

**СТАЛНА МИСИЈА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ ПРИ УЈЕДИЊЕНИМ НАЦИЈАМА**  
**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and with reference to the Note of the Secretary General of the United Nations UNW/2020/0002 of 21 April 2020 regarding the General Assembly resolutions A/RES/73/148 on "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment", A/RES/73/146 on "Trafficking in women and girls", and A/RES/73/149 on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation", has the honour to submit the information relating to the implementation of the aforementioned resolutions.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 28 May 2020



UNITED NATIONS  
ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY  
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN  
NEW YORK

## ANNEX 1

When it comes to the resolution "**Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment**" (A/RES/73/148), in the period from August 1, 2018. to April 30, 2020. for the criminal offense of Sexual harassment under Art. 182a of the Criminal Code ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 85/2005, 88/2005 - amended, 107/2005 - amended, 72/2009, 111/2009, 121/2012, 104/2013, 108/2014 , 94/2016 and 35/2019), hereinafter referred to as the CC, a total of 364 persons were reported, 44 complaints were dismissed, evidentiary actions in criminal proceedings were taken against 292 persons, 62 indictments were filed, as well as 55 convictions, and 3 acquittals. Below is a tabular presentation for this criminal offence by months in the requested period:

| Sexual harassment Art. 182a CC | The number of reported persons | Number of dismissals - by persons | Number of investigations and evidentiary actions - by persons | Number of filed indictments - by persons | Number of judgments rendered - by persons |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|------------|
|                                |                                |                                   |   |  | Convictions                               | Acquittals |
| August 2018.                   | 16                             | 6                                 | 15  | /  | /   | /          |
| September 2018.                | 15                             | 1                                 | 15  | 1  | 1   | /          |
| October 2018.                  | 15                             | 3                                 | 20  | 1  | 1   | /          |
| November 2018.                 | 18                             | 4                                 | 18  | 2  | 6   | /          |
| December 2018.                 | 24                             | 5                                 | 17  | 2  | 2   | /          |
| January 2019.                  | 11                             | 2                                 | 9   | 5  | /   | /          |
| February 2019.                 | 10                             | /                                 | 8   | 5  | 3   | /          |
| March 2019.                    | 14                             | /                                 | 13  | 4  | 5   | 1          |
| April 2019.                    | 16                             | 2                                 | 13  | 5  | 3   | /          |
| May 2019.                      | 14                             | 3                                 | 12  | 2  | 3   | /          |
| June 2019.                     | 15                             | 2                                 | 10  | 8  | 3   | /          |
| July 2019.                     | 33                             | 1                                 | 29  | 2  | 5   | 1          |
| August 2019.                   | 27                             | 1                                 | 21  | 3  | 2   | /          |
| September 2019.                | 15                             | 1                                 | 15  | 1  | 1   | /          |
| October 2019.                  | 18                             | 4                                 | 10  | 2  | 3   | /          |
| November 2019.                 | 23                             | 1                                 | 12  | 2  | 5   | 1          |
| December 2019.                 | 25                             | 3                                 | 14  | 7  | 2   | /          |
| January 2020.                  | 23                             | 1                                 | 17  | 2  | 6   | /          |
| February 2020.                 | 12                             | 3                                 | 10  | 5  | 2   | /          |
| <b>*March 2020.</b>            | 13                             | 1                                 | 10  | 5  | 2   | /          |
| <b>*April 2020.</b>            | 7                              | /                                 | 4   | 1  | /   | /          |
| <b>TOTAL :</b>                 | <b>364</b>                     | <b>44</b>                         | <b>292</b>  | <b>62</b>                                | <b>55</b>                                 | <b>3</b>   |

Therefore, during the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic (in the period from March 15 to May 7, 2020), there was no increase in the number of complaints for this criminal offence, and the judicial authorities acted on 20 Sexual harassment complaints that were filed, during March and April of 2020.

Regarding the resolution "**Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation**" (A/RES/73/149), in the period from August 1, 2018. to April 30, 2020., so during the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic too, for the criminal offence of Female genital mutilation Art. 121a CC ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 85/2005, 88/2005 - amended, 107/2005 - amended, 72/2009, 111/2009, 121/2012, 104/2013, 108/2014, 94/2016 and 35/2019) no criminal charges were filed.

