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**Report submitted by the authorities of Azerbaijan
on measures taken to comply with
Committee of the Parties Recommendation
CP(2018)24 on the implementation
of the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

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- *Develop a comprehensive statistical system on trafficking in human beings by compiling reliable statistical data on presumed and formally identified victims of THB from all main actors, including specialised NGOs and international organisations, as well as on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking cases, allowing disaggregation concerning sex, age, type of exploitation, and country of origin and/or destination. This should be accompanied by all the necessary measures to respect the right of data subjects to personal data protection, including when NGOs working with victims of trafficking are asked to provide information for the national database*

Response: Under the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings", a special police unit (Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Ministry of Internal Affairs) was established on August 01, 2016 in order to effectively execute the tasks indicated in the National Action Plan, ensure the security of THB victims, provide them with professional aid, summarize and store THB related information in a single centre and to ensure that anti-trafficking measures are carried out by experienced and specially trained police officers and specially equipped police units.

A single database was created in order to register and effectively use all the information collected during criminal investigations of THB crimes –Main Department on Combating trafficking in human beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan Republic).

It should also be noted that the National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023, which is on the eve of approval considers improvement of activities of Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan Republic (a special police unit) and creation of a single database.

At present, data on the penalties and convictions for trafficking in human beings are being collected according to relevant statistical forms.

At the same time, it is planned to carry out these activities within the implementation framework of the newly established "Electronic Court" Information System in our country.

The reliable statistical data on initial investigation and punishment of persons accused in THB crimes are collected, analyses on gender, form of exploitation, countries of origin and destination are conducted and comprehensive statistics system is existed at the moment.

Thus, 82 of 83 victims of trafficking in human beings identified in 9 months of 2019 are from the Republic of Azerbaijan, 1 (woman) is a citizen of Tajikistan. 77 of victims are women, 5 are men, 1 (male) is a child. 77 of 83 victims of trafficking in human beings faced sexual exploitation, 6 faced labor exploitation. 47 of them were forced for exploitation in the Republic of Turkey, 16 in Qatar Emirate, 8 in Islamic Republic of Iran, 5 in Russian Federation, 5 in United Arab Emirates and 2 (1 citizen of Tajikistan and 1 citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan) within our country.

1 of the victims is a child, 11 are in the ages between 18 – 25, 40 victims are in the age between 25 – 35, 31 are in the age above 35.

21 (3 men, 18 women) persons (on 19 cases, 9 are from previous years) were involved to criminal responsibility for commitment of crimes on trafficking in human beings, 23 were sent for court litigation (on 20 cases, 14 are from previous years). 28 criminals who committed crimes on trafficking in human beings were sent to jail with 24 verdicts within the reporting period. 21 of them got conditional conviction, punishment of one of them had been postponed till her minor is going to get 14 years old and 6 of them got real imprisonment.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" during data collection, including when NGOs working with THB victims are asked to provide information for the national database, disclosure of the information, which is a secret of personal and family life of the THB victims in human beings shall lead to criminal responsibility under the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Information threatening the life or health of the THB victims in human beings, their close relatives and persons who contribute to the Combating trafficking in human beings shall be deemed as classified and any disclosure of such information is prohibited.

Any illegal collection or disclosure of classified information related to THB victims in human beings or security measures regarding the victim shall be subject to responsibility under the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 316-1 (Disclosure of confidential information about THB victims) of the Criminal Code stipulates that the unlawful gathering or deliberate disclosure of confidential information about THB victims shall be punishable by imprisonment for the term of up to five years.

According to the "Rules on Referring THB victims to the Special Police Agency" approved by the Decision No.21 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan, 1 February 2008, state or non-governmental bodies that identify THB victims in persons shall, first and foremost, ensure their security, anonymity and confidentiality of information obtained.

Pursuant to the Rules to ensure victims' safety, provide them with professional assistance, collect and protect data in a single center the relevant police authorities have to be immediately informed in case of detection of a possible victim of THB by other bodies.

- *Take measures to prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation by:*
 - *Raising awareness amongst the general public and migrant workers regarding the risks of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation*

Response: The State Migration Service has regularly organized awareness-raising events and meetings in the capital and regions to inform the public, foreigners and stateless persons. This year, awareness raising measures on the use of foreign labor force, human trafficking risks have been taken in Agsu, Agdash, Shamakhi, Shirvan, Goychay, Hajigabul, Masalli, Yardimli, Lankaran, Astara, Gusar, Khachmaz, Gazakh, Sheki, Aghstafa, Kurdamir, Fuzuli, as well as at the universities of the country (Jalilabad branch of the Azerbaijan Pedagogical University, Zagatala branch of the Azerbaijan State Economic University, Sheki branch of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University).

Within the Human Rights Month on May 18 - June 18, 2019, on the occasion of "Human Rights Day", the State Migration Service held a meeting in Shirvan on the topic "Combating human trafficking and eliminating illegal migration, "Protection of migrant workers and their integration into the local community" in Gusar, "The importance of awareness of the participants about their rights and obligations in the prevention of illegal migration" in Agstafa, "Protection of the rights of all labor migrants and their families" in Gabala region.

Within the "Peace Month" announced on 21 August - 21 September 2019, on the occasion of "International Peace Day" relevant events with public participation were held in Ujar region - "Ensuring the rights of foreigners and stateless persons, migrant workers and their families in the Republic of Azerbaijan", Lerik - "Peace is the guarantee of sustainable development and human rights" and Zagatala - "The role of migrants in multicultural society".

At the same time, within the Phase VI Project on the "Strengthening Cooperation for the Effectiveness of Trafficking in Persons through Capacity Building and Technical Support in Azerbaijan" implemented by the International Organization for Migration hundreds of foreign and stateless persons have been trained by the experts on their rights and responsibilities, history and culture, psycho-social issues.

Brochures in Azerbaijani, Russian, English, Arabic, Persian and Urdu have been prepared by the State Migration Service to inform foreigners and stateless persons about the risks of human trafficking, their rights and places where they can apply for assistance.

In addition, for the purpose of teaching the Azerbaijani language, history, culture, legislation on the rights and duties of foreigners and stateless persons Training Center of State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan organized free courses starting in October 2016 for the foreigners and stateless persons residing in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Drivers carrying out international passenger transportation were instructed by Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies to take measures to inform people entering the country about the dangers of trafficking. "Information on the prevention and fight against human trafficking" subject is taught in "Special Program covering professional activities and behaviors of drivers carrying out international and domestic passenger and cargo transportation by public transport, the particular operating and recreational conditions, as well as normative legal acts governing freight and passenger transport by road".

State Border Service – At Border Control Points military servicemen of the State Border Service informs people entering country about the danger of human trafficking through the verbal information and booklets provided by MIA. Booklets prepared in Azerbaijani, Russian and English languages and describing the human trafficking risks and places to appeal in case of facing with such dangers are distributed to the foreigners.

State Customs Committee – Distribution of booklet and brochures at border control points to ensure strengthening anti-trafficking actions of migrants, taking measures to inform people entering the country about danger of human trafficking, prevention of human trafficking, particularly for women and children, as well as forced labor.

The Results of successful activities taken by the Press Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including the fight against human trafficking, are posted on the MIA's website.

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection – To provide information on how to protect persons entering and leaving a country especially women and children from the risk of being trafficked, as well as migrant workers from forced labor. educative brochures and posters were prepared by Human Trafficking Assistance Center and in cooperation with the State Border Service distributed in the border crossing points in Samur, Bilasuvar, Astara, Balakan, as well as placards were installed at the station. The booklets and posters contain the contact details of the Center at the same time.

According to the Joint Action Plan of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Education in the first 9 months of 2019, educative seminars were held in 18 boarding and boarding type schools operating in Baku and 18 regions of the country, 11 universities operating in the cities of the Republic, totally in 29 educational institution operating in 18 cities and law enforcement officials from 49 regions of the Republic, youth, media representatives, executive authorities, representative of Commissions on Minors' Affairs, medical workers, local entrepreneurs, transport, education, social protection, employees of employment centers, representatives of the society and non-governmental organizations were involved in these events. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Education conducted awareness workshops in the first 9 months of 2019 at totally 29 educational institutions, including 13 high schools in various cities of the country, 14 secondary schools and 2 boarding schools functioning in cities and districts of the country, 6 secondary schools and 2 boarding schools functioning in Baku, which involved officers of law-enforcement bodies of 54 districts of the country, youth, media representatives, representatives of executive powers and commissions on minors' affairs, medical staff, local entrepreneurs, employees of transport, education, social protection and employment centres, public representatives and non-governmental organizations. 4050 booklets prepared by the Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were distributed to participants.

Ministry of Youth and Sports – in 2018 to conduct awareness work on trafficking in human beings in a contemporary and effective manner the performance "Innocent Sinners" was organized by Azerbaijan State University of Architecture and Construction and "Odlar Yurdu", as well as Salyan, Neftchala, Guba, Gusar, Khachmaz, Shabran, Siyazan and Khizi regions. The event was attended by over 4,000 young people.

Educational booklets - "Child trafficking", "Don't be subject to forced labor, Be aware" were prepared by the Public Health and Reform Center (PHRC) of the Ministry of Health and sent to the Knowledge Fund under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as with the support of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations booklets were distributed in all ASAN service centers of the Republic.

Methodical recommendations were given to the representatives of the press and news portals, members of the Press Council. To increase the awareness of citizens' preventive information and articles on human trafficking were published.

