



## NEWS RELEASE

March 21, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Moldova Delegation to Visit Minnesota to Study Programs for Men Who Batter**

*Initiative sponsored by U.S. Embassy in Moldova*

An official delegation from The Republic of Moldova will spend March 24-28 with The Advocates for Human Rights studying methods proven to prevent and respond to domestic abuse.

Focusing on learning best practices for developing programs for men who batter, the week's agenda is filled with workshops and training opportunities, including a trip to Duluth to meet with members of Duluth's Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, creator of The Duluth Model. The model is the leading, groundbreaking batterer intervention program and is emulated throughout the world.

The U.S. Department of State's Ukraine and Moldova program manager, foreign affairs officer Adriana Cosgriff, is joining the Moldovan delegation for its trip to Minnesota.

"Throughout their week in Minnesota, delegation members will study best practices for developing and facilitating a domestic violence aggressor program, as well as learn the importance of incorporating the aggressor program into a coordinated community response to domestic violence," said Beatriz Menanteau, staff attorney with The Advocates. "We will address the role of the various represented disciplines in creating and maintaining an effective aggressor program that both protects the victims and holds the offender accountable."

The delegation includes a judge, prosecutor, shelter worker, psychologist, a head of an aggressor's program, and a representative from Moldovan Ministry of Social Protection. Delegation members will take what they learn and adapt it for use in their country. The delegation's work in Minnesota is being sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Moldova.

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Chuck Derry, co-founder of The Gender Violence Institute, will co-facilitate the week's training. The Institute provides technical assistance and training for communities and organizations invested in effectively responding to and preventing sexual and domestic violence, including trafficking.

The Advocates has worked with partners in The Republic of Moldova to monitor the implementation of their domestic violence law, train stakeholders on effective implementation of the law, and advocate for changes to the law. After several fact-finding missions in 2012, The Advocates published "The Implementation of the Republic of Moldova's Domestic Violence Legislation: A Human Rights Report," a report analyzing domestic violence legislation and recommending policy and legal changes.

Referred to by the United Nations as the "go-to" resource for information on prevention of violence against women, The Advocates works in countries around the world to draft laws and policies to put an end to the violence inflicted on women and girls. Most recently, The Advocates participated in the 58th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March, where they presented a panel on monitoring implementation of domestic violence laws at an event held in connection with the session.

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**About The Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, MN**

For more than 30 years, The Advocates for Human Rights has promoted and protected human rights here at home and around the world. The non-profit organization, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, documents human rights abuses, advocates on behalf of individual victims, provides free legal representation to people seeking asylum, works to prevent violence against women and girls, spearheads public policy and legal change, educates about human rights issues, and provides training and technical assistance to address and prevent human rights violations.