

## Doina Ioana Străisteanu

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### Significant Legal Experience:

#### Human Rights Lawyer and Expert

Providing legal advice and representation in domestic law procedures, as well as within the procedures of the European Court of Human Rights, special procedures of the UN Committees and Council of Europe. Representation of victims of human rights violations, in particular individuals that claim to have had their civil and political rights violated (unlawful deprivation of life, ill-treatment, unlawful detention, unfair trial, discrimination and others). Extensive experience in pro bono legal work and representation of various social groups before domestic courts and the European Court for Human Rights on issues of security and rule of law and equality. Among most prominent cases from Court's jurisprudence that had my input are the case of *Bazorkina v Russia*, judgment of 8 December 2005 on disappearance and detention incommunicado in the context of Russian-Chechen conflict of 1998-2008; the case of *Corsacov v Moldova* on recognition of falakka practice as torture, the case of *Dunaev v Russia* on issues of civil rights protection after the Chechen conflict, *Gutu v Moldova* on using administrative proceedings to curtail criminal investigation; the case of Moldovan School in Transnistria, *Catan and 27 Others v Moldova and Russia*, on prohibition of discriminatory ill-treatment and access to education; the case of *Colibaba v Moldova*, on the infringement of the right to individual petition; the case of *D. and N. v Moldova*, on States' positive obligations to ensure witness' protection in sensitive cases; the case of *I.G. v Moldova*, on gender discrimination of victims of rape, failure of criminal justice system to protect women from sexual violence by demanding evidence of corroborative evidence of physical resistance and past sexual history evidence; the case of *Nikiforova v Russia*, on States' positive obligation to protect women against sexual harassment at the workplace; the case of *Sabanchiyeva and Others v Russia*, on prohibition of discrimination on the basis of the applicants religious beliefs and unlawful interference with the applicants' private life by refusing to return the bodies of Chechen combatant to families for burial; the case of *Maskhadova and Others v Russia* on unlawful deprivation of life, ineffective investigation into the circumstances of his death, non return of his body to the family for burial, discrimination on religious ground; the case of *A.B.C. v Ireland*, on refusal to perform abortion at woman's request that put her life and health at an increased, unnecessary risk; the case of *Shioshvili v Russia and Georgia* on ill-treatment of a pregnant woman and her 4 minor children during mass deportation of Georgian nationals from Russia in autumn 2006; the case of *Gegidze v Georgia*, Communication pending before the UN CEDAW Committee on state's due diligence obligations to protect women from violence of their intimate partner and recognition of domestic violence as torture; the case of *Amirov and Amirova v Russia*, Communication no. 1447/2006 lodged before the UN Human Rights Committee, view issued on 22 April 2009 on unlawful deprivation of life of a pregnant woman and States' failure to conduct an effective investigation; the case of *B.S. v Spain* on intersectional discrimination: gender and race and ill-treatment; the case of *Opuz v Turkey* on State's due diligence to protect women from domestic violence which constitute a form of discrimination; the case of *Rantsev v Cyprus and Russia* on States positive obligations to prevent trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, the case is pending; the case *Baysakov v Ukraine* on prohibition of extradition of the individual facing flagrant denial of justice in the Receiving State; recently cases of *Mudric v Moldova* no. 74839/10 judgement of 16 June 2013 and *Eremia v Moldova* no. 3564/11 judgement of 28 May 2013 on domestic violence issues (non-execution of protection orders, state's complicity to violence, gender based violence). Numerous new applications have been lodged on discrimination based on disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic violence, fair trial and protection of the right to property.

In December 2011, for the UNDP Moldova Office, **produced the feasibility study on Moldovan legal framework for the prevention of torture and all forms of ill-treatment and qualitative forensic services to secure conviction**. The Report evaluated the performances of the Moldovan Forensic Institute and outlined long and short term recommendations to improve the institutional capacity to deliver qualitative results in forensics.

In December 2014, for Moldovan Coalition for Non-discrimination, **produced the Guideline for Legal Practitioners on Equality and Non-discrimination**, advising on Moldovan Equality case-law and the domestic legal framework on non-discrimination.

In November 2015, for the Council of Europe Gender Equality Programme, **produced the Report of the Bern Conference 15 – 16 October 2015 on Access to Justice for Women** and **produced the National Study for the Council of Europe on "Barriers, remedies and good practices for women's access to justice in the Republic of Moldova"**, addressing issues of violence, equality, health, social care and access to services, judicial stereotyping, prepared in the framework of the project "Improving women's access to justice in five Eastern Partnership countries".

