

# Submission to the 62nd session of the Committee Against Torture in relation to the third periodic report of Republic of Moldova



EQUAL RIGHTS TRUST

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Republic of Moldova

October 2017

## Introduction

1. The Equal Rights Trust (the Trust) submits this parallel report to the 62nd session of the Committee Against Torture (the Committee) in advance of its consideration of the third periodic report submitted by the Republic of Moldova (Moldova) to representatives of the Committee Against Torture (the Committee).
2. The Trust exists to combat discrimination and promote equality as a fundamental human right and a basic principle of social justice. We focus on the complex relationship between different types of discrimination and inequality, and their relationship with other human rights, developing strategies for realising the principles of equality into practice.
3. Since 2010, the Trust has actively supported and assisted in Moldova in pursuit of this mission. In the context of this work, we have undertaken research to document patterns of discrimination in Moldova, published a comprehensive report on patterns of discrimination, provided training to civil society actors and undertaken advocacy and litigation. Together with civil society organisations and lawyers, we have been particularly focused on working to increase the protection of vulnerable groups in Moldova from discriminatory norms and ill-treatment. In the last year, we have supported litigation on behalf of victims of discriminatory norms and ill-treatment at the domestic, regional and international level.<sup>1</sup> In collaboration with our partners, the Moldovan human rights organisation, Proton-L20 Association.

## Discriminatory norms and ill-treatment

4. The purpose of this submission is to present relevant evidence from our litigation work in Moldova which is relevant to the Committee's assessment of Moldova's compliance with Articles 1, 2, 11, 15, 16 and 18 of the Convention. The evidence presented in this submission relates to instances of discriminatory norms (as defined under Article 1) and

<sup>1</sup> The Equal Rights Trust, *From Words to Deeds: Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Moldova* (June 2016), available at <http://www.equalrightstrust.org/entrdocs/entr%20from%20words%20to%20deeds%20in%20moldova.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See paragraphs 15 and 17–17 below.