With regard to the resolution "**Trafficking in women and girls**" (A/RES/73/146), in the reporting period, in accordance with paragraph 15, which called on governments to strengthen measures aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, among other things, by strengthening their involvement and leadership in society, including education, economic empowerment and increasing the number of women who decide to participate in the public and private sectors, 381 female members of the Ministry of the Interior completed basic police training during this period. Furthermore, women of this Ministry are represented at all levels of management, namely:

- 4 at the strategic level of management;
- 21 at a high level of management;
- 110 at the middle management level;
- 578 at the operational management level.

Additionally, in accordance with paragraph 39 of the above-mentioned resolution, which calls on governments to provide or strengthen training and to raise awareness among law enforcement officials on the implementation of the law on prevention and suppression of trafficking in human beings, as well as to ensure the treatment of victims of trafficking, in particular by law enforcement officials, with full respect for their human rights, with gender and age sensitivity, and non-discrimination principle, including the prohibition of racial discrimination, the Ministry of Interior, Human Resources Sector, has conducted classes within its mandate, as part of the professional training and education of the members of the Ministry, on the following topics:

1. "Trafficking in human beings and illegal migration", which was attended by a total of 1,800 participants of the Center for Basic Police Training,
2. "The concept, recognition and action of the police on the crime of trafficking in human beings", which was attended by a total of 45,312 police officers,
3. "Police action in cases of domestic violence and in partner relationships", which was attended by a total of 44,608 police officers, and
4. "The concept, recognition and response of the police to the manifestations of discrimination", which was attended by a total of 50,326 police officers.

Police officers of this Ministry, in accordance with their legal powers, are trained to approach all cases with elements of violence with special care, to protect the victim's safety and provide support, regardless of their personal characteristics such as gender, age, social status, education or any other personal characteristics.

Considering that the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence on November 24, 2016. ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 94/2016), hereinafter LPDV, which entered into force on June 1 2017., and for the implementation of which the Ministry of the Interior is responsible, police officers participated in specialized training to acquire knowledge and skills in the field of domestic violence. In four cycles of training, which was realized at the Criminal Police Academy, 2,007 police officers of this Ministry were trained and certified. In the Operations Center of this body, the telephone line 0800 100 600 for reporting cases of domestic violence has been established. It is free, available 24 hours a day, and anonymous.

The total number of criminal offenses with a fatal outcome, committed within the family and partner relationship, for the reporting period was 75. These acts led to 83 deaths, of which 50 were female and 33 were male.

In the same period, a total of 9,355 criminal complaints were filed for the criminal offense of Domestic Violence under Article 194 of the Criminal Code, and the total number of these criminal offenses was 9,496. Criminal complaints for the said criminal offense were filed against 803 women and 8,173 men. A total of 7,727 women were harmed by this crime, compared to 2,452 men. In the first four months of 2020, no upward trend was observed in terms of the number of criminal complaints for the said crime, but a certain decrease was recorded (2,371 complaints for the last five months of 2018, compared to 1,664 complaints for the first four months of this year). Also, in the reporting period, a total of 50,845 emergency measures were imposed, of which 15,629 measures of temporary removal of the perpetrator from the apartment, and 35,216 measures of temporary prohibition of the perpetrator to contact the victim of violence and approach her. In 32,589 cases, the emergency measure was extended by the court, and in 3,406 cases, it was violated, and a misdemeanor complaints was filed against the violator.

During the state of emergency that lasted in the period 15.03-07.05.2020., police officers acted in all cases of domestic violence, regardless of extraordinary circumstances, performing their regular and additional activities. The competent police officers working 24/7 during the state of emergency applied all legal provisions in accordance with their competencies, including the provisions of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, regardless of the occurrence of extraordinary circumstances.

In the period from 15.03. to 07.05.2019. year, a total of 704 criminal complaints were filed for the offence of Domestic Violence under Article 194 of the Criminal Code. After the end of the state of emergency, in the period from 15.03. to 07.05.2020., a total of 494 criminal complaints were filed for the same crime. Therefore, after the termination of the state of emergency, there was a decrease in the number of filed criminal complaints for the criminal offense of Domestic Violence under Article 194 of the Criminal Code by 29.83%.