In July 2017, for UNFPA Moldova Country Office **provided legal technical expertise on the draft Health Code** and relevant national healthcare normative acts in force' provisions from the perspective of their compliance with the international human rights principles on sexual and reproductive health and rights and **produced the Draft Law with amendments to the draft Health Code**.

In August 2018, for Council of Europe - Partnership for Good Governance - PGG Project on Women's Access to Justice in the Eastern Partnership Countries **developed and co-authored the HELP Course: Equal Access to Justice for Women for Legal Professionals**.

In December 2020, for LaStrada Moldova, produced and co-authored a national research on judicial practice and response to sexual violence cases (Official title "RĂSPUNSUL SISTEMIC LA CAZURILE DE VIOLENȚĂ SEXUALĂ. Evaluarea aprofundată a practicilor și metodologiei aplicate de profesioniști în raioanele Cahul și Ungheni la pornirea și examinarea infracțiunilor cu caracter sexual")

In January 2021, for the Moldovan Institute for Human Rights, produced and co-authored the REPORT on the practical exercising of sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls, residents of the Temporary Placement Centers for Persons with Disabilities (adults) and of the Psychiatric Hospitals of the Republic of Moldova.

In June 2021, for the Moldovan Coalition for Inclusion and Non-discrimination produced and co-authored the ALTERNATIVE SUBMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER BY THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA.

**On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011 had received an award from the United Nations Country Team in Moldova for outstanding achievements in human rights strategic litigation.**

**On 09<sup>th</sup> September 2018 had received an award from the Moldovan Bar Association for Excellence in Human Rights Defence, Legislative Initiative and Innovative Approaches used in Litigation.**

**Member, Moldovan Equality Council (public institution),** Chișinău, Moldova (7 March 2013 – 7 March 2018)

Acting on the basis of the Law no 121 on ensuring equality and Law no 298 on the Moldova Equality Council Regulation, both approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. It is not a public office position, but a volunteer expert selected and appointed by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

**Pilot Ombudsperson for Psychiatric Institutions (public institution)**, Chişinău, Moldova (March 2012 – June 2014)

Ensured (along with institution administration) that information about the ombudsperson service is visible and accessible in all wards and departments of the institution.

Undertaken periodic check that all institution staff ensured full and unlimited access of users to filing complaints or addressing the ombudsperson.

Verified the complaint records resolved at the ward level, and/or overtaking appeals to these resolutions. Processed users complaints, on an informal basis by such means as: listening, providing and receiving information, identifying and reframing issues, developing a range of responsible options, and engaging in informal third-party intervention. When possible, helped people develop new ways to solve problems themselves.

Pursued resolution of concerns and looks into procedural irregularities and/or broader systemic problems when appropriate.

Produced periodic reports (one for first 6 months and than one for every year) in which I have identified trends, issues and concerns about policies and procedures, including potential future issues and concerns, without breaching confidentiality or anonymity, and provided recommendations for responsibly addressing them.

I brought significant cases to the courts or to other relevant institutions, when it was not resolved informally or the issue was systemic and the relevant recommendations that I have put forward were ignored or ineffectively implemented.

I had followed-up on the complaints being resolved and on the systemic changes as corrective and preventive actions.

Actively acted in wards, at admissions, especially at involuntary or compulsory confinement, observed and ensured protection of the rights of residents and users of the psychiatry institutions, etc.

Checked that ongoing clinical studies involving patients are approved by relevant ethics committees and followed the legal and regulatory requirements in the field. As the Ombudsperson I had observed and was entitled to independently identify human rights issues.

These issues were included in the my reports brought to the attention of the policy and lawmakers.

**Human Rights Lawyer and Expert, founding partner of Lawyer Office “Straisteanu Doina Ioana”**, Chisinau Moldova

Provides legal aid and representation of victims in cases related to issues of domestic violence, hate crime, discriminatory ill-treatment, malpractice, reproductive rights, non-discrimination and equality, disability and other. Partners with Human Rights NGOs in Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Armenia in developing thematic legal strategies and conduct researches on various human rights and legal issues. Currently litigates first test cases on gender equality, on race discrimination, on hate crime (before domestic courts) and domestic violence (before the European Court).

Currently has multiple strategic cases on non-discrimination and several judicial precedents with regard to sexism, gender discrimination, reproductive health care for women with disabilities, hate speech, LGBT rights, mental health law and the rights of patients on psychiatric institutions and many others.

