

Trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/73/146)

Measures to address trafficking in women and girls, as per resolution 73/146, including on the increased efforts to ensure prosecution of traffickers and improve protection of victims.

- National Strategy for the Tackling of Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2020 - 2023 was adopted under the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic no. 502 of 4 May 2020 and represents 6th governmental strategic document for this area. The strategic goal is to combat trafficking in human beings and to strengthen assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings. The strategy focuses on following specific goals: the fight against child trafficking; strengthening victim identification; prevention and assistance to victims trafficking in human beings; cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings at national and international level. The aim of the strategy is to link existing effective tools with new tools that respond to current developments and reflect problematic points identified at both national and international levels. Cross-sectionally, the Strategy applies gender mainstreaming to victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as a specific approach to victims in a more vulnerable position, such as people from socially excluded localities and migrants.
- In order to strengthen the fight against trafficking, the measures taken focused mainly on education and prevention. Police officers are trained in the fight against trafficking at the national level in joint meetings of trafficking specialists (police officers of the National Center against Organized Crime), specialists of regional police directorates, representatives of foreign police departments and liaison officers for minorities and also in the international field. Police specialists participate in expert meetings within the Europol EMPACT THB project, where current information on the issue of trafficking in human beings is addressed. In 2019, National Center against Organized Crime specialists participated in the international training of trafficking specialists from Central European countries, provided by the National Criminal Agency of the United Kingdom; seminars Cross-border co-operation in compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings under the Justice at Last project (La Strada International). The last mentioned expert meeting was focused on the exchange of information and experience on current trends in the development and operation of organized crime groups focused on trafficking in human beings in other EU countries and methods of combating them.
- In 2018, the Academy of Justice focused on the issue of human trafficking in a one-day seminar Trafficking in human beings with an emphasis on labor and other forms of exploitation. Further seminars of Judicial Academy also addressed the issue of questioning particularly vulnerable victims of crime. Since 2019, the Academy of Justice, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, has been offering a certified anti-trafficking e-learning course for judges, prosecutors and all other legal professionals involved in combating and prosecuting trafficking in human beings.
- Further education is provided by the Ministry of the Interior, which held 3 seminars on trafficking in human beings in 2018 in cooperation with the regional authorities of the Ústí nad Labem, Plzeň and Moravian-Silesian regions, the Police of the Czech Republic, the non-governmental non-profit organization La Strada and the Intergovernmental Organization for Migration.
- In 2019, Ministry of the Interior among others supported the City Light campaign of the NGO La Strada focused on raising the general public's awareness and sensitivity to trafficking in human beings and labor exploitation. NGO's such as La Strada, Diakonie ČCE and Arcidiecézní charita have also key role in the prevention of trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic.

Information on economic costs, drivers and consequences of trafficking in women and girls.

- In 2018, a total of 17 (13 women and 4 men) and in 2019 a total of 15 (4 women and 11 men) probable victims of trafficking in human beings were included in the Program for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Interior. Probable victims are included by both the cooperating non-governmental non-profit organization and the Police of the Czech Republic. In 2018 CZK 1,425,834 was allocated to services within the Program for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings including preventive activities and CZK 1,539,752 in 2019. In the form of subsidies from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, CZK 8,574,103 in 2018 and CZK 13,448,396 in 2019 were allocated to organizations whose target group are mainly victims of human trafficking.
- Regarding trends in the field of human trafficking, the Czech Republic can be considered as a destination and transit country, as well as a source country. Of the forms of trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic, Ministry of Interior register mainly sexual and labor exploitation or the use of victims of trafficking in human beings for other forms of exploitation (forced marriages) or exploitation from such conduct.
- In recent years, Ministry of Interior have recorded cases where there is a targeted search for men and women from a socially disadvantaged environment in the Czech Republic, with subsequent lure abroad, especially to the United Kingdom. Women are then most often forced into prostitution or marriage to citizens from outside the EU. Demand for women from the Czech Republic is often directed from nationals of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- From the point of view of the countries of origin of probable victims identified in the Czech Republic, the Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Ukraine, Nigeria, Nepal, Pakistan and Ghana were registered as source countries in the years 2018 - 2019.

Impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in regards to trafficking in women and girls, and measures undertaken to address those:

- Regarding the impact of the current COVID-19 epidemic a similar number of persons were included in the Program for the Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in comparison with the same period of 2018 and 2019. However, as a result of the declaration of a state of emergency by the Czech Government in March the cooperating NGO's partially reduce the counselling provided in the field and its redirected it to the SOS line.
- The capacity of SOS line has been strengthened for these purposes. Based on information obtained from almost threefold increase in the number of calls on the SOS line, screenings in the sectors and localities currently identified as most problematic will be planned in the second quarter of 2020.