

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

MOLDOVA'S STRATEGY

2016-2019



Chisinau, 2016

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I. Introduction

The aim was to create a strategic document, which contains logically related key guidelines. This study provides a signpost, where we are going and what we want to achieve within the next four years, in order to avoid ad hoc actions planning.

The national strategy will also serve as a benchmark with respect to which we will be planning activities and monitoring progress, it will inspire us and keep on the road to effective actions on human rights, and will deepen our commitment to an intelligent and holistic approach to Human Rights change through Human Rights Education.

AI Moldova (AIMD) strategy for the years 2016-2019 shall focus on the Human Rights Education for right holders and will contribute on a *longer term to build a society where everyone knows and can claim their rights and an environment where Human Rights and Justice are enjoyed without discrimination.*

The strategic goals will be only achievable with the common effort of AIMD members and supporters and partners from state institutions.

II. Background

Amnesty International Moldova was born on [Human Rights Day](#), 10 December 1993, when a group of Moldovan law students received a letter from the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, which recognized them as the first initiative group of Amnesty International in Moldova.

More people joined the group, and 10 years later, in 2003, Amnesty International Moldova became a fully-fledged non-governmental organization. At first, its primary mission was to explain what human rights are to students of Law Departments at universities. The post-soviet culture gave little room for human rights concepts, whereas violations of personal freedom and integrity were widespread and commonly regarded as no big deal. Since then, Human Rights Education (HRE) has been one of the core activities of Amnesty International Moldova.

Amnesty International Moldova engaged in a number of global campaigns, most successful of them being ‘Stop Torture’ and ‘Stop Violence against Women’. Organization’s key activities also included the fight against discrimination and promotion of social, economic, and cultural rights, education for human rights in schools and among specialised groups, etc. Amnesty International Moldova was one of the advocates of a more liberal law on assemblies, passed in 2008.

Taking into account Moldova’s eligibility for submission of complaints to the [European Court of Human Rights](#), Amnesty International Moldova has been organizing capacity building trainings for practicing defense lawyers, who then use their newly-acquired skills to defend the rights of many people internationally as the domestic justice system often fails them. The project now expands to include other legal professionals involved in law-enforcement and the judiciary.

For several years Amnesty International Moldova has implemented the ‘Human Rights Education’ project, which aims at raising awareness of Human Rights among school students, as well as among teachers. Human Rights basics have been introduced in the school curricula as an optional subject. Amnesty International Moldova developed course materials and is organizing HRE trainings for school teachers. The organization promotes creation of Amnesty groups in schools for extracurricular activities for Human Rights.

The organization is governed democratically: the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members elects five its representatives to sit on the [Board](#); in turn, they designate an Executive Director, and the latter hires [staff members](#).

Being a movement of people, Amnesty International Moldova always welcomes voluntary work and initiative. Local groups of Amnesty International Moldova exist in many locations – anyone can become a member of the organization, as well as join any given local group.

II.I. About AI Moldova

Amnesty International Moldova was founded in 1993 and functioned as an initiative group of Amnesty International without staff and office. In 1994 the initiative group was recognized and in 1994. In 2003 it became a fully-fledged non-governmental organization. In period from its founding to 2007 AI Moldova had succeed to develop and grow as a structure, and in its visibility in Moldova as a whole. In 2007 AI Moldova was offered Amnesty Structure status by the IEC.

The organization shaped its activity in accordance with AI international priorities and campaigns and also showed professional contribution in solving local HR issues. For the past five the achievements of AIMD are as follows:

I. **EXTERNAL impact** (*Human Rights Education (HRE) and Legal Professionals for Human Rights (LPHR)*):

1) **HRE impact:**

2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreement with MoE;• 15 teachers trained to implement HRE.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HRE becomes part of National Curriculum;• 15 teachers trained to teach HRE course;• 150 students are beneficiaries of the HRE course.
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 teachers are implementing HRE activities;• HRFS visits;• Project proposal “Equality Starts with Education” approved by AI Norway.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HRE project “Equality Starts with Education” started;• Curriculum was revised, draft materials were developed and piloted in 21 schools for about 400 pupils;• Monthly monitoring of the piloting with HR experts.
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Editing of the set of educational materials;• Preparing for the National Curricula Council Meeting (the Committee that approves all the subject materials that are taught in schools);• HRE blog for students was developed.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of the set of educational materials at the MoE level;• Publishing of 150 sets (1 set = 1 Curricula+1Guide for teachers+15 Students books);• 60 teachers trained (2 summer-schools) to implement HRE;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 schools started implementing the revised HRE course using AIM materials (80 Collaboration Agreement signed); • Online discussion Platform for HRE teachers developed; • Students book is translated in Russian.
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2) LPHR impact:

