



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație



Ministry of Social Protection,  
Family and Child

Cu pași mici spre viitor



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**October 20, 2008**  
**Press Release**

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### **TAKING SMALL STEPS TOWARDS THE FUTURE**

**Chisinau, 2008** – The International Organization for Migration Mission in Moldova (IOM Moldova) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, the Republican Society for Social Protection of Youth *Island of Hope*, the Rehabilitation Centre for Teenagers of Chisinau (CRAC) and the Association for Women and Youth *Art Elegant* are inviting all interested people to attend a ***Festival of talented children and organizations active in the child social protection domain “Taking Small Steps Towards the Future”***. The Festival will take place at the premises of “Ginta Latina” theatre, 18 Sfatul Tarii str., from 09:00 to 12:00 on Saturday, October 25.

For more than three hours, the theatre Ginta Latina will be enchanted by songs, dances, fashion shows and theatre plays performed by children from all over the Republic of Moldova. In addition, a sales-exhibition will be organized in the lobby, where hand crafted goods (jewelry, knitting, painting, etc.) made by the children will be on display and for sale. All the children participating in this event receive services from governmental and non-governmental child social protection centers, as well as NGOs specialized in preventing human trafficking. The audience will include representatives from Government Offices, Embassies, International Organizations, Local and International NGOs and the general public.

Socially vulnerable children, social orphans, children left behind as a consequence of migration and children from residential institutions all represent a group at risk of becoming victims of trafficking. The main goals of the Festival “Taking Small Steps Towards the Future” is to attract attention to the destiny of these children, giving them a platform to present their artistic talents, encouraging their further development and social integration, as well as to create a festive friendly atmosphere to celebrate the positive outlook at the future for these children. Moreover, the Festival is a part of the efforts of State authorities, International Organizations and Civil Society, as well as the Private Sector, to respond to the trafficking phenomenon through the protection of children’s rights.

This event marks the EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October) and the end of the month against human trafficking in Moldova. The first EU Anti-Trafficking Day was launched by the European Commission in 2007. It represents an important step in the activities to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. In 2008 the day will be celebrated in several European countries.



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*The participants receive services from the following centers: Rehabilitation Centre for Teenagers of Chisinau (CRAC), Centre “Youth for Christ Moldova”, the vocational school Republican Society for Social Protection of Youth – “Island of Hope”, Christian Centre “Betania”, gymnasium “Elim”, NGO Hope and Health, Chisinau Protection and Assistance Centre, Daycare Center for temporary stay of orphans in post-institutional period “Vatra”, Association “Motivation”, National Center for Preventing Abuse of Children, Soroca Center “Azimut”, Taraclia Center “Plamicie”, Ialoveni Social Centre for Children’s Creativity “Sf. Filaret cel Milostiv”, Social Mission “Diaconia”, NGO “Inceputul vietii”, Drochia Orthodox Fraternity “Sf. Gheorghe”, Child Rights Information Center of Moldova, Chisinau Social Centre for Children’s Creativity affiliated to the Church “Sf. Dumitru”.*

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