- *Training labour inspectors as well as law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges on combating THB for the purpose of labour exploitation, identifying victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, including among irregular migrants, and the rights of victims;*

Response: The "Rules (indicators) on identification of the THB victims" which define the mechanisms enabling the identification of individual to be the victim human trafficking was approved by the Decision dated September 3, 2009 and No. 131 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These

rules entail the topics such as the legal aspects of the determination of victims, signs of the victims, methods for determination of victims, method and survey for determination, evaluation survey and additional confirming materials.

Indicators characterizing the signs (symptoms) of victims are considered during the determination of victims. Proactive and reactive methods (measures) are used for determination of victims

It should also be noted that the "National Action Plan on combating human trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023" which is on the eve of approval, includes "regular and intra-departmental training for law enforcement officers and employees of the State Labour Inspectorate Service" on identification of THB victims and forced labor, as well as migrants and their protection.

In cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, numerous trainings were organized about different aspects of struggle against trafficking in persons for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Labour and Social Protection, Justice and Health, as well as State Migration and Border Services, State Customs Committee, State Committee for Family, Women and Child's Affairs, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, judges and prosecutors. The exercises were organized in the format of training of cascades and trainers. At the same time, with the support of the International Organization for Migration, the work was done to prepare training materials and curriculums in the field of combating trafficking in human beings for relevant government agencies in our country, and this process is still in progress.

On 3-4 April 2019, within the framework of cooperation with the Representation of the International Organization for Migration in Azerbaijan international workshop on "Role of the Criminal Prosecution Authorities in Combating Human Trafficking" is organized in Baku. It should be mentioned that the overall objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Azerbaijan in effectively countering the human trafficking and increase skills and knowledge of the authorities (police, judges, prosecutors).

At the event, an employee of the Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings made a presentation, informed the participants about the work done in our country in this area, answered the questions, Azerbaijan experience caused great interest.

In 2019, a series of seminars was held by employees of Main Department for Combating Human Trafficking to the heads of crime detection services of 22 territorial police agencies in Guba, Lankaran and Ganja based on the method "Direct Assistance to THB victims". In addition, trips to Vienna, Vilnius and Kaunas cities of Austria and Lithuania were particularly important.

Judges, prosecutors, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Justice Academy and representatives of the Bar Association participated in the exchange of experience on the fight against human trafficking.

During 9 months of 2019, the advanced training courses was held at the Khazri Recreation and Health Center by the employees of the Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to the city and district police officers (Operations and Chiefs of Police, Police Chiefs and Field Inspectors, Criminal Investigation Services, Department and Chief Investigators, Heads of Investigations Department) on labor exploitation and the fight against human trafficking in general.

The training course was organized for the candidates who have been successful in the recruitment competition for Judicial authorities, newly appointed candidates for Medical service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, candidates to be recruited for middle-ranking personnel of the Penitentiary Service, candidates and co-workers recruited for the Forensic Examination Center and persons and volunteers in Ministry of Justice who passed the interview. The training programs (159 people in total) included lectures on the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "combating trafficking in human beings" and "International legislation in the field of combating human trafficking (European legislation)". During the reporting period, 58 judges, 35 attorneys, and 19 prosecutors were involved in appropriate training.

In cooperation with the International Organization for Migration within the framework "E-Learning Solutions to Support Justice Academy of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan Phase II" Project videos are recorded by local and international experts on trafficking. In addition, the Academy of Justice cooperates with the International Organization for Migration within the framework of the "Enhancement of Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan" project.

Within the framework of this project, training manual for the Academy of Justice entitled "Trafficking in Persons - National Legislation and Judicial Practice" is developing by an expert from the International Organization for Migration.

A delegation of Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's Office has participated in a number of international and domestic conferences, trainings and other events on human trafficking.

Thus, Participation of representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office at a regional expert seminar organized by the Council of Europe on November 8-9, 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria on "Expanding International Legal Cooperation in the Field of Combating Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims' Rights," and TAIEX International Forum on "Transboundary Organized Crime for Prosecutors", on October 2-4, 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal was ensured.

Within the framework of "Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan" project organized by the International Organization for Migration and the Academy of Justice on October 16-19, 2018, representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office participated in events concerning "Multidisciplinary Approaches to Combating Trafficking in Human Trafficking" on October 30, 2018 in Baku city.

In addition, a meeting between the international expert Alina Brashovea and the representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office was held to increase cooperation with international organizations to enhance the effectiveness of the fight against human trafficking on December 11, 2018,

During the meeting, Alina Brasoveanu was informed about the rights of human traffickers and other persons involved in human trafficking to be prosecuted in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan and international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is entitled more certain rights that allows foreign state to execute punishment.

In addition, in 2017, the Academy of Justice has set up a working group consisting of government officials and international experts to develop a training program on combating trafficking in persons as part of the "Enhancement of Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan" project. The delegation of the General Prosecutor's Office was included in the working group.

Military servicemen of the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter the SBS), students studying at the Academy of State Border Service, supervisors and trainees of operational staff preparatory courses provide trainings on "The rights of THB victims" and "The fight against human trafficking".

"Rules on the Identification of THB victims in Human Beings (Indicators)", approved by the Decision No. 131 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan is being studied to determine THB victims among illegal migrants, border violators, citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan deported from foreign countries or cross the state border with a Certificate of Return by military servicemen in border control, persons belonging to at-risk groups crossing the border.

The Frontex Agency and GUAM are sharing information and experience in the fight against human trafficking.

- *Reintroducing work place inspections by labour inspectors and strengthening the mandate of labour inspectors with a view to preventing THB*

Response: The State Labor Inspection Service (hereinafter the Service) of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter the Service) exercise state control over observance of requirements of the Labor Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and other normative legal acts on labor legislation (Labor Code, article 15). In this regard, the Service is based on the requirements and definitions set out in the labor legislation. In accordance with the requirements of Article 17 of the Labor Code, It shall be prohibited to oblige an employee to perform a job not included in his job description through any kind of duress or under the threat of termination of the employment contract. In accordance with Article 193 of the Administrative Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Article 193 oblige an employee to perform a job not included in his job description) employers who oblige an employee to perform a job not included in his job description through any kind of duress or under the threat of termination of the employment contract will be fined from 1,000 to 2,000 manats.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated October 20, 2015 № 1410-IVQ "On Suspension of Inspections in the Field of Entrepreneurship" inspection of business entities in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan was suspended until January 1, 2021. In accordance with the requirements of this Law, inspection of business entities by the Service was suspended since November 1, 2015.

However, it is now possible to exercise state control over the employment legislation online with the Electronic information system for the registration of labor contract notifications, as well as to identify

employers concluding employment contracts with persons prohibited to work by law and to ensure Labor Law Compliance in this area.

During consideration of citizens' appeals in 2018, only in one (1) case an employee was obliged to perform a job (service) that is not included in the job description and the employer was brought to administrative responsibility and fined 1,000 manat. During the first 9 months of 2019, no similar cases were recorded.

- *Regulating and monitoring the functioning of recruitment and temporary work agencies to prevent THB*

Response: The development of entrepreneurship and further improvement of the business environment are one of the main and priority directions of the economic development strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this regard, important decisions made by the President on entrepreneurship development since the end of 2015 were the beginning of a new phase to further improve the business environment and provide additional incentives for starting a business. As a result of reforms that are carried out inspections in the field of entrepreneurship are being suspended until January 1, 2021; Appellate Councils were established to provide more reliable protection of the rights of entrepreneurs, their grant procedures are simplified, advanced mechanisms have been applied in the field of import / export operations (green corridor, electronic declaration, etc.), discounts applied in favour of local goods in public procurement, subsidies were intended for the development of traditional sectors of agriculture (cotton, tobacco, silk), to promote and empower small and medium-sized family enterprises establishment of Simplified Support to Family Businesses (ABAD) centers is decided. Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 6, 2016 approved the strategic roadmap for the national economy and key sectors of the economy in order to identify the future development goals and directions of the country and to ensure their implementation.

All the above-mentioned activities promote entrepreneurship and self-employment of people from all categories, including potential victims of trafficking and THB victims. 24 trainings, seminars, round tables and other events were organized in 2018 by the Ministry of Economy for entrepreneurs and start-ups ("Reforms for development of entrepreneurship, protection of entrepreneurs' interests", "The role of e-services in the development of the state and society, preventive measures in the prevention of corruption", "The role of packaging in the development of manufacturing and processing industries", "Development and prospects of textile industry in the country", etc.). 22 of these events were organized in Baku and 2 in the regions. There were more than 750 participants in these events. Relevant information was provided for the involvement of potential victims of trafficking in socially useful activities, ensuring their employment and recruitment of victims of trafficking.