2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 defense lawyers became aware of Amnesty Human Rights priority issues due to one 12 hours training; • 60 defense lawyers were informed of Amnesty Human Rights perspective on ECtHR, torture, ICC, fair trial due to 3 Lawyer's Clubs organized; • Collaboration Agreement with General Prosecutor's Office signed; • Collaboration Agreement with Ministry of Internal Affairs signed.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 defense lawyers became aware of national and international mechanism to fight torture and to implement ECtHR standards, due to one 12 hours training; • 360 defense lawyers were informed of different Human Rights standards on ECtHR, torture, international justice and fair trial as a result of 6 Lawyer's Clubs organized; • AIM becomes external HR expert for MoJ and Ombudsman Office. Two AIM proposals are accepted by MoJ.
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 defense lawyers became aware of national and international standards on anti-discrimination legislation at one 12 hours training course; • About 800 defense lawyers were informed of different Human Rights standards and laws on fighting against torture, international justice, criminal procedure, fair trial, fair criminal procedures investigation standards taught Lawyer's Clubs; • A group of 15 defense lawyers (AIM members) was created to promote strategic litigation lobby activities on fighting against torture and ill-treatment (OSF project, application approved); • 4 cases reveal criminal procedure gaps for police on working in criminal investigation of torture and other ill-treatment cases; • AIM participation in Prosecution Reform resulted in accepting several of our proposals for their strategic development.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 defense lawyers became aware of national and international standards on fighting against torture legislation during 5 strategic litigation meetings of the working group;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 860 defense lawyers were informed on different Human Rights standards and laws on fighting against torture, international justice, criminal procedure, fair trial, fair criminal procedures investigation standards taught Lawyer’s Clubs; • As a result of OSF strategic litigation project “Stop torture - combating torture and ill-treatment in Moldova” in one case HR were rehabilitated for one person at ECtHR level; • 30 new AIM members (defense lawyers) for Stop Torture campaign.
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In average 900 defense lawyers were informed on Human Rights standards and laws on fighting against torture, international justice, criminal procedure, fair trial, fair criminal procedures investigation standards taught Lawyer’s Clubs (2 hours of training for each month); • A group of 20 defense lawyers (AIM members) was created to promote HR strategic litigation; • 4 cases reveal criminal procedure gaps for police on working in criminal investigation on arrest condition (Soros Foundation project); • AIM participation in MoIA reform resulted in accepting several of our proposals for their strategic development.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In average 820 defense lawyers were informed on Human Rights issues regarding anti-torture mechanisms, international justice, criminal procedure, fair trial, fair criminal procedures investigation standards taught Lawyer’s Clubs (2 hours of training for each month); • As a result of 3 meetings of AIM strategic litigation lawyer’s group was amended one internal Regulation for police officers during arrest procedure (lobby and advocacy impact); • Human Rights legislation procedures explanation guideline for citizens is implemented daily by AIM staff members aiming to create HR friendly environment, in average more than 50 people were consulted.

II. **INTERNAL impact** (growth in members, activists and supporters), what caused the impact:

2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Mobilization and Organizational Development Coordinator hired; • 150 persons called and asked to confirm membership, renew or withdraw. <p>(150 members, 280 activists, 0 supporters)</p>
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<p>2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 10 communities and schools visited and informed about the existence of Amnesty and the opportunities to join; • 25 youth leaders from most regions of the country trained to become group coordinators, resulting in 12 active local Amnesty groups; • General public has access to Amnesty activities getting involved and expressing the desire to keep in touch with the organization. <p>(151 new members, 2989 activists, 0 supporters)</p>
<p>2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 new local, school university groups visited and informed about the benefits of becoming an Amnesty group, more than 100 new students involved; • 10 group leaders trained about the importance of ensuring the sustainability of school groups and the role of the leader in the process – Youth Leaders’ Panel established making the work at the local level easier and more efficient; • 10 people aware of the HR issues Amnesty works on willing to support; • 2000 students and teachers involved in the LWM activities. <p>(307 members, 2000 activists, 10 supporters)</p>
<p>2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 groups involved in the recruitment contest resulting in 82 new members of AIM; • 779 students and teachers became AIM supporters at the LWM and 2500 got actively involved; • First tries in taking fundraising at the local level ended with success; • 10 members begin to be involved in fully organizing actions; • 3 local and school groups visited and assisted in taking action at local level. <p>(562 members, 3000 activists, 779 supporters)</p>
<p>2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 schools involved in two editions of the recruitment contest bringing 150 new members to the organization; • 6 most active members from Chisinau trained and ready to organize actions themselves in the Regional Training for Russian speaking activists; • A team of 20 members able to organize a public action from the beginning; • 38 students and teachers in leadership roles taking care of their local groups and ensuring the highest efficiency in the work; • 7200 actions taken in the LWM, with about 1000 supporters and 3500 activists involved and aware of the HR problems in Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, China and Greece;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 students with official volunteer contracts signed; • 2 groups established a regional network of AI groups and organized few joint meetings discussing on HR issues. <p>(850 members, 3500 activists, 1020 supporters)</p>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 members ready and able to organize well public actions with little supervision; • 20 group leaders trained on participatory approaches and the importance of taking action and fundraising continuously, resulting in 20 groups with ensured sustainability; • More than 60 school groups involved in the recruitment contest bringing 500 new members; • More than 4000 students and teachers involved in the LWM signing letters, fundraising and recruiting new members. <p>(1500 members, 4000 activists, 1020 supporters)</p>