**Lawyer, Europe Program INTERIGHTS**, London, United Kingdom (3 January 2007 – 16 October 2009)

Provided legal advice and assistance to lawyers and NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union States on relevant international and comparative law standards on issues of Violence against Women and Security and Rule of Law. Have assisted applicants and their representatives before the regional courts in strategically significant cases and submitted briefs of *amicus curiae* to international and regional courts. Have designed, planed and delivered capacity building workshops (among which on Litigating Cases of Human Trafficking before the European Court, Arbitrary Detention and Ill-treatment; States Positive Obligations for Private Parties violating human rights; Strategic Litigation of Cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment and Human Trafficking, Diplomatic Assurances and Non-Refoulement). Have provided expertise at internal and external training workshops on relevant international and comparative law and prepared legal information on relevant human rights issues through publications, the worldwide web and other means to a variety of audiences.

Have also acted as **Trade Union representative** for INTERIGHTS staff members. Have consulted staff members on issues related to their employment agreement (notice period, maternity leave, salary scale, appraisals, etc), provided feedback to the management on issues directly affecting staff members (promotion criteria, award of cost of living percent to the salary, changes to the job descriptions, etc.) and took part in Staffing Committee to voice the views of staff members on issues that concern their welfare.

**Legal Director, Dutch NGO “Stichting Russian Justice Initiative”**, Moscow, Russia (4 April 2005 – 29 December 2006)

Have developed litigation strategies for cases lodged before the European Court for Human Rights (which includes meeting with applicants, building a case file of evidence, testimonies, witness statements, etc; submitting inquires and appeals to Russian domestic bodies in order to exhaust domestic remedies). Managed an independent caseload of approximately 120 cases lodged before the European Court of Human Rights regarding human rights violations in Chechnya; Drafted applications, applicant’s observations on Governmental Memorandums, applicant’s additional observations on decision of admissibility, applicants just satisfaction claims and other legal documents and letters to European Court in litigated cases; Organized and reviewed the work of 5 lawyers and 3 legal assistants and organized continues professional development of the staff lawyers and legal assistants;

**Director of Advocacy and Monitoring for Human Rights Program, Moldovan Helsinki Committee for Human Rights**, Chisinau Republic of Moldova (1 October 2001 - 31 December 2004)

Have been responsible for the fundraising and program development for all 8 fields of action within the Program: disabled children’s rights; minority rights; refugees and asylum seekers rights; prevention of torture; HR in Transnistrian region; freedom of speech and mass media; monitoring of election; social, economic and cultural rights; Have led and advised the lawyers of the Program selection and litigation of cases, representation before national courts and European Court for Human Rights; Represented the Program and Moldovan Helsinki Committee at international meetings, forums and conferences regarding human rights situation in Moldova and Transnistria; Developed partnerships with national NGO’s, mass media, international organizations and experts. (ex. Council of Europe experts in prevention of torture and minority rights, Amnesty International, CPT, UN CAT, UN CEDAW, UN High Commissioner for HR, UN CESCR, Polish Foundation Education for Democracy, Polish Foundation for Human Rights, ABA CEELI in Moldova, European Commission Delegation in Moldova, SIDA (or ASDI), CORDAID, Soros Foundation Moldova, High state officials and deputies of Moldova, etc.; Have written annual reports on human rights situation in Republic of Moldova and Transnistria, Shadow Reports on Moldovan Government Report to United Nations bodies on prevention of torture (2003), on economic, social and cultural rights (in 2003) and on civil and political rights in (2002), on human Rights in Transnistria ( 2004);

**Legal Advisor, Moldovan Helsinki Committee for Human Rights**, Chisinau, Moldova (11 December 2000 - 31 September 2001)

Provided legal assistance to victims of human rights violations from vulnerable strata of society; represented clients before domestic courts; Monitored extensively the cases of human rights violations in fact-finding missions and court trials

**Internship, Buiucani Court of Justice, Chisinau**, Republic of Moldova (May - September 2000)

Responsible for the records of the cases examined by the judge; Received the complaints from the citizens and penal cases from the Public Prosecutor; Kept the records and verbatim of judicial sessions; plaintiffs

**Education:**

**Academy for Public Administration of the President of Republic of Moldova,**

Master degree in management of non governmental sector and advocacy (strategic planning, human resources management, project planning, fundraising, leaderships, Action Plans, etc.), 1 October 2002 – 31 June 2003