Comparing the statistical data from the introduction of the state of emergency, with the data for the same period of the previous year, concerning the criminal offence of Murder and Aggravated Murder, under Articles 113 and 114 of the Criminal Code, during which a female victim was deprived of her life within the family, a reduction by 80.00% was noticed in relation to this criminal offence (5 women were killed in 2019, compared to 1 woman in 2020).

During the state of emergency, a total of 3,717 emergency measures were imposed on the perpetrator under the LPDV, and 2,148 measures were extended, which shows a downward

trend of 4.81% and 15.33%, respectively, compared to the same period last year, when 3,905 of these measures were imposed and 2,537 of them extended. At the same time, comparing the time periods, from 1.03 - to 30.4 for these two years (because the statistical cross-section for violated measures can be obtained only for the whole month, and not for the period from-to), the number of violated emergency measures decreased by 9,55%, and 284 emergency measures were violated in 2020, compared to 314 in 2019.

However, when comparing the state of emergency with the same period last year, it can be seen that there was an increase in the number of imposed temporary measures to remove the perpetrator from the apartment by 13.92% with 1,135 imposed measures in the same period of 2019, compared to 1,293 measures during the 2020 state of emergency. When it comes to the imposition of temporary measures when the perpetrator is prohibited from contacting and approaching the victim of violence, in comparison to the same time period, a 12.49% decrease in the trend of imposing these measures was noticed. In year 2019, 2,770 of these measures were imposed, while this number was 2,424 in 2020.

In the reporting period, at the beginning of August 2018, 5 asylum centers and 12 reception centers were operational in Serbia, housing 3,128 people, of which 674 were women. There were 782 minors, 270 of them females, and 170 unaccompanied minors, of which one was a girl. By nationality, most people were from Afghanistan 37%, followed by Iran 20%, Pakistan 20%, and Iraq 9%.

Health care was provided in all centers, through the competent health centers, as well as a mandatory examination upon admission. Persons with special social needs were provided with accommodation in social protection institutions. Also, in accordance with the needs of the users, members of the Center for Social Work of the local municipality, where the asylum or reception center is located, were present. Upon arrival and admission to the center, each asylum seeker and migrant is provided with full and timely information on his/her rights, obligations, opportunities and available support services. Activities, workshops and support services are planned on a monthly basis depending on the structure, profile and needs of the accommodated persons, and the activities are carried out with the support of non-governmental and international organizations.

Staff engaged in permanent and reception centers for asylum are continuously trained in the field of protection, work and treatment of vulnerable categories of migrants, identification of potential victims of human trafficking, gender-based violence, etc. in order to provide adequate support to migrants and prevent various forms of violence. In the reporting period, the trainings covered the topics of gender equality and migration, elimination of violence against women, recognition of gender-based violence and human trafficking among migrants, equality of refugee and migrant women.

In accordance with established standard operating procedures, all cases of suspected violence and trafficking in human beings are immediately referred to the competent authorities. Procedures are being improved depending on the situation on the ground, and relate to the prevention of gender-based violence in asylum centers and reception and transit centers, the protection of refugee/migrant children, and the treatment of victims of trafficking.

In order to empower vulnerable groups, NGO Atina, in cooperation with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, held a total of 197 workshops for 234 people from vulnerable categories of migrants, in 2018. For refugee and migrant women, thematic workshops were

organized, which addressed various topics of importance for the prevention of human trafficking and other risks to which this population is exposed, in order to educate and empower them. Workshops were conducted at five locations where refugees and migrants were accommodated, in asylum centers/reception centers in Krnjaca (76 workshops, 102 participants), Bogovađa (39 workshops, 62 participants), Bujanovac (31 workshops, 20 participants), Presevo (34 workshops, 31 participants), Vranje (17 workshops, 19 participants), as well as in Belgrade (126 workshops, 174 participants).

In January 2018, with the consent of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, NGO Astra distributed information bulletins (leaflets) containing preventive information on the risk of the migrant population human trafficking in all centers for accommodation and reception of migrants, as part of the campaign "Migration" is OK. It's about the people." The leaflets were drafted in Serbian, English, Urdu, Farsi and Arabic. The total number of leaflets made was 4000 and they were distributed in 18 reception centers.