AIM Internal documents

Strategies	AIM strategy Activism strategy
Policies	Human resources policy Conflict management policy Social media policy Standards of Conduct policy Whistle blowing policy Data management policy
Internal regulations, contract, PAS	Individual contract+job description Individual work plan Internal regulation document Staff Handbook Board director protocol Board staff relations Board evaluation questionnaire
Principles	Principles of good partnership building with external stakeholders

Situation in Republic of Moldova

Republic of Moldova was born after the collapse of Soviet Union and declared its independence in 1991.

The constitution of the country provides a multiparty democracy with legislative and executive branches, as well as an independent judiciary and a clear separation of powers between them.

The number of population decreased dramatically in the last years, because of poor living conditions and currently constitutes around 2 000 000 population.

In November 2014 there were Parliament elections in Moldova. As a result, two “Pro-European” parties formed a coalition with the communist party to have the majority in the Parliament.

It took the Parliament 2 months and half to vote the Government, while in the meantime a deep financial crisis hit the Republic. The banking system is experiencing great difficulties from the beginning of 2015. 3 banks were robbed with one billion dollars. The results of this fraud are: a sharp increase in prices for products. AIM was as well significantly affected because of rate fluctuations. For 2 months (since December 2014 to February 2015) Moldovan currency depreciated by 12% in relationship to euro and 18% in relationship to US dollar. The year 2015 brought immense political uncertainty, 3 Governments were dismissed by the Parliament. One political party leader was arrested for corruption.

Russia is increasing its presence in Moldova. In spring its candidate won the elections in Gagauzia region.

The polls show that people are disappointed with current Parliament, Government and their politics. In the capital of Moldova, Chisinau are organized protests by a new civil platform “Dignity and Truth” and by pro Russian supporters. Both pro-european and pro-russian supporters have placed tents in the centre of the city.

Unfortunately the “Pro-European” parties demonstrated unethical leadership, showed support for corruption especially in judiciary and economical systems.

After the 1990–1992 [War of Transnistria](#), Moldova sought a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Transnistria region by working with Romania, Ukraine, and Russia, calling for international mediation, and co-operating with the OSCE and UN fact-finding and observer missions. The [foreign minister of Moldova, Andrei Stratan](#), repeatedly stated that the Russian troops stationed in the breakaway region were there against the will of the Moldovan government and called on them to leave "completely and unconditionally."^[66] In 2012, a [security zone incident](#) resulted in the death of a civilian, raising tensions with [Russia](#).^[67] The situation in Transnistria shows lasting instability and is a means of continuous blackmailing relationship with Russia.

Though, Republic of Moldova has a strong record of ratifying major international and regional human rights instruments and it is party to most of the core UN human rights treaties, it still fails when it comes to major human rights issues like torture, ill-treatment and impunity, fair trial, discrimination of minorities, implementation of laws and access to justice for vulnerable groups, freedom of assembly, social inclusion of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups, and freedom of expression (access to information from state organizations).

The society is split, and deeply influenced by pro-russian political movements. The troubled times in the region, war in Ukraine, Russian troops in Transnistrian region and continuous protest in Moldova, increase the necessity to review the vision of AI Moldova.

The PEST and SWOT analysis describe in short the up-to-date situation in several areas of life in Moldova.