In 2018, 66 trainings, seminars, round tables and other events were organized for entrepreneurs, businessmen and start-ups by Baku Business Training Center and its representations in Baku and regions on "Marketing" (January 25 and February 15 in Ganja, February 8 in Goychay, February 14, May 23 and June 7 in Lankaran, February 19 in Tovuz, April 23 in Gazakh), "Development of environmentally friendly agriculture" (February 16 in Agstafa, April 23 in Gazakh, April 27 in Barda), "Insurance of entrepreneurship activities in agriculture" (February 21 and March 7 in Sheki, March 15, May 2 and June 1 in Gazakh, April 5 in Agsu, April 19 in Lankaran), Creation and Development of the "Made in Azerbaijan" brand (February 8 and April 26 in Sheki, February 23 in Astara, February 28 in Ujar, March 2, March 15 and May 02 in Gazakh, March 15 in Kurdamir, March 15 in Baku, March 16 in Lankaran, April 27 in Barda). 14 of these events were held in Baku and 52 in the regions. Four of the events were held with the participation of international experts. More than 1,700 listeners attended these events. At all events, presentations were made on "Electronic services provided by the Ministry of Economy", electronic services provided by the Ministry of Economy, integration of these services into the "E-Government" portal (www.e-gov.az), favorable opportunities created by e-services to eliminate corruption risks and increase transparency. In addition, in 2018, 328 advisory services to entrepreneurs, businessmen and startups in various areas, including 36 in Baku and 292 in regions provided by Baku Business Training Center and its representations. In particular, by regions: Ganja-15, Goychay-34, Lankaran-88, Gazakh-103, Sheki-20, Yevlakh-22, Khachmaz-10.

Entrepreneurs and managers were provided with necessary information on the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficking victims and the recruitment of victims of trafficking.

In 2018, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection held a roundtable on "Ethical Conduct Rules for Victims of Human Trafficking" in 5 districts of Baku (Binagadi, Sabail, Narimanov, Nasimi, and Yasamal) and in 28 cities and regions of the country.

In 2018, 22 victims of human trafficking applied to the State Employment Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, 3 of which were employed. Others have been consulted professionally and have been informed about the labor market.

Explanatory work on relevant articles of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Employment" was carried out on the basis of appeals to the State Employment Service from 16 persons from the category of victims of trafficking in human beings.

Some of the residents who applied for employment centers in Baku were employed, some were involved in self-employment projects and some were involved in vocational courses.

To encourage entrepreneurs in Fizuli district relevant meetings were organized in Shukurbeyli, Boyuk Bahmanli, Kerimbeyli, Alikhanli, Horadiz, Mirzanagali, Ahmadbayli, Gaydish and Zobucuk villages. Thus, in 2018, 348 people, including those with social risk, were provided with relevant jobs in the Employment Center in accordance with their occupations and specialties. In addition, to ensure employment tens of families were provided with small horned animals and livestock and appropriate household appliances in accordance with their profession.

Out of 1,133 people who applied to the Beylagan District Employment Center over the year, 1002 employers were registered, 332 were employed, 89 were involved in self-employment projects, 35 were paid by the employer for temporary employment.

Five women who were a potential victim of trafficking in Ismayilli region, have been registered at the Employment Center. Informative interviews were held with entrepreneurs. 3 out of these women were employed.

In Barda region, over the year 70 out of employed were IDPs, 148 women and 274 young people.

in 6 administrative district offices of Neftchala region relevant meetings were held with 6 unemployed people and they were mainly involved in seasonal work.

In March and September of 2018, for the employment of victims of trafficking in the Gakh relevant events were organized with the participation of entrepreneurs operating in the region.

Although, there are no potential victims of trafficking in Jalilabad, employment of adolescents and young people has always been in the spotlight. Last year, 8046 jobs were created to ensure employment, 756 of which are permanent. 745 people were involved in public works and 193 were involved in self-employment programs. Most of those employed are teenagers and young people.

In Goychay relevant instructions have been issued to engage potential victims of trafficking in socially useful activities, to provide them with employment opportunities, publication of articles in local mass media to encourage entrepreneurs who employ such people.

In order to provide employment to persons deprived of permanent residence, who have special needs for social protection and vulnerable families encountering difficulties in finding employment in Shirvan, quotas in the enterprises and organizations have been identified, and joint measures are being taken to address the employment issues of those individuals.

To reduce the risk of being trafficked six socially vulnerable families were employed, while five families deprived of permanent residence were provided with dormitory housing.

Although there is no potential victim of trafficking in Tartar, Saatli and other districts monitoring in respect to deviation of children from education and their negligence was carried out, relevant measures were taken to take measures for rehabilitation of the socially vulnerable children deviating from the education. These cases are currently being continued by Commission on Children's Affairs and Protection of Rights and juvenile officers of the District Police Office.

- *Reviewing the regulatory system concerning migrants working as domestic workers and ensuring that inspections can take place in private households with a view to preventing abuse of domestic workers and detecting cases of human trafficking;*

Response: In accordance with the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. III dated February 7, 2019, the activities of the household is included in the economic activity of "Household activities: activities for goods and services produced by households for personal

consumption". Thus, under the immigration law, an employer must obtain work permits to engage foreigners and stateless persons in paid employment.

Relevant improvements are carrying out on the regulatory framework for foreigners and stateless persons who work as domestic servants. In connection with the issuance of permits for this category of persons to work a draft law on amendments to the Migration Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been prepared and appropriate work is underway to approve it.

"An analysis of inter-country situation with migrants working in the domestic services sector and the development of proposals for legal regulation of public relations in the relevant field"; "Inclusion of topics related to compulsion to perform home services and other forms of exploitation in the anti-trafficking training program" is intended in The National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023, which is on the eve of approval.

- *Take the following additional measures to prevent trafficking in children:*
 - *Improve the protection of children in vulnerable situations and paying particular attention to children in street situations, children from rural areas at risk of child labour and, children placed in or leaving child care institutions*

Response: Human trafficking prevention measures are also applied to prevent child trafficking.

Article 3.1.2 of Decision dated September 03, 2009, No. 131 on making changes to the "Rules of National Referral Mechanism on victims of human trafficking" approved by the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated August 11, 2009 entails indicators characterizing the signs (symptoms) of victims.

Authorities involved in combating trafficking in persons (agencies responsible for implementation of NPA) are also engaged in combating trafficking in children.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, strengthening legal and social protection of children; creating and applying a system of social, legal, pedagogical, and other measures aimed at the identification and elimination of conditions and circumstances leading to solitude and orphanage; identifying minors, who evade education and taking measures on their education; proposing and implementing special programs for educational institutions, orphanages, boarding schools, and other bodies/units operating on the prophylactics of the juvenile offenses and desolation is considered as a system of measures for the prevention of human trafficking.

Relevant services of Main Department on Public Security at the MIA detected 21 facts on engagement of children in day labor (without a labor contract) in public catering and other service sectors to satisfy personal and family needs, and sent collected materials to local agencies of the State Labor Inspectorate and other related organizations. Children engaging in various types of work in the streets, as well as their parents are exposed during regular outside raids and inspections by the police and their personalities and territorial affiliations are identified, along with administrative investigations and sanctions, information about them is collected in a special file system, the albums are compiled, which in turn promotes the effectiveness of preventive activities.

Main Department on Public Security of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has identified 450 children who are out of the family environment, pedagogical and social impacts, engaged in illegal labor and begging and 207 parents who are responsible for this by the end of 2018. Administrative sanctions have been taken on these parents, and 760 materials have been sent for consideration to the executive authorities, guardianship and trustee structures to provide appropriate care and assistance to children and address their social problems.

Main Department on Public Security at the MIA carried out the training of children who had committed a crime, as well as children who stayed beyond the means of family and pedagogical influence for different reasons, including those who had been applied punishment mechanisms alternative to deprivation of liberty and their active reintegration to the society in the defined periods, and arranged provision of legal and psychological assistance to 75 juveniles who are in trouble with the law and their parents at the "Child rights clinic" and "Children and youth social rehabilitation center" during the reporting period. At the same time, legal aid activities were implemented around 72 minors registered for illegal deeds in community-based "Child police rooms".

Main Passport, Registration and Migration Department at the MIA issued 97 ID cards for stateless persons who had been granted a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Azerbaijan until January 1, 1992 and their children born until the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan" entered into force (in relation with expiry of the period of validity and change of residence). 121 stateless persons provided passports for using outside the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Main Department on Public Security at the MIA informed enterprising parties about identification of social origin and legal status of minors by defining their places of permanent residence, parents and other legitimate representative based on the analysis of surveys on minors received from the Republic of Turkey and CIS countries, and necessary documents were presented to them. Civil cases on alimony for children, recognition of birth facts and issuance of birth certificate, registration in the place of residence and restoration of housing rights found a positive solution at the "Child rights clinic" and "Children and youth social rehabilitation center" of the "Hopeful Future" Youth Organization (NGO Alliance) within cooperation with MIA.

In 2018, more than 85,000 9-11-th grade pupils, their parents, as well as 200 psychologists from secondary schools, about 250 representatives of the commissions under the executive authorities attended in meetings organized by Main Department on Public Security at the MIA with participation of specialists from the city, district central hospitals, settlements and rural medical centers.

Awareness-raising activities to combat human trafficking by The Press Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were strengthened, educational and preventive events were organized in secondary and higher education, preschool educational institutions of a number of regions of the country with the participation of representatives of non-governmental organization and employees of Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and territorial police, informative and analytical articles on seminar trainings were published in many mass media.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On social services", the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan has started to provide social services to children with limited abilities by submitting government orders to non-governmental and non-profit organizations in the area of social services since 2013. A number of social projects are being implemented in the regions to provide social protection for neglected children and their families, as well as victims of domestic violence and victims of human trafficking.

Thus, at the beginning of 2019 an interview for the project "Organization of activities of the social rehabilitation center for victims of human trafficking" was announced. The project was launched on 1 August 2019 in Ganja and Lankaran, Goychay region by specialized NGOs. The main objective of the project is to provide social rehabilitation services to victims of human trafficking and potential victims of trafficking, as well as legal, social and psychological assistance to these category of people.

