

to have multilateral support and partnerships to which I personally invite and encourage all those in the country or abroad who are willing to cooperate and who consider they can support this effort of prevention and fight against the domestic violence phenomenon through initiatives, resources and competence.

In this context, we thank the UNFPA representative in Bucharest and his team for the help granted once again, by offering the English version of the fundamental legislation in the field of domestic violence for the information of the public, and also for setting an example of partnership with the Romanian Government and, especially, with the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, given our aspiration to turn the public policy in this field into a success model at the regional level.

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Minister
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Art.1. (1) The protection and support of the family, the development and strengthening of family solidarity, based on friendship, affection, and material and moral assistance between the family members, represent objectives of national interest.

(11) The prevention and fight against domestic violence are part of the integrated family protection and support policy and represent an important public health issue.

(2) The state takes actions in order to prevent and fight against domestic violence, in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code, articles 175, 176, 179 - 183, 189 - 191, 193, 194, 197, 198, 202, 205, 206, 211, 305 - 307, 309, 314 - 316, 318 and others thereof, of the Law no. 705/2001 concerning the national system of social assistance and other legal stipulations in the matter, as well as the present law.

Art.2. (1) In conformity with the present law, domestic violence represents any physical or verbal action deliberately perpetrated by a family member against another member of the same family, resulting in physical, psychological, sexual suffering or material loss.

(2) Preventing the woman from exercising her fundamental rights and liberties is also considered domestic violence.

Art.3. In conformity with the present law, a family member is:

- a) the husband;
- b) the near relation, as defined by the 149 article of the Penal Code.

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Art.4. Beneficiaries of the present law are also the individuals who established relationships similar to those between married couples, or between parent and child, proved on the basis of social investigation.

Art.5. The Ministries and the other specially central bodies of the public government, through their territorial structures, shall appoint the trained personnel to promptly bring to action the cases of domestic violence.

Art.6. (1) The authorities stipulated under article 5 shall ensure the continuous training and improvement of the persons appointed to identify the types of abuse and bring to justice the cases of domestic violence.

(2) The service of social rehabilitation and probation of offenders shall train specialized personnel - social workers and psychologists - capable to develop therapy and counselling programmes for aggressors. The outcomes of this programme implementation shall be submitted to the courts of justice, under law stipulations.

Art.7. (1) The local communities, through legal representatives, as well as the local government authorities, provide the conditions for consolidating the family basis, and for preventing the conflicts and domestic violence.

(2) In case domestic violence occurs, the local communities, through legal representatives, as well as the public government authorities shall provide the logistical, data and material support to the National Agency for Family Protection and the departments coordinated by it.

(3) The mayors and local councils shall cooperate with culture associations, nongovernmental organisations, as well as any other legal and natural persons involved in charity, providing the necessary support to achieve the objectives stipulated under paragraphs (1) and (2).

General provisions

(4) The nongovernmental organisations, as well as any other legal persons involved in charity, which testify to developing programmes of assistance for the victims of domestic violence, may benefit from state budget subsidies or, if the case may be, from the local budgets, under the law.