SWOT 2016

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good reputation and brand (independent, credible, impartial, visible). • Good internal regulations, functioning policies, working staff evaluation mechanism, Board-Director Handbook. • Professional team. • Experienced and HR centered Board. • Diversity in membership. • Good financial track record for last 5 years. • The only HR organization promoting accessible HRE for all. • civiCRM – new means of communication with AIM members. • Online-discussion Platform for HRE teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-viable fundraising strategy. • Full financial dependence on RAM. • Insufficient staffing considering regional and internal political instability. • Limited financial resources to achieve full structure potential (growth, campaigns, HRE).
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International backing. • Partnership agreements (MoE, MoJ, General Prosecutor’s Office). • Increasing crisis situation affecting HR issues in the country. • Seen as a continuous HR resource for media and public opinion. • No other membership based HR NGOs in Moldova. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hostile anti human rights forces. • HR unfriendly political parties. • Strong orthodox church, manipulating masses. • Anti human rights political populism. • Public institutions not fully open to human rights agenda. • Intentionally delayed HR laws by the Parliament. • Highly corrupt justice system (politically and financially). • Split society because of politicians interest in EU and Russia. • Moldova as a low priority

	within IS.
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PEST 2016

Economic analysis	Political analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty affecting the members' ability to pay membership fee. • Continuous and growing emigration. • High unemployment. • Economic crisis. • Weak banking system. • High inflation. • Unstable exchange rate. • Unattractive economic environment for investment (national and international). • High corruption in state structures, favoring nepotism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low HR priorities in political agenda. • Low HR understanding, training and approach within Public Institutions. • Increasing hate speech on behalf of political leaders. • High legal functions held by political leaders' relatives. • Political instability growing.
Social analysis	Technological analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing massive protests and big chaos in society caused by corruption and poverty. • Mass media belonging to political leaders and manipulation public opinion. • Fundamental misunderstanding of HR across Moldovan society and low awareness of HR need. • Lack of tolerance culture. • Youth looking for opportunities outside the country. • In 2010 population of RM was 3,5 million, nowadays is less than 2 million. • 80% of population has debts for utilities payment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of IT within Moldova. • Internet high speed and accessibility. • Online payment system was suspended because of poverty and banking crisis.

Human Rights situation in Republic of Moldova

Since 2009, the Country is ruled by so declared “Pro-European” coalitions, formed mainly by Democratic Party, Liberal Party and Liberal Democrat Party. “Pro-European” parties stated that the main goal of the Governance is European integration and implementation of democratic reforms. For that, Moldova committed to ratify and apply international human rights standards.

Republic of Moldova has a strong record of ratifying major international and regional human rights instruments. It is party to most of the core UN human rights treaties, the exception being the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED). It has signed and ratified European Convention on Human Rights, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking of Human Beings. One of the latest human rights instruments ratified by Republic of Moldova is UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In spite of this, Republic of Moldova still fails when it comes to major human rights issues like torture, ill-treatment and impunity, fair trial, discrimination, implementation of laws and access to justice for vulnerable groups, freedom of assembly, social inclusion of persons with disabilities and freedom of expression. Failure in ensuring respect for human rights is even more evident in recent years, with political interference and corruption phenomenon in the judiciary system. Latest international surveys show that Moldova has climbed into the top states in corruption Chapter corruption in the judiciary system.

The UN bodies and EU structures have repeatedly recommended Moldovan authorities to reform judicial and prosecution systems, ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Family members, the Optional Protocol of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, The Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Protocol 12 of the European Convention for Human Rights.

In 2012, after a huge pressure from the civil society and international organizations, the Parliament adopted the Anti-Discrimination Law, named Law for Ensuring Equality and created the Council for Prevention and Elimination of

Discrimination and Ensuring Equality. Even though the legislation was elaborated, it still doesn't provide equal opportunities for the LGBT persons. The Council already has a quiet large jurisprudence but there are still many issues to address, for example Council can't sanction those who discriminate and discrimination is more than ever an actual problem; moreover, courts don't apply in a uniform manner the legal framework on non-discrimination, some of the decisions issued by the Council are canceled causing legal instability.

Republic of Moldova is one of the countries that still has a legislation which admits deprivation of legal capacity and isolation of mentally ill persons from the society. Even though Moldova ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, authorities still oppose to apply its provisions. Thousands of people are deprived of liberty and placed in mental health facilities where they are physically and sexually abused, denied access to justice and adequate medical and social assistance, and lack access to have their imprisonment reviewed on indeterminate medical reasons.

According to the World Economic Forum, Moldova¹ has the most corrupt judicial system in world, being placed 144 from 144 countries. The problem of corruption is considered the most stringent issue to address, especially after the famous one billion dollars theft, accusations of nepotism and corruption to the political class and many numerous protests against the Government and some of the political leaders. Meanwhile Moldova is trying to fight corruption and realize a judicial reform, access to justice remains the most violated right and corruption is the most important cause of that. And the political class understands the urgent need to reform state institutions in order to ensure full respect for human rights and to combat corruption, unfortunately, reforms and measures taken, however, are insignificant in terms of changing vicious practices and punish those responsible for the breach of national and international law. These cause distrust and civic instability in the society.