By the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 337 dated July 30, 2019, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population has a shelter and social rehabilitation facility for vulnerable groups within the State Social Protection Fund. The purpose of the institution is to provide social rehabilitation of minors in vulnerable social situations and placement of persons over 18 years of age in shelters within the period specified by the legislation, as well as implementation of social rehabilitation of minors with visual impairments.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 90 dated March 30, 2015, "Alumni House" Social Institution was established for the purpose of providing appropriate accommodation for alumni of state child care institutions (operating under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic) who lost parent guardianship and are deprived of parental.

These institutions have also contributed to the prevention of forced labor, sexual violence and other form of human trafficking in terms of protection of vulnerable people accepted to these institutions.

Three buildings have been built and commissioned for the youth of this category, and the construction of the fourth building has begun. According to the Charter of the institution, young people have the right to live in the institution with their family members (husband, wife, children) while they are married.

Currently, there are 365 graduates in the institution. Graduates are provided with living space, necessary home appliances and inventory. Utility expenses of graduates are paid by the enterprise within the first 6 (six) months. Residents of the institution also work in the public catering facilities of the institutions. In addition, carpets and sewing shops have been established within the institution and alumnis were employed in cafes and kitchens, barber's shop, trade centers, internet cafes, facility of table games, laundry and etc.. 10 graduates also work in within this institution. Along with the above, with the

support of the International Organization for Migration in our country, carpets and sewing shops were established and commissioned in the "Alumni House" with the aim of providing employment for the residents.

During the first 9 months of 2019, 33 out of the persons admitted to the enterprise are orphan minors in socially vulnerable situations, 13 of them are persons with disabilities.

In cooperation with the Executive Office of Aghdam a free medical examination of children was held by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, the Azerbaijan Pediatric Association, the Azerbaijan Society of Ophthalmologists and the National Ophthalmology Center named after Academician Zarifa Aliyeva in Aghdam. Medical examination that took place on June 1, 2016 at the Four Roads Hospital, was attended by children from low-income families living in Aghdam and benefiting from the Aghdam Child and Family Support Center. An educational event on child rights was held with the staff of boarding school No. 4 in Khazar district. To promote a healthy lifestyle Shuvalan Children and Families Support Center organized an educational event with a total of 25 people at Shagan Youth House and school No.124. Shuvalan CFSC held an educational event with the participation of 20 students at the Jabrayil district school and distributed booklets.

To provide to persons from among the children who lost parents and lost parent guardianship purchase of textbooks and educational accessories during their training in the public highest and specialized secondary educational institutions, and also in National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan (further - NANA) at the expense of means of organization in which they study, or to issue instead of textbooks and educational accessories benefit in the amount of 36 manats according to the changes (No 567 dated November 7, 2017,) in the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic of November 7, 2001 No. 179 "About measures for improvement of social protection of the children who lost parents and lost parent guardianship" Additionally, provide the children who lost parents and lost parent guardianship in case of their first employment at the expense of the means provided in the Section "Expenses for education" of centralized expenses of the government budget of the Azerbaijan Republic, clothes, footwear, soft stock and the equipment according to the standard rates provided by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic of January 17, 1994 No. 15, and also one-time paid allowance in the amount of at least 5 times of average monthly income for Azerbaijan.

Beside according to the Article 5 of the Law of the Azerbaijan Republic "On social security of children who have lost their parents and were deprived of parental care" state financing, for the children who lost their parents and were deprived of parental care, as well as persons qualified for the same status gets the double scholarship, as well as 100 percent wage for the period of their practical training.

According to the Article 4.2 of the Charter of the "Alumni House" for graduates of state orphanages deprived of parental care under the State Social Security Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan a list of graduates who have no place of residence is submitted to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of each academic year. At the moment, 178 alumni who have lost parent guardianship is provided with accommodation in two newly commissioned "Alumni House" Social Institution. In the 2017/ 2018 academic year, 28 people lost parent guardianship and were deprived of parental care. Relevant information about a graduate without a place of residence has been submitted to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, with the participation of students in boarding schools' events were held on "Your rights and duties", "Civil maturity", "Combating human trafficking" issues. Students were provided with detailed information on the causes of human trafficking, as well as the mechanisms of applying for assistance and related agencies. Involvement of children in education whose mothers have been victims of trafficking is ensured, the confidentiality of child information is protected, and psychological assistance is provided by the school.

To prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking regular measures have been taken by education authorities and secondary educational institutions on bringing children back to education. The number of children who have been abducted has been identified by special working groups in education departments, and the list of these children has been submitted to the Teams for Preventive Work with Juveniles under the local police to prevent unlawful acts and involve children in compulsory secondary education. At the same time, appropriate conversations were held with parents of abused children, and

one of the duties of parents or other legal representatives was to provide compulsory secondary education for their children under the current legislation.

In addition, within the framework of activities to promote human rights in public schools of the Republic issues related to the improvement of the mechanism of human rights protection, protection of children's rights, legal awareness among schoolchildren, legal aspects of family and school relations were discussed and representatives of government, other relevant organizations, NGOs, psychologists, medical workers, legal advisers, police officers, schoolchildren and parents were actively involved in these events;

To strengthen cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations and international organizations in the area of juvenile delinquency and their social rehabilitation, "Azerbaijan Child Hotline" Service was established by Ministry of Education, Ombudsman's Office, NGO Alliance for Children's Rights and Youth Organization Hope with the support of Azercell Telecom Company, UNICEF and international NGOs ("World Vision Azerbaijan" and "Save the Children"). Since its initiation, Azerbaijan Children hotline has received calls about various issues from children and the young, as well as parents from various cities and districts of the country. The majority of calls to Azerbaijan Children Hotline come from children residing public boarding schools, working and living outside, subjected to exploitation and violence, suffering from physical, mental or emotional difficulties. The children who have applied to the Azerbaijan Child Hotline for education have received the necessary assistance; to protect children from the risks associated with human trafficking and child labor educational activities have been organized in educational institutions. There were exchanges of views on violence and its forms, child exploitation, student-teacher and parent-child relationships, trainings on "The essence of human trafficking, its forms, risks associated with trafficking and combating it" to high school students in secondary schools were organized by employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs's Office for Combating Trafficking, the Ministry of Education and the NGO Coalition for Human Trafficking. In addition, social video clips were prepared by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children have been shown at secondary schools in order to strengthen the awareness of children in the area of protection against human trafficking and child labor.

Tuition fee of 17120 people studying at higher education institutions with the status of internally displaced persons, who have lost parent guardianship and are deprived of parental, children of those who died for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan, students with disabilities is paid from the state budget.

Based on the annual action plan of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Azerbaijan, a study was conducted on the current situation of Roma families in Gazakh and Agstafa regions, 4 social workers were involved in the activities of the Commissions on Minors' Affairs and Protection of their Rights under the Executive Power of Gazakh and Agstafa District.

An international conference "Doctors Against Child Abuse" was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on July 31 - August 1, 2019. As part of a project jointly implemented by ISIS, the Community of Hope for Social Initiatives, the OAK Foundation and the Georgian Public Health Foundation, the training and skills of primary health care professionals, especially outpatients and paediatricians in preventing violence against children. It is also planned to develop and test a curriculum for managing such cases in these medical institutions. The project implemented in cooperation with the Public Health and Reforms Center, "Hopeful Future" Social Initiatives Association, OAK Foundation and the Georgia Public Health Foundation aims to improve skills and knowledge of primary health care providers, especially outpatient physicians and paediatricians in preventing child abuse, and to develop and test a curriculum to manage such cases in medical facilities.

"Methodological Handbook for Prevention of Child and Adolescent Violence" is regularly published by Public Health and Reforms Center of the Ministry of Health and distributed to medical facilities.

Psychological services and appropriate counselling are provided to children with mental and functional disabilities in the Republican Mental Health Center and its 14 regional offices. Specialists of these centers, staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Family, Women and Children Support Centers, school psychologists participate in awareness-raising activities for school children, relevant booklets ("Child Trafficking", "Together Against Child Violence!") and visual aids are distributed, information about the "hotline" is provided.

Training on "Youth reproductive health and family planning" was held at Secondary School No. 229, 250 on May 7, 2019 in Nizami District, Secondary Schools No.18, 21, 286 on May 13 and 16, 2019 in Yasamal

District, Secondary School No. 102 on May 23, 2019 in Binagadi district by the Public Health and Reforms Center of the Ministry of Health. As a result, participants were asked questions and distributed leaflets. On May 13-17, in cooperation with "Baku Idea Lab LLC" and Tovuz Youth House, the Public Health and Reforms Center in Tovuz implemented "Health Care Messengers" project to promote healthy lifestyles as part of the European Public Health Week 13-17 May. Health Week also included meetings with children with Down syndrome and various gifts were presented to them.

Brochures of "Non-Violent Adolescence (Grade 5-9)" and "Grow Up Beyond Violence" (Grade 1-4), leaflets "Early Marriage", "Don't hit the woman!!!" were published by the Public Health and Reforms Center and distributed to people in "Asan Service" Centers. Within the framework of the European Union project relevant works are done by Mental Health Center to prevent the involvement of children and adolescents involved in trafficking, domestic violence, forced labor, with mental disorder and from other risk groups in the criminal environment.

To provide the mental health of the population, including minors cooperation with "Psycho-social support", "Clean World", "Initiative for Development" and other public associations is continuing.

