Alternative report submitted to the 17th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Equal Rights Trust and Promo-LEX Association

Alternative report submitted to the 17th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to the initial report submitted by:

Republic of Moldova

February 2017

Statement of Interest

1. The Equal Rights Trust (the Trust) and Promo-LEX Association (Promo-LEX) jointly submit this alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Committee) commenting on the initial report submitted by the Republic of Moldova (Moldova).

2. The Equal Rights Trust is an independent international organization whose purpose is to combat discrimination and promote equality as a fundamental human right and a basic principle of social justice. Established as an advocacy organization, resource centre and think tank, it focuses on the complex relationship between different types of discrimination and inequality, developing strategies for translating the principles of equality into practice.

3. Promo-LEX Association is a non-governmental organization that aims to advance democracy in the Republic of Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region, by promoting and defending human rights, monitoring the democratic processes, and strengthening civil society through a strategic mix of legal action, advocacy, research and capacity building.

4. Together, our two organizations have been actively involved in promoting improved protection from discrimination in Moldova since 2013. During the project "Empowering civil society in Moldova and Transnistria to combat discrimination through documentation, litigation and advocacy", we worked in partnership to increase the capacity of civil society to combat discrimination in Moldova through documentation, litigation and advocacy. In the course of this project, our two organizations undertook research on patterns of discrimination and inequality in Moldova, including as it affects persons with disabilities, which culminated in the publication of the report *From Words to Deeds: Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Moldova* (the Report).[1]

5. The findings and conclusions of the Report inform this submission to the Committee. This submission focuses on the extent to which Moldova has met its obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention). Given the comprehensive nature of our Report, this submission does not

[1] The Report can be accessed here:
http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/Press%20Words%20to%20Deeds%20Addressing%20Discrimination%20and%20Inequality%20in%20Moldova_0.pdf