Even though national law framework establishes equal opportunities for every person, in practice, persons with disabilities, Roma ethnics, migrants and many other vulnerable groups face huge abuses regarding employment, education, medical and social care. This mainly happens because legal provisions are ignored or not enforced in real life.

¹ World Economic Forum - Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015,
<http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-competitiveness-report-2014-2015>

Torture and ill treatments continues to be a top issue in Moldova. Every year, European Court for Human Rights rules decisions against Republic of Moldova regarding different aspects of torture. The notorious events of April 7, 2009 when hundreds of persons were arrested and abused after massive protests against the communist party were not investigated efficiently. This confirms the serious problems that Moldova has in investigating and fighting impunity for torture and ill treatments phenomenon. Important changes were introduced in the criminal procedure after the events of 2009 to ensure greater protection to victims of torture and ill-treatment and to ensure the rapid examination of this type of cases, because the practice again demonstrated the existence of gaps on effective and operative investigation on behalf of prosecution, but also because those responsible for causing the events of April 2009 were not and are not punished.

Another issue regards freedom of thought, conscience and religion as most of the persons are Orthodox Christians. Many Non-governmental organizations and Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Beliefs reported about violence, offences, intimidations, vandalism, aggressive manifestations and other abuses committed by followers of Christian Orthodox Church. Another problem refers to the strong relationship of the Orthodox Church with the State which brings up different abuses, unequal treatment of other religious cults and unjustified favoring of the Orthodox Church.

Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova:

The so-called "Transnistria" or "Moldovan Republic of Transnistrian" (MRT) is most often characterized as a post-soviet zone of frozen conflict, located in Republic of Moldova and bordering Ukraine. Human Rights is a very sensitive topic in disputed zones and Transnistria is not an exception. The local "power", which is not recognized as an independent state by the international community, cannot ensure guarantees and effective protection for people living in the region.

This region is the only place in Europe (except Belarus) whose legislation considers death penalty a means of punishment. In comparison with Belarus, Transnistria is not recognized internationally and human rights situation cannot be effectively monitored and eventual abuses cannot be punished in accordance with international standards.

Local legislation does not criminalize torture at all and the level of corruption, abuses and impunity cannot be measured. Many Non-Governmental

organizations as well as the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Mr. Manfred Nowak reported about the tendency for torture and ill treatments.

The international organization “Freedom House” confirms in its report (*Freedom in the world 2013, Democratic Breakthroughs in the Balance*) that the self-proclaimed “authorities” severely restricted the right to freedom of assembly and freedom of association. In fact, the situation is so severe that in 2013 they qualified Transnistria region as NOT FREE, with a negative scoring for protection of civil and political rights.

Because of the war in Ukraine taking place within a few kilometres of distance from Moldavian borders (and the frozen conflict in Transnistria) and the presence of Russian army in the region, Moldova is caught in a very vulnerable situation being at risk of armed conflicts any time.

We conclude that the human rights situation in Moldova is at a crossroads between initiated reforms (efficient and non-efficient), on the EU insistence, between the division of the political class in ensuring their personal group interests and their financial ones to the detriment of the citizen’s interest, between judiciary system that is becoming less independent in the face of politics, and between geopolitical domain at the borders of Moldova. (Transnistria, Ukraine, Russia).

III. Vision and Mission

Amnesty is positioning itself as a truly international people's voice for justice, making a difference on the ground where it matters most. The strategic goals for 2016-2019 are designed to defend human rights for all. To achieve this AI voted for 5 goals at ICM:

- Goal 1– reclaiming freedoms
- Goal 2 – securing equal rights for all
- Goal 3 – responding to crises
- Goal 4 – ensuring accountability
- Goal 5 – maximizing our resources and engagement

The goal 1 reclaiming freedoms suggests that we must intensify our efforts to turn the tide in favor of fairness and justice as the public discourse becomes more toxic, demonizing the most vulnerable. AI Moldova by reviewing its vision will evolve in HRE area by empowering people and communities with knowledge about human rights and working with them to build a society that claims its rights and hold authorities accountable through access to justice.

Vision of Amnesty International Moldova

- Amnesty International Moldova is an acknowledged Excellence Centre in the area of Human Rights Education committed to provide long-term impact in society;
- Access to Human Rights Education is ensured through government policy;
- Human rights holders and defenders are empowered with knowledge in all stages of pre-university education with the contribution of AIM;
- Higher Education Institutions provide HRE support, based on AIM curricula, to all participants in the study process;
- AIM is perceived and recognized locally as the HR pillar for enabling all people to be in full knowledge of their rights and actions.

Mission of Amnesty International Moldova

The mission of Amnesty International Moldova (AI Moldova) is to prevent and reduce HR violations by empowering the rights holders with knowledge and skills to defend human rights.