Awareness booklets "Child trafficking", "Do Not Expose to Forced Labor!" were developed by the Public Health and Reforms Center and sent to the Knowledge Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as distributed in all ASAN service centers throughout the Republic with the help and support of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations.

For the purpose of preventing drug addiction that promotes human trafficking awareness-raising materials were prepared by experts of the Republican Narcological Center. Booklets entitled "Protect your children from drug addiction!" were distributed to parents, "Choose a Healthy Drug-Free Life!" to young people in children's medical institutions and schools. The staff of the center gave speeches on various state and private TV and radio channels and participated in public campaigns.

- *Strengthen the prevention of child, early and forced marriages*

Response: According to Article 1.4 of the Family Code (hereinafter shall be referred to as Code) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, legal regulation of marriage and family matters in the Republic of Azerbaijan is carried out by the state and only marriage made in the registry office, consular office and executive office is recognized.

According to Article 2 of the Code, marriage is a voluntary union of a man and a woman registered in relevant executive authority for the purpose of marriage.

According to the Article 11 of the Code, a written consent of the persons involved in the marriage is necessary for marriage. And, according to the Article 13.3 of the Code, it is necessary to submit a certificate confirming that they have undergone medical examination, and the couples should reach to marriage age.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated November 15, 2011 "On Amendments to the Family Code", the minimum marriage age for women was equalized with the minimum marriage for men and was increased by one year, and was set to 18 years.

According to Article 10.2 of the Code, in case of a valid excuse, the relevant executive authority in the area of residence of persons, who plans to enter into marriage, but under the age of marriage, may allow reduction of marriage age no more than 1 year based on request of couple.

According to the Article 11 of the Code, a written consent of the persons involved in the marriage is necessary for marriage. And, according to the Article 13.3 of the Code, it is necessary to submit a certificate confirming that they have undergone medical examination, and the couples should reach to marriage age.

It is noted that representatives of the Ministry of Justice together with heads of regional (city) registration departments held regular meetings at representative offices on settlements and village administrative units with the population of settlements covered by those representative office, provide information on the "bad consequences of early marriage", importance of entering into marriage. They also define the persons whose marriage is out of the state registration and ensure their proper registration

So that, as a result of the enlightenment works done in 2018, marriage of 1483 couples who were actually in marriage relation, was taken into state registration.

As well as, conferences on improvement of state registration issues and importance of state registration in whole territory, meetings with the public are held, media publications, articles are posted, lectures at educational institutions and other events are organized. Different kind of guidelines are provided to the public in a simple, understandable language, reflecting the legal requirements for state registration of marriage and as well as, other acts of civil status.

Besides that, it is reported that the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs implements regularly the relevant work in this field in accordance with its activity directions.

Together with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations, educational activities on prevention of early marriages were carried out at the secondary school No 6 located in Haji Zeynalabdin settlement of Sumgait city on April 05, 2019, at Masalli region on April 19, 2019 and Saatli region on April 12, 2019. The event was attended by School principals, students, teachers and parents, law enforcement and health professionals, NGOs and others participated in this event. During event, information was provided on early marriages and school dropouts, their complications, ways for elimination of such cases, drug addiction and its consequences, reproductive health, violence against women, as well as ways to combat with domestic violence, local and international legislation in this field, and relevant projects fulfilled by the Committee and Executive Authorities. A video clip on early marriages was demonstrated in the event.

On the initiative of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, events were held with the participation of experts in the relevant fields.

By the initiative of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, events were held in secondary specialized educational institutions of Baku with the participation of experts on relevant fields in order to enlighten youth and teenagers on consequences of early marriages. During this event, a film which is called "Early Marriage" and was presented to "Azerbaijan Family" Film Festival, and a social video called "I am one of them" was demonstrated.

In accordance with the joint action plan of the UNICEF Representative Office in Azerbaijan (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Education, roundtables on early marriages, domestic violence, youth lifestyle were regularly held in secondary schools with the participation of parents, representatives of local executive authorities in order to strengthen measures on prevention of child marriages, early and forced marriages,

On January 24, 2018, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the Sabunchu Rayon Executive Authority held an educational event called "End of Early Marriages" at Mashtaga Culture House together with the participation of school directors, pupils, teachers and parents at schools No. 22, 108, 128, 187, 209, 255, and 293.

On June 22, 2018, an exhibition on the topic of "Say no to early marriages" was organized at Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University (ADPU).

On November 30, 2018, an event called "Early Marriage. Reproductive health and family planning" was held for students at Sumgait City Music College in order to enlighten youth and teenagers on consequences of early marriage, reproductive health and family planning

On October 5, 2019, an educational event on the "Consequences of Early Marriage" was jointly organized by the Ismayilli Vocational Training Center, Ismayilli District Youth and Sports Department.

In accordance with approved annual work plans for leisure time, lectures on combating early marriages are provided to senior students at boarding schools.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On education", secondary education is compulsory in Azerbaijan. In recent years, there have been substantial qualitative changes in girls' compulsory education to complete secondary education, and problems on attendance of those girls mainly been eliminated. In order to avoid early marriages, local education management and law enforcement agencies, local executive authorities regularly work with parents to encourage girls to a variety of professions, promote their admission to vocational lyceums after compulsory education. Besides that, local health authorities and relevant NGOs conduct educational activities in secondary schools to prevent early marriages. These activities provide detailed information to students and parents on reproductive health, medical, social, and psychological consequences of early marriage and its consequence for girls married at an early age as deprivation of the right to integrate into society by removal from education.

- *Strengthen the role and capacity of the child protection systems to prevent trafficking in children and alert other relevant stakeholders to possible cases of trafficking*

See Response point 1 of paragraph 2 of item 2 of report.

"Human Trafficking Instruction", developed in 2019 for staff working at diplomatic missions and consulates of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Chapter 8 " Special points to be considered while working with children subjected to human trafficking" of "Anti-Trafficking Instructions: What diplomats should know and which measures should take" guideline developed and published in 2019 for diplomatic and consular staff of the Republic of Azerbaijan provides detailed information on identification of child victims of trafficking, factors and indicators to be taken into account in the identification process, interviews with children and other forms of data collection, protection of children who are victims of or suspected of being trafficked, process of cooperation with representatives of international organizations and specialized NGOs operating in foreign countries in this field.

The staff of the diplomatic representations and consulates of the Republic of Azerbaijan were informed in detail on protection of children who are victims of trafficking or suspected of trafficking, possible relevant cases, international and national norms and instruments regulating this field.

An educational meeting was held at Shagan Culture House with 15 teenagers from the risk group. An educational event were held at Shuvalan full secondary school No. 156 on rights of children, at Lachin full secondary school No. 31 on "Our rights", and at Sabirabad within Sabirabad Center for Children and Families held awareness-raising event on the topic of "Know the law" with the participation of high school students. In total, 122 persons attended in these events. Gabala State Center for Child and Family Education held an educational event called ""Human rights protection" at Gabala State Vocational Training Center with the participation of 67 persons within the month of human rights, and educational event was held in Saatly Region Cultural Center with the participation of 21 women on "Human rights". A short film on human rights was presented for schoolchildren at Saatly Region Child and Family Support Center, and educational discussions were held around the subject. 26 students participated at event. An event called "Everybody is entitled to know its rights" was held at Goranboy secondary school No. 1 with participation of 30 pupils and parents.

On December 11, 2018 the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs held an event on "Organization of electronic data bank for realization of rights of child" and electron transfer of data by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, The Ministry of Social Protection, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the State Migration Service and local executive authorities. The staff of these organizations participated at event. The data bank is very important in terms of collecting reliable statistical data on the investigation, application and punishment of criminal trafficking cases, as well.

Training on rights of child called "My rights" was held with 20 teenagers at the secondary school No 181 in Mardakan settlement of Khazar district, and training on human rights was held Shagan secondary school No 124 with 25 pupils. 14 specialists were involved to these trainings.

The State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs pays special attention to the organization of activities aimed at developing children's self-expression skills, ensuring their active participation in the process of protecting their rights and interests in society, and establishing a society worthy citizen. In such events, special attention is paid to enlighten children on protection of them from human trafficking, early marriage, exploitation of labor and violence. In total, approximately 2,500 children were involved in the educational events.

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated October 30, 2018 "On protection of children from malicious information", which defines measures to protect children from malicious information and regulates relations in this field, was adopted in connection with the right of children to obtain information relevant to their age. This law will take effect on January 1, 2020.

As well as, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies regularly organizes educational activities on the safe use of Internet by the children at schools of the Republic.

A number of seminars, conferences, and meetings were held with non-governmental organizations, district law enforcement agencies and related governmental agencies by the initiative of district executive authorities of Baku, monitoring were conducted, preventive actions were taken to prevent

children, being deprived of parental care, taken to tutorship and patronage, as well as adopted children, from being the victim of human trafficking. Also, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population implemented works on temporary accommodation of homeless persons over 18 ages at social shelter and rehabilitation facility located in Zabrat settlement of Sabunchu district of Baku.

In accordance with the "Rules for state control over the realization of the rights of the child" approved the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 8, 2012, the Trustee and Guardianship Commissions and Juvenile Affairs and Rights Protection Commissions implement protection of rights and interests of children, establishment of a favourable environment for provision of child rights and prevention of cases that may cause violation of rights of child.

