

**Round Table on enhancing equality and non-discrimination
by training law enforcement officials and the judiciary on hate crime
3 June 2021**

Conclusions by the ECRI Secretariat

The round table aimed to present and discuss the latest [Conclusions on the Republic of Moldova](#) and subsequently envisage concrete follow-up steps by taking advantage of the co-operation assistance in the framework of the joint EU/Council of Europe project on '[Strengthening access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech](#)'.

The national Authorities confirmed their commitment to follow up on ECRI recommendations by strengthening the fight against discrimination, hate speech, and hate crimes. In particular, the Representatives of law enforcement officials and judiciary were convinced of the value of investing in the competence development training of their staff. Since some training efforts have started recently, there is a good dynamic for its continuation and sustainability in the medium and long term. The Round Table was also an opportunity to review and discuss promising training practices on hate crime for law enforcement officials and the judiciary.

Unfortunately, the delays in amending relevant legislation affect the correct qualification and investigation of Hate Crime's cases. Nonetheless, the Authorities showed readiness to build on what was developed so far in co-operation with the Council of Europe. In this context, the recently completed training of trainers should be followed by cascade training complemented by inter-institutional efforts to prepare law enforcement officials and the judiciary to tackle hate crime effectively. As mentioned in ECRI's Conclusions, capacity-building actions must leave the "inception phase soon" and become part of the "business as usual" of training institutions in the Country.

The National Institute of Justice plans long-term co-operation with the Police Academy and the Joint Law Enforcement Training Center of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs to include anti-discrimination topics in the regular curriculum. In combating Hate Crime, the national police authorities emphasized the need for prevention and support to victims. They confirmed their readiness to train all police officers on equality and non-discrimination and improve the disaggregated data gathering in relation to ECRI Conclusions.

During the round table, a number of critical areas were addressed such as a) delays in improving legislation, since Draft Law No. 301 revising criminal law provisions on hate crime is still pending adoption by the Parliament, b) lack of resources of important institutions such as the Equality Council and the People's Advocate, a concern already raised in the ECRI's fifth report on the Republic of Moldova, and c) the need to offer training at the local level, so that any police, prosecutor or judge in Moldova can deal appropriately with cases of Hate Crime. In addition, the issue around the use of hate speech remains an area of concern. Therefore, stakeholders such as the Audio-visual Council and the Central Electoral Commission need to address Hate Speech, a core issue of the upcoming electoral campaign.

The importance of continuing the Council of Europe co-operation assistance to Moldovan authorities at the local level was stressed, as well as the added value of engaging with civil society organisations representing victims. The contribution of the Equality Council and the People's Advocate was also noted, as these two Institutions remain fundamental in anti-discrimination. The role of civil society was underlined as a privileged actor closer to victims of discrimination, hate speech, and hate crime. The excellent co-operation with line ministries was also saluted and synergies with the Prosecutor General's Office and the National Institute of Justice. Last but not least, the participants acknowledged the active support and valuable advice from the EU and its Delegation in Chisinau.