Amnesty International Moldova strategy 2016-2019 has two major development directions (mission):

- 1. Increasing Human Rights understanding in society;*
- 2. Increasing and expanding cooperation with all organization stakeholders.*

STRATEGIS OBJECTIVES 2016-2019

I.Human Rights Education.

Principal focus – students, teachers, school community.

Secondary focus – right holders.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Amnesty International Moldova believes that **implementing human rights education (HRE) in schools**, in both formal and non-formal settings, is fundamental for addressing the causes of human rights violations, preventing human rights abuses, combating discrimination, promoting equality, and enhancing people's participation in democratic decision-making processes. By building a culture of acceptance and respect for diversity and respecting the rights of all groups in the society, we look at the **young people, teachers and education institutions** as very strong allies when it is necessary to urgently respond to HR situations. We attempt to use HRE to increase public understanding of human rights issues and access to human rights as an essential part of the solution. HRE in schools will contribute to the capacity of youth to advocate for human rights and ultimately contribute to the enhancing of the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our HRE strategic goal goes beyond awareness of rights to ensure understanding of how human rights can improve lives. HRE can engage young people in action for solidarity and to ultimately bring about change.

In order to achieve the goal, AIM provides young people and their teachers / i.e. schools/ with HRE content and methodology, that capture the imagination and enthusiasm of both - young people and their teachers.

Current situation:

- In 2015 Ministry of Education and the National Curriculum Council approved the revised curriculum for Human Rights Education optional subject, as well as course materials - Students' book and Teachers Guide.
- In 2013-2015 AIM trained 70 teachers to teach HRE optional subject
- In 2015 AIM printed 150 HRE sets.
- In 2015-2016 school year, 100 schools received HRE sets, containing 15 Students' Books and 1 Teachers Guide.
- In 2015-2016 school year about 2000 pupils started attending the HRE optional course.

Prospects:

As an Excellence Centre in HRE AIM intends to:

- Promote interactive HRE curriculum and educational materials/didactic set for young people in more schools of Moldova. We will measure this by tracking the openness of schools to mainstream the HRE curriculum within their programs. As well, each school implementing HRE is going to sign a collaboration Agreement with AIM. As a result, each year the number of the schools and students attending HRE optional course will be increased. Schools implementing HRE are also supposed to participate in other AIM activities, Letter Writing Marathon, campaigns, public actions etc.
- Develop the HRE curricula and materials for primary and lyceum stages / the current curricula addresses only two grades from gymnasium stage/. AIM will lobby the Ministry of Education to approve the new materials and the curriculum. New curricula and materials will be widely disseminated in schools, NGOs, youth clubs and so to create awareness on the issue.
- Promote the idea of incorporation of human rights education into obligatory subjects. It is both challenging and exciting to find HR issues being raised in the context of lessons on History, History, Maths, Geography, French, Religion etc. AIM will use the existing methodology and materials, which will be disseminated through AIM platforms and trainings.
- Continue implementing the Human Rights friendly Schools project, including more and more schools. As it is not only the formal curriculum that human rights have a place in school. Human Rights values can provide a framework to help schools develop an ethos which respects the right of all, and responds positively to the responsibilities this brings.
- Train teachers to implement efficiently HRE, set AIM groups, facilitate HRE activities in formal and non formal settings etc.
- Lobby the pedagogical universities and teacher training centers to integrate HRE modules in their curricula.
- Train groups of ‘multipliers’ who will contribute towards raising public awareness of human rights and the need for human rights to become a benchmark for the achievement of the respect for human dignity.

- Maintain the HRE blog for students and AIM HRE discussion platform for teachers.
- Keep engaging and educating the right holders about their rights and the ways in which they can claim them.
- Build networks and solidarity amongst young people, educationists, right holders and human rights activist to jointly combat the issue of discrimination and lobby against it
- More schools involved in recruitment contest for bringing new members, activists and supporters/fundraisers to the organization.
- More students in targeted schools are taking actions for human rights.

On a long term AIM can become a regional expertise center in HRE. AIM can share materials produced for schools – EDO curricula and didactic sets, which can be used or adapted by other sections to local context. AIM can organize EDO training sessions for teachers and students.

II. Capacity building in the area of Human Rights for all Legal Professionals

Principal focus: defence lawyers, prosecutors, police officers.

Secondary focus: judges, para-jurists, right holders as beneficiaries of the legal system of Republic of Moldova

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Legal Professionals for Human Rights program (LPHR) was created in 2011 on a basis of the oldest project in AIM - "Lawyers for Human Rights", primarily designed for gathering human rights activists among defence lawyers in a group of AIM supporters, followers and members. The program evolved in a group of human rights trainers for jurists, linked in a professional network of human rights defenders and lawyers "AILawyer", as a network web-platform of more than 600 legal-professionals, maintained by AIM till nowadays. **Amnesty International believes that Legal Professionals are an important part when taking injustice personally** and combining efforts to promote HR and to protect people equally from all kinds of injustice.