In order to protect the rights and interests of children who were the potential victims of human trafficking, raids were conducted in regions together with regional police departments, and measures were taken to provide social rehabilitation for homeless and neglected children, who were excluded from education, and are likely to be exposed to child labor. In this regard, during raids conducted in regions by members of the commission and regional police officers in the reporting period, minors were registered in relevant commissions, and taken to prophylactic registration in "Organization of preventive care for adolescents" units operating in regional police departments, and prophylactic actions were taken for them.

Detection and accommodation of children deprived of parental care is regulated by Articles 114-135 of the Family Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In the 2018-2019 academic years, 135 children were placed in state child care institutions (on 1-6 classes) in accordance with relevant orders of district / city executive authorities. 5 children were directed to alternative services in small family type home, and 217 children were directed to rehabilitation services in order to improve the welfare of families who cannot take care for their children, improve welfare of their children and avoid those children to be the subject of child enterprises.

In order to take systematic preventive actions for children under the risk group and for their families with the aim of avoiding those children to be sent to state child care institutions, visits were made to the regions where their families or relatives of those children live, and the issue of returning these children to their families was discussed during the meeting of Commission on issues and protection of rights of juveniles. As a result of these activities, 54 children were returned from state child care institutions to their biological families and close relatives by the order of District and City Executive Authorities.

In the 2018-2019 academic years, 10,556 disabled people across the country were enrolled in special education. 6655 persons were involved to education at home, and 629 persons were enrolled in special schools of Education Department of Baku City. 3272 persons study in special educational institutions, integrated educational institutions and special classes under general education schools. Currently, 86 special education classes functions in general education institutions operating under the authority of local education enterprises. 477 pupils with disabilities are studying in these classes. In special educational institutions and integrated gymnasiums, 2795 pupils with disabilities were involved in special education, 1879 of those pupils study in special boarding schools and 916 pupils study in integrated learning gymnasiums.

Data on children living in state child care institutions are collected and integrated into the database every three months, analysed and result-based reports are developed on results. In the first quarter of 2019, 5088 pupils (1936 of them live at the institution) studied at 14 boarding schools operating under the Ministry of Education. 20 children study and live in two family-type small houses operating under the Ministry of Education. It is planned to expand its network as a family-based social services enterprise, in next years.

The education of children living in temporary shelters is provided in those areas by the teachers of the schools at the request of the shelter's manager. The children (14 persons) of the shelter "Clean World" Women Public Union, operating for the children and women living under difficult conditions, study at secondary school No 30, in Baku. The children of the "Place of hope" Children's Shelter (9 persons) study at secondary school No. 71 and No. 121, in Baku. The necessary measures are taken to educate the children, and favourable conditions are provided to develop their interests, incentives and abilities, creative abilities and physical training.

In recent years, 12 boarding schools were transformed, and 17 general boarding schools were transformed into an integrated training gymnasium with the aim of providing specialized (integrated) education in different places.

When state registration of civil status acts is carried out by representatives of the registration offices at the ASAN Service Centers, which operates under the State Agency for Citizen Service and Social Innovation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, mobile services are provided free of extra charge for the disabled persons who need care and support from out, and for children with disabilities.

In 2014-2018, the following documents were issued: birth certificate for 35 children who live under difficult conditions, and study at state care institutions, certificate of death was submitted to 5 children on death of their parents, ID cards for 160 children, document on identification of 3 children, TRP (temporary residence permit) ID card obtained from State Migration Service, document on initial military registration for 13 children on mobilization and conscription to state service, disability rate for 9 children, foreign passport for 13 children, pension for 17 children for the loss of a family head.

- *Ensure that all children are registered at birth*

Response: It should be noted that according to the item 2.2 of "Regulation on state registration of acts of citizenship" approved by Decision No. 145 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 31, 2003, birth information (normally date of birth and sex of a child, surname and name of mother, name of father, place of residence, number and date of issuance of ID) is immediately provided to the Ministry of Health by the medical institution, and the Ministry of Health transmits information to information system of the Ministry of Justice through information system, and it is automatically transmitted to the registration department on residence place of mother.

So that, in case of birth, related information is immediately sent to the State Population Register by the Ministry of Health in an automated mode, and once the information is entered into the Register, the child is given a unique (unduplicated) identification number in an automated mode which does not change by the end of his life.

It enables children to be identified unequivocally, to identify those who were not registered within the timeframe set by the legislation, invite parents to registration office by sending notification on necessity of state registration of birth, and apply administrative responsibility for those who deviate from registration without reasonable excuse. In order to register birth of all children, and provide birth of certificate for those children, registration departments have sent 89.049 notification to the address of residence of mother on the necessity of state registration of child birth in 2018 based on data entered to information system of the Ministry of Justice from the Ministry of Health.

In addition, in order to ensure comfort of the parents and prevent late birth registration, mobile registration was carried out directly at maternity homes before mother's departure from hospital. As a result, 4940 such registrations were made.

The Employees regularly visited the regions to ensure implementation of rights of children whose birth wasn't included to the state registration, as well as to protect their interests, explanatory work and interviews were held among the population in the settlements covered by the executive offices to enlighten them about the importance and necessity of birth registration, meetings were held with elders, intellectuals, teachers and doctors, and legal support was provided to conduct relevant state registration of children whose birth wasn't registered, acquisition of necessary documents from different authorities, and if all these is impossible, then parent's apply to the court for definition of birth fact.

In 2018, 437 settlements were visited, approximately 8,000 booklets reflecting the requirements of legislation on registration of birth were posted and relevant information was posted in the most densely populated areas.

As a result of these activities, it was defined that 2167 children were defined, whose birth wasn't included to state registration, in 2018. Out of them, 2054 births have been registered for those children, who have necessary documents, and 113 parents applied to the court to determine the fact of birth.

In addition, in order to improve birth registration issues and increase awareness of the importance of birth registration throughout the area, extensive educational activities were held by registration departments, conferences and meetings with public were held on this issue, a speech was made in mass media, articles were published, lectures and other events were organized at educational institutions. Also, different guidelines were distributed to the people in a simple, understandable language that reflects legal requirements for state registration of births and other acts of civil status.

Based on the proposals developed jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Justice on providing opportunity to register acts of civil status (as well birth) of temporary Azerbaijan citizens

besides the citizens living temporarily and permanently out of the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, amendments were made to the "Regulation on state registration of acts of citizenship" by Decision No. 570 of the Cabinet of Ministers on December 28, 2018.

It should also be mentioned that, diplomatic representations and consulates of the Republic of Azerbaijan provide registration of births of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan born abroad.

- *Ensure that victims of THB are identified as such, in compliance with Article 10 of the Convention, and in particular:*
 - *Reinforce the National Referral Mechanism and the multi-agency involvement in victim identification by formalising the role and input of specialised NGOs and involving other relevant actors, such as labour inspectors, social workers, educational staff and medical staff, in victim identification*

Response: According to the Article 4 of Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings" dated June 28, 2005, combat against human trafficking is based on the principal of enrolment of non-governmental organizations to this work, and according to Article of this Law, state agencies cooperate with non-governmental organization in prevention of human trafficking. NGOs operating on prevention of human trafficking are involved to the works on enlightenment of potential victims of human trafficking, organization of activity of special institutions for the victims of human trafficking, provision of legal support to the victims of human trafficking and social rehabilitation of victims.

The Coalition of NGOs on combatting trafficking in human beings was established on February 28, 2009. The purpose of the Coalition is to coordinate activities of NGOs operating in the field of combatting trafficking in human beings, and improve efficiency of measures taken in this field.

For the first time, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Coalition of NGOs on combating trafficking in human beings for combatting against human trafficking, in 2009 (for 2009-2013, and for 2013-2018).

As a continuation of this document, a Memorandum of Understanding covering 2019-2023 was signed between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Coalition. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to protect individuals and society from all forms of human trafficking, prevent and take prophylactic actions against human trafficking, identify victims of trafficking, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of trafficking, protect victims of trafficking, or increase the support provided to victims or potential victims of child trafficking, coordinate support and resources on combatting trafficking in human beings, enlighten, and in general, strengthen and develop cooperation of the parties on combatting trafficking in human beings.

In order to strengthen actions on combatting human trafficking, the related activities of NGOs, civil society organizations and trade unions are coordinated with the activities of government agencies. Civil society conducts extensive campaigns to involve representatives to combatting against human trafficking.

Based on the request of related NGOs to the National Coordinator, all members of NGO working group cooperate regularly with the ministries, as well as with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and Health.

The key purpose of "National Referral Mechanism on victims of human trafficking" approved by Decision No. 123 dated August 11, 2009 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and taken principle in combatting trafficking in human beings is to establish efficient system which will provide protection of the rights and delivery to related agencies, security, repatriation and social rehabilitation of victims, and to establish rules in this field.

In order to implement National Referral Mechanism, a commission comprised of the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture, General Prosecutor's Office, State Customs Committee, State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, State Security Service, State Border Service and State Migration Service was established and this commission operates purposefully. The Commission meets with the National Coordinator to review and discuss the works done and identify the upcoming tasks, at least once a year,

The representatives of the civil society institutions are invited to the related meetings, as well. Regular trainings and studies are organized in order to increase workmanship and level of knowledge of the representatives of state agencies and NGOs implementing National Referral Mechanism.