**Abo Academy University, Finland**

Diploma awarded by the Institute for Human Rights in Finland for passed exam of the course “International Protection of Human Rights”, 25 February – 8 March 2002

**State University of the Republic of Moldova Chisinau, Faculty of Law,**

Bachelor degree in international law, licensed in law, 1 September 1996 – 31 June 2001

### **Significant Expert Capacity Building Experience:**

**Between 2005 and 2006 Member of the ad-hoc Russian Working Group on Implementation of the European Court’s judgments issued against the Russian Federation.** This group was formed of several prominent human rights activists and lawyers living in Russia and working on cases before the European Court. Main task of the group was to draft a simple and reasonable methodology for implementation of every judgment of the European Court delivered against Russian Federation in the context of Chechnya anti-terrorist operation. The draft paper was presented to Mr Lukin, High Official for Implementation of the Court’s judgments (Уполномоченный по вопросам имплементации решений ЕСПЧ).

**Since August 2002 till present acting as Human Rights Trainer,** lecturing in trainings, seminars, conferences on issues of international human rights law, in particular on gender issues, security and rule of law, on the European Court for Human Rights jurisprudence and other. Among many others, organised and delivered trainings for South Caucasus Lawyers on fair trial guarantees and on using the European Convention for Human Rights in litigating cases of human trafficking before the Strasbourg Court (Tbilisi July and August 2009); workshop on litigating cases of Violence Against Women (July 2009 London, October 2008 Lviv, May 2008 London, November 2006 Nazrani); litigation workshops on arbitrary deprivation of liberty and ill-treatment, states positive obligations for private parties violating human rights (May 2007 London, December 2008 Chisinau, October 2005 Moscow, September and November 2004 Chisinau); lectured to lawyers from Balkans (Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia) on articles 2 and 3 of the European Court with emphasise on personal experience in litigating cases of disappearance, extrajudicial killings and torture at the European Court of HR (May 2006 Belgrade, October 2005 Chisinau, May 2007 Chisinau, December 2008 Chisinau); delivering capacity building events for particular groups: judges, prosecutors, legal aid counsellor, police officers, lawyers and law professionals.

During 2009 - 2010 had developed the TOT Module on prevention of domestic violence for UNDP Ukraine based on 12 TOT trainings conducted within 6 months for Ukrainian trainers-to-be, Kiev Ukraine.

During 2010 – 2011 acted as Human Rights Trainer for Moldovan Institute of Human Rights having provided 30 capacity building trainings for lawyers on HIV, reproductive rights, non-discrimination and just satisfaction claims, Chisinau, Moldova.

Provided expertise to Ukrainian NGO Public Alternative in conducting trainings on issues of discrimination based on disability and on understanding the strategic litigation, one in 2010, the other in 2011 and the last one in October 2012, Kiev, Ukraine.

In May, October 2013 delivered two trainings on LGBT issues and strategic litigation to LGBT Russian Network organisations in Sankt Petersburg, Russia.

In May, September 2014 delivered two trainings for Anna Centre on women human rights, gender based violence, reproductive rights for lawyers, in Moscow Russia.

In June 2014 developed and delivered with two other experts a summer school on the Right to private and family life, in Moscow Russia.

September – December 2014 had developed 3 TOT Modules on Equality and Non-discrimination for Council of Europe developing capacity of 26 Moldova legal professionals, trainers-to-be, in Chisinau, Moldova.

In October 2015 delivered two capacity building trainings to Ukrainian Ombudspersons Office personnel on equality and non-discrimination and one training on same issues to Ukrainian lawyers organised by Ukrainian Helsinki Group. All three events organised in Kiev, Ukraine.

In August 2017 delivered one week Summer School for Russian lawyers on Gender and Bioethics organised by ABA ROLI Moscow Russia.

In September 2018 delivered three days training to Ukrainian lawyers on non-discrimination and gender dimensions of access to justice, organised by Council of Europe Ukraine Field Office.

In December 2020 and January 2021, for Council of Europe - - Partnership for Good Governance - PGG Project on Women’s Access to Justice in the Eastern Partnership Countries **developed and delivered two trainings for legal aid lawyers in Moldova on Access to Justice for Victims of Gender based Violence**

Over last years, in particular, I continue to provide capacity building trainings on various human rights issues, being frequently solicited as one of the few national and regional human rights expert.

**Languages:**

<b>Language</b>	<b>Understand</b>	<b>Speak</b>	<b>Read</b>	<b>Write</b>
Romanian (Mother Tongue)	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Russian	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
English	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
French	Good	Good	Good	Good