The general objective of the program is to create a common ground for the legal professionals where Human Rights will be the only appropriate mechanism and universal tool in operating, in leading independent investigations on non-discrimination procedures, anti-torture standards, criminal procedure and criminal law modern standards, strategic litigation and AI international justice campaigns.

In the last four years the Program extended its activity in the following directions:

- 1) Human rights capacity building for defence lawyers on a basis of "AILawyer" virtual network known as a discussion platform for lawyers and other legal professionals and Lawyers' Clubs - monthly workshops on HR violations, ECtHR standards, ECHR; a platform to help Amnesty grow in members and especially in supporters.
- 2) Strategic litigation activities/cases against torture, ill-treatment and police abuse on arrest conditions. The two projects with a total number of seven cases were defended in front of national courts and one in front of ECtHR, in order to challenge the gaps of the local legislation and to make necessary amendments in the procedural criminal code as to apply internationally recognized human rights standards.
- 3) A platform for prosecutors, police-officers and defence lawyers in order to have common position on international HR standards and a solid lobby group for upgrading the national.

Current situation

- In average 820 defense lawyers were informed on Human Rights issues regarding anti-torture mechanisms, international justice, criminal procedure, fair trial, fair criminal procedures investigation standards taught Lawyer's Clubs (2 hours of training for each month);
- As a result of 3 meetings of AIM strategic litigation lawyer's group was amended one internal Regulation for police officers during arrest procedure (lobby and advocacy impact);
- Human Rights legislation procedures are explained to right holders; in average more than 50 people were consulted.

Prospects:

- a) To create a platform for quarterly meetings of legal-professionals in order to tackle the gaps of the national criminal procedure and to propose amendments in order to adjust the local legislation to the international HR standards.

- b) To maintain the monthly capacity building workshops of the defence lawyers in human rights area through Lawyers' Clubs to ensure that HR violations are perceived and understood correctly by legal professionals when helping the right holders.
- c) To transform AIM law-professionals capacity building platform into a permanent HR source for AIM supporters, members and activists among defence lawyers and legal professionals: **30-80** new members each year among law-professionals.
- d) To cover lobby, advocacy and strategic litigation activities according to the latest AI campaigns on international justice, policing and human rights defence in the region.
- e) To become on a longer term national/regional HR capacity building centre for legal-professionals and to enlarge the cooperation with Council for Preventing and Combating Discrimination and Ombudsman Office.

Growth, activism, campaigns

Principal focus: activists among youth

Secondary focus: members among teachers, students and legal professionals

Amnesty International Moldova is well known for its impeccable reputation. The added value of the organization is the two programs: Human Rights Education and Legal Professionals for Human Rights. New members, activists and supporters will be attracted to AIM mainly due to these programs. The Activism, Growth and Campaigns component aims at creating a common action space for the HRE and LPHR programs to promote Amnesty campaigns more widely and efficiently. Also, we shall focus on growth in funds from members and supporters, but with relatively limited expectations from this area due to specific socio-economic and philanthropic environment of Moldova. The accent will be also put on the sustainability of growth in number of members, activists and supporters, but the main focus will be campaigns and the positive human rights change.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

Activists and members are informed and encouraged to participate at different levels and feel empowered to take action for Amnesty campaigns. To ensure sustainability of the membership, activists and supporters base and also to increase the amount of funds raised and people joining the movement.

Prospects:

Activism

- To organize lawyers, teachers and students in groups according to the geographical and thematic criteria and communicate quicker and more efficiently;
- To encourage teachers, pupils, students and lawyers to join actions, and empower them to take the initiative in acting and claiming their rights;
- To promote meaningful activist and member participation and representation at different levels of AIM work;
- To create a national network of human rights role models among young people, teachers and lawyers based on AIM members and raise awareness about the importance of the human rights culture in all communities.

Campaigns

- To keep all members, activists and supporters updated with the latest campaigns, trends and actions;
- To build the capacity of all AIM members in taking the initiative and organizing AI public actions at the local level in the framework of existing Amnesty campaigns;
- To create a competitive spirit among school and local groups and encourage them to act for Amnesty related campaigns, raise awareness and promote human rights;
- To make Amnesty international and regional campaigns more popular among students, teachers and lawyers and encourage solidarity, mass mobilization for priority actions;
- To set a network / tool for quick reaction for UAs and train interested volunteers on writing, posting and promoting petitions.

Growth

- To increase the number of members, activists and supporters in order to make greater HR impact;
- To ensure the transfer of activists to supporters and members in order to have a sustainable growth.

