW can be directly used to foster changes in existing laws and practices. The report found that women in Moldova experience discrimination in all fields – employment, finance, the justice system, health care and within the family. Of particular concern are high levels of violence and abuse within the family that remain unrecognized as a serious social concern and play a major role in reinforcing inequality. The additional workload women acquire when they enter the workforce, without men's corresponding increased participation in caring for children and the household, is another critical factor.

Much of the field research for the report was conducted by Winrock International, New Perspectives for Women. The *CEDAW Assessment Tool Report for Moldova* is one in a series that ABA Rule of Law Initiative has produced in various countries throughout the region. Ms. Lori Mann, an attorney and international gender expert, authored the report. The views expressed in the report have not been approved by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association (ABA) and, accordingly, should not be construed as representing the policy of the ABA or any of its entities. Funding for the report was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the USAID, with additional financial support from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Moldova.

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