- *Guarantee that, in practice, identification is dissociated from the presumed victim's cooperation in the investigation*

Response: According to Article 14-1 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" and Article 123-1 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a victim of human trafficking is given 30-day's recovery and reflection period to recover his / her condition, avoid impact of criminals and make reasonable decision on cooperation with criminal prosecution authorities. The victim of human trafficking can benefit from the services of shelters and support centers to ensure his/her security and protection needs, and restore his/her physical, psychological and social condition, within restoration and contemplation process. During the period of recovery and contemplation, administrative removal beyond the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan isn't applied to the victims of human trafficking.

During the review of information on the crime committed or organized, the investigating officer, investigator or prosecutor who runs the investigation makes decision on provision of 30 day's recovery and contemplation period to the victim of human trafficking in order to allow him/her to restore his/her condition, avoid impact of criminals and cooperate with criminal prosecution agencies.

- *Ensure that the application of the Rules (Indicators) on Identification of Victims of THB and the Rules on the National Referral Mechanism is duly monitored and evaluated*

Response: Evaluation of the implementation of National Action Plans is carried out by the Department of State Control of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

- *Increase efforts to proactively identify victims of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation in the sectors most at risk, such as construction, agriculture and domestic work, by involving labour inspectors and trade unions*
- *Review the mandate of labour inspectorate so that they can inspect other workplaces than those of registered companies (e.g. premises where domestic workers are employed) and effectively identify victims of THB*

Response: See Response point 3 and 5 of paragraph 2 of item 2 of the report.

The project of "National Action Plan for 2019-2023 on combatting trafficking in human beings at the Republic of Azerbaijan", which is under the approval plans to make proposals on conduction of monitorings and specification of the duties of relevant inspection agencies in related direction by considering requirements of normative legal acts regarding the inspections made in the field of entrepreneurship in construction, agriculture and home service sectors for prevention of cases enabling human trafficking and forced labor crimes, identification of the victims, as well as supposed victims of such crimes.

- *Improve the detection and identification of victims of trafficking among irregular migrants and asylum seekers through a proactive approach which requires regular training on THB and the rights of victims for immigration and asylum officials, including staff working in the detention centre for irregular migrants, and by allowing specialized NGOs to access facilities where such persons are held*

Response: Every year measures are taken to ensure professional development of the staff of the State Migration Service, involve them to relevant courses and trainings, as well as develop and provide additional education for specialists.

Within the project carried out by IOM on "Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan", regional trainings were held to the employees of State Migration Service on

February 21-22, 2019 (in Guba), on May 2-3, 2019 (in Lankaran), on May 30-31, 2019 (in Ganja), on July 9, 2019 (in Baku) based on IOM's guideline "Direct assistance to the victims of human trafficking". 7 employees of the State Migration Service attended in training organized by the US Embassy in Azerbaijan on combatting human trafficking, on March 28, 2019.

In addition to the above mentioned, Training Center of State Migration Service organized trainings for employees of the Service, as well as for the vocational education of candidates who are envisaged to be hired to migration agencies on the topics such as "Combatting human trafficking", "Indicators on combatting human trafficking and identification of victims", "Legislation on identification of the victims of human trafficking", "Investigation of the possibility of being a victim, and improvement of capacity to work with persons assumed to become victim", "Rules for identification of the victims of human trafficking, definition of indicators, and interviews with them", "Involvement to forced labor and worst forms of child labor. Fulfilment of obligations arising out of international legal acts on child labor", "Combatting with unregulated migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking", legislation on identification of victims of human trafficking".

Besides that, 11 employees of the Service attended in training on "Rules for identification of the victims of human trafficking, definition of indicators, and interviews with them" arranged on September 6-7, 2019 by the Training Center on taking actions for preventing illegal migration, protecting human rights and freedoms, ensuring the rule of law, and increasing the efficiency of work.

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on amendments to the Migration Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan entered into force on July 24, 2019. Grounds of permission granted to the foreigners and stateless persons to live in Azerbaijan for a temporary period was increased. 10 new grounds were added to Article 45 of the Migration Code (cases enabling foreigners and stateless persons to live temporarily in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan). So that, added 2 Article is related with granting temporary residence permit to foreigners and stateless persons who are considered victims of trafficking or help criminal prosecution authorities. Also, a new item was added to Article 64 of the Code (cases that doesn't require acquisition of work permission). This item envisages non-requirement of work permission for paid work in the country for the persons who are considered victims of human trafficking or assisting the criminal prosecution agencies. In the first 8 months of 2019, there was no request on granting temporary residence permit in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan to victims of human trafficking or the persons who affected from human trafficking.

Taking into consideration that migrants without documents are most vulnerable group to human trafficking, foreign citizens or stateless persons, especially women and children detained in Center for the Protection of Illegal Migrants are enlightened on the danger waiting for the victims of human trafficking, and informed about the provided protection methods, within the training courses arranged in such Centers for prevention of such crimes.

The Service plans to enrol well trained, specialized and experienced man or woman employee to works on acceptance of applications for granting refugee status, provision of its review in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the status of refugees and IDPs (internally displaced persons)" and the Rule on review of application for granting "refugee" status, definition of the victims of human trafficking among the persons looking for shelter. The application process and interviews should be conducted as soon as possible in accordance with relevant legal documents on victims of human trafficking and recommendations of the relevant authorities.

During the trainings provided to the employees on definition of refugee status, a special attention is paid to definition of the victims of human trafficking among persons looking for shelter, and review of their application.

During the process of determination of refugee status, if there is any doubt about the applicant to be the victim of human trafficking, or if the applicant himself expresses that he is a victim, then the Service notifies the relevant state agency with the aim of identifying victim of human trafficking. If it is confirmed that he is the victim of human trafficking, then instruction of UN HCR on the victims of human trafficking is considered during definition of refugee status. In addition, the persons applied to the Service for acquisition of refugee status are provided with brochures developed in Azerbaijani, Russian, English, and Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages for enlightenment of them on risks of human trafficking.

Within the project "Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan" implemented in Azerbaijan since 2016 by the Representation of the International Organization for

Migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan, IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs developed jointly a guideline called "Guideline on combatting trafficking in human beings: What diplomats should know and which measures should take". This guideline provides recommendations for identification of the victims of human trafficking, and protection of their security within this process, interviews with the victims of human trafficking, and provision of repatriation of victims to the Republic of Azerbaijan, and detailed information on real cases, international experience, and advanced methods applied in these directions. The guideline was presented to all diplomatic missions and consulates of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the aim of awareness-raising.

On May 31, 2019, an international conference "On the role of diplomatic missions in combatting trafficking in human beings" was held for representatives of foreign diplomatic missions in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The event, organized jointly by the European Union, International Organization for Migration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was attended by representatives of more than 20 diplomatic missions in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The experts from EU, IOM, US, and MFA of the Republic of Azerbaijan exchanged experience on foreign policy of countries regarding combatting trafficking in human beings, identification of the victims of human trafficking, and provision of support to them, and etc. They adopted decisions on implementation of practical cooperation. The representatives from State Migration Service, State Security Service, and from other state agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as from public organizations participated in this event.

- Improve the identification and referral to assistance of child victims of trafficking, including by:
 - Setting up a specific identification mechanism based on inter-agency co-operation and accompanied by standard operation procedures, which takes into account the special circumstances and needs of child victims, involves child specialists and ensures that the best interests of the child are the primary consideration
 - Ensuring that relevant actors (police, child protection authorities, social workers, healthcare staff, teachers, NGOs,) are adequately trained and provided with guidance for the identification of child victims so that they can take a proactive approach and increase their outreach work to identify child victims of THB

Response: See Response point 1 and 3 of paragraph 2 of item 2 of report.

Section 3.1.2 of the "Rules for the identification of victims of human trafficking" approved by the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No 131 dated September 3, 2009, signs on identification of child victims were defined concretely.

While providing support to a child who is a victim of trafficking, his/her interests are prioritized, and all measures are taken to protect the rights and legitimate interests of the child in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the rights of child", the UN Convention "On the rights of child", as well as, other laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan and international treaties to which it is a party. The shelters and support centers report immediately to the Guardianship and Trusteeship Body and the Commission for the Protection and Rights of Minors on the child, who was victim of trafficking. Guardianship and Trusteeship Body and the Commission for the Protection and Rights of Minors take measures for protection of rights and interests of a child in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. If it is possible to identify his/her age while admitting to the shelter and it is assumed that he/she is under 18, and then he/she is considered a child. The period for the children to stay in shelter is 60 days. The period for staying at shelter can be extended by the application of special police agency, Guardianship and Trusteeship Body and the Commission for the Protection and Rights of Minors. The opinion of children over 10 years old is learnt and taken into consideration while accommodating them in shelter, and extending period for living in shelter. Children are usually placed separately in shelters. Taking into consideration the best interest of the child, he or she may be placed with parents (excluding the cases in which the parents are likely to cause the child to be victim of human trafficking) or with other persons who may have a positive effect on the child's psychological state.

Children placed in shelters are given the opportunity to continue education, to contact and communicate with their parents (excluding the cases in which the parents are likely to cause the child to be victim of human trafficking). If the child victim doesn't know the place of his/her parents, or has been deprived of parental care, the state agencies dealing with combatting trafficking in human beings take actions to

seek family, or identify availability of trusteeship or guardianship. Social protection of such children is carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On social protection of children who have lost their parents and deprived of parental care".

Social rehabilitation of child victims of trafficking is carried out based on specially developed programs, by taking principle the provisions of the legislation.