Campaigns

Goal 1 – Reclaiming Freedoms

- Russia: Reclaiming freedoms, supporting HRDs;
- Turkey: Freedom of Expression;
- Eurasia: Defending Fundamental Freedoms.

Goal 2 - Securing Equal Rights for All

- Discrimination Against LGBTI in ECA (gender and identity based discrimination);
- Hate Crimes ECA (gender and identity based discrimination);
- Combat discrimination of Roma in Europe (gender and identity based discrimination);

Goal 4 - Ensuring accountability

- Turkey: Torture and Impunity (Criminal Justice);
- Fair trials in Russia (Criminal Justice);
- Eurasia: Access to Remedies for Torture Victims;
- Death penalty ...

Goal 5 – Maximizing our resources and engagement

- Active Participation of Human Rights Defenders, Rights Holders, Partners and Activists;
- Youth Engagement, Participation, Protection and Activism.

Write for Rights

Goal 2 – Securing Equal Rights for All (Gender and Identity Based Discrimination);

Goal 4 – Ensuring accountability (Criminal Justice: Stop Torture).

Local campaigns:

- Stop Torture: Impunity and solidarity with victims;
- Discrimination.

V.I. Growth – increasing membership, activists and supporters base

GOAL:
To increase sustainably of the membership, activists and supporters base
a) To grow in the number of members in order to strengthen membership base and make greater HR impacts;
b) To grow in the number of activists and supporters to strengthen activism and campaigning and raising an organizational profile.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:				
Membership				
AIM in numbers	2016	2017	2018	2019
Members (+20%)	1000	1200	1440	1728
Activists (+500)	4500	5000	5500	6000
Supporters (+20%)	1200	1440	1728	2073
AIM Groups (+10)	50	60	70	80

AIM member composition should reflect the diversity of the population of Moldova and include people from vulnerable and minority groups. To assess progress there will be collected non-specific data, disaggregated by a range of criteria, for diversity reasons, including at least the following: gender, age, ethnicity, language, region of residence, special needs.

DEFINITIONS:	
Members	As defined in the statute, these are the persons: - over 14 years; - that filled the application form; - paid the membership fee on time on a yearly base; They have the right to actively participate in all AIM activities and to vote in the General Assembly of AIM.
Supporters	Not listed as AIM members but donated at least once for the organization.

Activists	Individuals that took action at least once. This category also includes online activists and represents the potential for growth in number of supporters and members.
AIM Friends	Persons that like AIM but didn't take action yet. Usually these are friends and followers on popular social networks.
AIM Group	A team of at least 5 persons who are members. A team consists of at least 4 team members and 1 leader/coordinator, who take action in framework of Amnesty campaigns and keep in contact with AIM office.

Dividing members by age group and allow paying a low versus high membership fee:

- *20 years old – 24 MDL – 1,2 USD*
- *21- 30 years old – 120 MDL – 6 USD*
- *30 years old – 150 MDL – 7,5 USD*

V.II. Enhancing partnerships in order to grow visibility and lobbying capacity

The overall objective for maintaining partnerships is achieving greater human rights impact through raising awareness of human rights among the general public and potential members of AI Moldova by means of HRE in education environment (school institutions) and capacity building for legal professionals, as well as exert influence through lobby and advocacy campaigns on Government policies and keep effective coordination with common-interest organizations and state institutions.

Goals	Stakeholders
1. To keep increasing Human Rights literacy – Human Rights Education shall be provided to students and teachers enrolled in public education as they are most likely to become agents of change and members of AI Moldova.	Secondary schools, lyceums, vocational schools, colleges, universities, Ministry of Education.
2. To keep lobbying & advocacy and interacting with organizations which share AI values. The actions shall allow these partnerships press for change in Government policies more effectively.	Local NGOs, inter-governmental organizations, policy-makers in Government and Parliament.
3. To maintain already existing media profile and increase media impact of AI Moldova – constant interaction with the media shall allow AI Moldova to become highly visible in public life and make it one of the primary	The media, professional associations

sources of expertise in the field of human rights, as well as an important opinion-maker	
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IV. Key directions

Organizational development 2016-2019 is based on the following key directions:

- AIM is an acknowledged Excellence Centre in the area of Human Rights Education committed to provide long-term impact in Moldovan society;
- Human Rights understanding in society is increased with the active involvement of AIM and is ensured through Government policy;
- AIM is perceived and recognized locally and regionally as the HR Expertise centre with long term impact, with intellectual, didactic and practical support covering all the stages of pre-university education (materials available in the languages of the countries who used to be part of USSR);
- Partnerships are enhanced and extended in order to grow visibility and lobbying capacity.