



**Committee of the Parties  
to the Council of Europe Convention  
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Recommendation CP/Rec(2025)07  
on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention  
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings  
by the Republic of Moldova**

***adopted at the 36th meeting of the Committee of the Parties  
on 20 June 2025***

The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), acting under the terms of Article 38(7) of the Convention;

Having regard to the purposes of the Convention to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, while guaranteeing gender equality, protect the human rights of victims of trafficking, design a comprehensive framework for the protection and assistance of victims and witnesses, ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of the offences related to trafficking in human beings, and promote international co-operation;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 36(1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the implementation of the Convention;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by the Republic of Moldova on 19 May 2006;

Having examined the fourth report concerning the implementation of the Convention by the Republic of Moldova, adopted by GRETA at its 53rd meeting (24-28 March 2025), as well as the comments of the Moldovan Government received on 16 May 2025;

Bearing in mind the focus of the fourth evaluation round of the Convention on vulnerabilities to human trafficking and measures taken to prevent them, detect and support vulnerable victims, and punish the offenders, as well as the additional focus on the use of information and communication technology (ICT);

Considering the conclusions and proposals for action contained in Appendix 2 of GRETA's fourth report on the Republic of Moldova related to the thematic focus of the fourth evaluation round and follow-up topics specific to the Republic of Moldova;

Welcoming the measures taken and the progress achieved by the Republic of Moldova in implementing the Convention, and in particular:

- the further development of the legislative framework relevant to combating trafficking in human beings, including amendments to the Criminal Code to prohibit the conditional suspension of prison sentences in human trafficking cases;

- the adoption of the Programme and Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2024-2028), which include measures to prevent the exploitation of vulnerable groups, such as children, Moldovan nationals seeking employment abroad, Ukrainian refugees and foreign workers;
- the amendment of the Law on State-guaranteed Legal Aid, entitling victims of trafficking to free legal aid regardless of their income;
- the opening of a state-shelter for male victims of trafficking in Chişinău and the increased funding for the state shelter accommodating women and children victims of trafficking in Chişinău;
- the steps taken to enhance the capacity to detect and investigate cybercrime and promote children's online safety.

A. Recommends that the Government of the Republic of Moldova take measures to address the following issues for urgent action<sup>1</sup> identified in GRETA's report:

1. strengthen the co-ordination of anti-trafficking action by increasing the frequency of the meetings of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the number of staff members of the State Chancellery's Directorate of Human Rights and Cooperation with Civil Society dealing with the development and co-ordination of the implementation of the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking, as well as to allocate sufficient funding for the implementation of the anti-trafficking activities (paragraph 20);
2. strengthen efforts to improve the prevention of child trafficking, in particular by:
  - preventing the exploitation of children by the management of child residential institutions, including through their regular inspection;
  - amending the legislation to remove restrictions on conducting unannounced inspections so that labour inspectors can be actively engaged in the prevention of child labour exploitation, including in agriculture;
  - implementing social and economic measures and programmes aimed at supporting children in vulnerable situations, including Roma children, and children living in and leaving residential care (paragraph 43);
3. take additional steps to improve the identification of victims of trafficking, including by:
  - increasing efforts to proactively identify victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation by expanding the mandate of labour inspectors, reinforcing their capacity and training, removing restrictions on conducting unannounced inspections, and including them in the composition of the Territorial Commissions for combating human trafficking;
  - paying increased attention to the proactive identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers and foreign workers (paragraph 108);
4. intensify efforts to comply with obligations under Article 12 of the Convention by:
  - providing long-term assistance to victims of trafficking and facilitating their reintegration into society, particularly by improving access to the labour market and social services;
  - ensuring that all victims of trafficking are guaranteed effective access to public health care by including them in the categories of vulnerable persons to be covered by health insurance (paragraph 120);
5. take additional measures to ensure that human trafficking cases are investigated promptly, prosecuted successfully, and lead to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, including by:

<sup>1</sup> The number of the paragraph setting out GRETA's proposals in the report is indicated in brackets.

- strengthening the capacity of the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons and specialised prosecution sections to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in human beings, including those involving public officials;
  - ensuring that the length of court proceedings in cases of trafficking of human beings is reasonable, in line with the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (related to Article 6, paragraph 1 of the ECHR) and the standards set by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) (paragraph 143);
6. take steps to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of trafficking, including by:
- ensuring that the collection of evidence about the harm the victim has suffered, including the financial gain from the exploitation of the victim, is part of the criminal investigations with a view to supporting compensation claims in court;
  - ensuring victims' right to claim compensation through civil proceedings regardless of the outcome of the criminal proceedings;
  - reviewing the Execution Code in order to remove the administrative costs for victims of trafficking to enforce compensation decisions made by the courts;
  - reviewing the legislative framework for state compensation by removing the limitations on covering the actual damage for the victim and revising the eligibility criteria with a view to making state compensation available to adult victims of forced labour and foreign victims who were present irregularly in the country at the time of the offence, ensuring that it is not conditional on failure to obtain compensation from the perpetrator through criminal and civil proceedings, and clarifying the meaning of Article 12, paragraph 3, of Law No. 137/2016 (paragraph 180);
7. take measures to ensure that victims of trafficking fully benefit from the right to obtain a residence permit under Section 42-1 of the Law on Aliens and amend this section to ensure that residence permits issued under it grant the right to work (paragraph 183).
- B. Bearing in mind GRETA's conclusions that some recommendations made repeatedly in preceding evaluation rounds have not been implemented or have been only partially implemented, requests the Moldovan authorities to take steps to implement the recommendations in points 1, 4 and 6 as a matter of priority;
- C. Recommends that the Moldovan authorities take measures to implement the other proposals for action listed in Appendix 2 of GRETA's fourth evaluation report;
- D. Requests the Moldovan Government to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to comply with this recommendation **by 20 June 2027**;
- E. Invites the Moldovan Government to continue the dialogue in progress with GRETA and to keep GRETA regularly informed of the measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.