In 2019, in cooperation with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, NGO Atina held educational workshops aimed at informing the refugee and migrant population on issues of how to recognize and protect themselves from human trafficking and other risks. The workshops were held at the Asylum Center in Krnjaca and Bogovadja. In these centers, a total of 120 workshops were held, attended by a total of 811 women and children.

According to the data from the Migration profile for 2018, the identified victims of human trafficking were mostly citizens of the Republic of Serbia, who make up 93% of the total number, and they were mostly minors. In that year, 33 complaints of suspected trafficking among migrants were filed. Three victims of trafficking - 2 female minors, and 1 minor boy were identified, and all three cases were related to sexual exploitation. Among the migrant population, in 2018, the largest number of reported suspicions cases of human trafficking were related to citizens of Iran (14 people) and Somalia (10 people).

According to the data of the Migration profile for 2019, 27 complaints on suspicion of human trafficking among migrants were received. There were 18 minors (13 boys and 5 girls) and 9 adults (7 women and 2 men), mostly from Afghanistan (9) and Iran (8). In 9 received complaints, it was concluded that there were no elements of human trafficking, so these were dismissed. The identification procedure was initiated on the basis of 16 complaints (30% were females). The identified victims of human trafficking among migrants were from Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Republic of Mali. The adult victims were from Pakistan and the Republic of Mali.

At the time of the declaration of the state of emergency on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, on March 15, 2020, 5,912 persons were accommodated in the centers for accommodation of asylum seekers and the reception centers. By declaring a state of emergency, all migrants who stayed outside the centers were placed in collective accommodation. Since the declaration of the state of emergency until today, the number has increased to 8,772. Nineteen centers are currently operational (14 reception and 5 asylum centers). There are 43.90% of people from Afghanistan, 17.69% from Syria, 11.49% from Pakistan, 6.95% from Bangladesh, and 4.18% from Iraq in these centers.

In order to urgently take care of people, with the appearance of the first case of infection in Serbia, the accommodation capacities in solid facilities have been increased, by converting certain common rooms into dormitories, and reactivating all winterized tents intended for

shorter stays. In addition to the existing centers, two more locations have been determined for the installation of emergency accommodation facilities. Despite the increased number of migrants and the declared pandemic, the standards of accommodation in terms of food security, health care, identification and referral of vulnerable categories were maintained at a regular level. The biggest challenge was to prevent the spread of the infection among migrants. In that context, intensive preventive measures were implemented in the last week of February. Appropriate instructions for employees and accommodated persons were issued and harmonized with the national algorithm for prevention and treatment in case of an infection. Hygienic standards have been harmonized and informative procedures and education of accommodated persons on the importance of disease prevention was conducted. A large number of volunteers emerged from the accommodated beneficiaries, who helped to implement additional preventive measures. Meetings were held with all primary care institutions and public health institutions on whose territories the centers are located. Additional funds for personal hygiene and disinfection, such as masks and gloves, were acquired, for both employees and users of the centers. Until the preparation of this information, there were no cases of coronavirus infections among the accommodated migrants.

Regardless of the pandemic and the declared emergency measures, the mechanism for identifying potential victims of human trafficking has functioned smoothly and no cases of trafficking have been reported.

The overcrowding of the centers and the limited movement due to emergency measures had an effect of increasing tensions among the users of the centers. In order to reduce tensions, various activities were organized in order to occupy the users' time through sports activities, film screenings, etc. respecting the prescribed social distancing measures, in accordance with the accommodation conditions. In some centers, where this was possible, migrants were also engaged in the activity of sewing protective masks.

At the end of February, informative material on the coronavirus and measures to prevent the spread of the infection was prepared and distributed in all centers. Posters prepared by the World Health Organization were also delivered, as well as a daily bulletin containing key information about the epidemic, and its consequences in Serbia and around the world. The related newsletter was available in all centers in English, French, Arabic and Farsi, and a number of relevant videos were recorded in the languages of the center's users in order to inform them adequately and in a timely manner.