Removal from the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan isn't applied to foreign or stateless children who are victims of human trafficking; also decision on removal from the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan isn't made. The return of children who have been trafficked to their country or to their parents is permitted only in case, where the probability of being the re-victim of trafficking is excluded. While addressing the issue on returning child to his/her country or parents, the opinion of child over 10 years is learnt and taken into consideration.

In the 2018-2019 academic years, a number of actions were taken in this field:

Employees of the relevant organizations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs organized awareness-raising events on "The essence, forms, threats of human trafficking and combatting trafficking" at state child care institutions functioning under the Ministry of Education.

On November 13-16, 2018, "Education" Republic Sport Center under the Ministry of Education organized the training of trainers in the school-lyceum No. 6 on "Enhancing the effectiveness of protecting human rights and freedoms among students". In total, 70 persons were involved to the training from a project called "A friend of student" and from children-youth sport schools. The training was arranged to enlighten the teacher staff of the educational institutions on combatting trafficking in human beings, and improve their knowledge in this field.

The disputes, discussions, lectures and roundtable meetings were organized at secondary schools on the topics such as " We learn our rights", "My rights and obligations", "Let prevent violation of human rights", "Human rights and multicultural values", "The role of the state in protection of human rights", "Basic principles of human rights", "I am a full-fledged citizen of my country", "Azerbaijan is an Example of Multiculturalism to the World", "Human Rights and Tolerance, and school children were informed in detail on social, economic and legal reforms, and projects carried out in the country for protection of human rights.

A series of events called "End Human Trafficking" and "My Rights - My Identity" were held at secondary schools. During such events, conversations were made on providing psychosocial-spiritual and other support to trafficked children and helping them adapt to society, and in order to avoid discrimination of such children during their education, it was also explained that they have the same rights as other students.

During the roundtable meetings organized at secondary schools on topics such as "Your rights and obligations", "Prevention of domestic violence", "Our rights and obligations", "Protection of rights of children in family", exchange of views were made with high school student on violence and its forms, exploitation of labor child, relationship between student and children, and between child and parent. The employees of the Main Department on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Coalition of NGO for combatting trafficking in human beings held trainings to high school students on "The essence, forms, threats of human trafficking and combatting trafficking".

The roundtable meetings were organized on topics such as "Your rights and obligations to the society", "Prevention of domestic violence", "Our rights and obligations", Teacher's personality and rights of child ", " Protection of rights of children in family ", and high school students made lectures on related topics, discussions were made on early marriage, gender equality, violence and its forms, exploitation of child labor, relationships between student-teacher and between child-parent. An interactive discussion were made with students on topics such as "I know my rights", "What is human rights?", "How to protect human rights", "I know my rights and respect the rights of others", "The role of the child in family and society".

Essay and painting competitions on the topics such as "Best knower of human rights", "What rights do I have?", "We want peace", "Children are our future", exhibitions portraying history and culture of ethnic minorities living in Azerbaijan, review of documentaries and videos named "Let's learn our rights and obey them", "Multiculturalism and tolerance" were organized. With the organizational support of the Ministry of Education, employees of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children conduct regularly educational activities to raise awareness of human rights and gender equality in secondary

schools. In addition, boarding schools provide lectures to senior students in order to raise youth awareness of human rights and gender equality in accordance with approved annual work plans for leisure time.

In the educational institutions of Baku, events such as "Human Trafficking and Violence", "Preventing Domestic Violence", "Developing Family Values", "Say No to Early Marriage", "Parent-Child Relationships", "Causes of Expanding the Auditorium of Human Trafficking and highlighting the ways of public support in preventing this process", "Legal Aspects of Combating Domestic Violence", "Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Child Labor", "Human trafficking is an universal tragedy and moral terror", "The Consequences of Human Trafficking", "Cooperation in Fighting against Human Trafficking and Awareness Raising", "Let's ensure the safety for victims of human trafficking", "What do we need to know for avoiding from human trafficking?" were dedicated to enlighten youth on preventive measures against human trafficking, its rules, legal frameworks for protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking, current situation and methods of combating human trafficking, legislation adopted in Azerbaijan, National Action Program, challenges faced by victims of human trafficking, current situation and their solutions, as well as the state policy pursued in this direction.

At the vocational education institutions, discussion on "We know our rights", awareness-raising activities on human rights in involving NGOs, and lecture on "History of Human Rights Protection" were organized. On October 10, Azerbaijan Technical University and the Baku branch of International Institute for Monitoring Democracy Development, Parliamentarianism and Suffrage Protection of Citizens of IPA CIS Member Nations signed a Memorandum, seminar on "State Support for the Protection of Human Rights and Liberties in the Republic of Azerbaijan" were organized.

On 08.10.2019, Masalli State Regional College organized awareness-raising event on "Public Role in Prevention of Human Trafficking Crimes" with the organizational support of the Public Union "Support to the Police" and the financial support of the Council on State Support to NGOs under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

However, issues about the children in the draft National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023, which is on the eve of approval, are as follows:

- Development of proposals to strengthen the legal and social protection of vulnerable women and children to reduce the risk of being trafficked;
- Preparation of proposals on the national age assessment procedures, and taking into account the interests of children and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and General Comment No. 6 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Conducting scientific and social studies on the peculiarities of human trafficking problems in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the activities carried out in combating these illegal acts as well as forced labor, the risks of child trafficking and other areas, and exploring public opinion, and providing state support for the activities in this direction;
- Preventing the coverage of child pornography on the Internet, online streaming of child sexual exploitation, and taking steps to restrict access to such Internet information resources in the country in conformity with the legislation;
- Continuous efforts to identify victims of human trafficking and forced labor as well as children, foreigners or stateless persons within the country, and taking appropriate measures against individuals and legal entities that lead to human exploitation;
- Strengthening measures to prevent child marriages, early and forced marriages;
- Formation of the institute of social work with minors, especially children with disabilities based on advanced international experience, and improvement of legislation taking into account the specifics of this work;
- Increasing educational opportunities for children who are victims of trafficking, suspected to be victims or potential victims of human trafficking;
- Conducting provision of social and legal, social and psychological services as well as social consultations to the graduates of state childcare institutions in order to reduce the risk of being victims of human trafficking;
- Strengthening and taking into consideration the protection of the rights and interests of children who are victims of trafficking, suspected to be victims or potential victims of human trafficking;

- Continuation of monitoring related to the absenteeism and truancy of students, conducting individual preventive work with children who are out of school and in socially dangerous situations;
 - Conducting the family monitoring of children who are adopted or foster
 - Continuous measures to provide children with identity documents who haven't had yet;
 - Inclusion of issues related to the protection of victims' rights, enforcement of doing domestic services and other forms of exploitation of people, gender features of child trafficking, their specific aspects of children, child sexual abuse via Internet in the program of trainings on combating human trafficking;
 - Carrying out trainings and preparation of informative books on identifying and protecting children or potential sufferers of human trafficking (including victims or suspected to be victims);
 - In order to prevent the exploitation of child labor, some awareness-raising measures are considered to be taken between entrepreneurs and employers. These activities are intended to realize on the basis of mutual cooperation among and with involvement of Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture as well as State Committee for Family, Women and Children, State Customs Committee, State Security, State Border, State Migration Services, State Tourism Agency, the Commissions on the Guardianship and Trusteeship Bodies of Local Executive Authorities and commissions on protection of the rights of minors, higher education institutions, other relevant government agencies and specialized non-governmental organizations.
- *Ensure effective access to compensation for victims of THB, including by:*
- *Reviewing current criminal and civil procedures regarding compensation with a view to improving their effectiveness and making State compensation effectively accessible to victims of THB*
 - *Ensuring that victims of trafficking are systematically informed in a language that they can understand of the right to seek compensation in criminal and civil proceedings, and the procedures to be followed*

Response: According to Article 26.2.2 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the criminal prosecution body provides the right to use free translator`s help during the preliminary investigation and judicial review of the participants of the criminal proceedings who do not know the language in which criminal proceedings are conducted, to be fully acquainted with the criminal case or other materials related to criminal prosecution upon completion of the primary investigation, to speak in native language in court. Based on the Article 26.3 of the same Code, provision of the rights of the participants of the criminal proceedings who do not know the language in which criminal proceedings are conducted specified in Article 26.2.2 of this Code is carried out at the expense of the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In addition, according to Article 26.4 of the afore-mentioned Code, the documents to be submitted to the relevant persons who do not know the language in which criminal proceedings are conducted are submitted in their native language or in another language they know.

Also according to the Article 11.2 of the Civil Procedure Code, the right to get acquainted with all materials of the case, give explanations, statements and opinions, speak in the court, file a petition, complain in native language, as well as use free translator service in accordance with this Code is explained and provided to those who participate in the case and who do not know the language in which criminal proceedings are conducted.

Participation of the victims of trafficking in human beings and persons recognized as victims of criminal prosecution in court sessions on each case were provided and while cases are considered in courts and opportunities to use all the rights envisaged in the Article 87.6 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Azerbaijan Republic, including to require compensation by filling civil claims were established.

According to the Article 191 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, victims of trafficking in human beings on these cases have the right to demand compensation at the expense of the state budget of the Republic

of Azerbaijan for the damage caused by the crime committed against them before being subjected to criminal prosecution and punishment.

It should be noted that, Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Determination of the amount of benefits paid to victims of trafficking in human beings during reintegration" No 152 dated June 17, 2006 was amended on June 4, 2019 and the amount of allowance paid to victims of trafficking in human beings during the reintegration period was increased from "400" AZN to "700" AZN.

- *Enabling victims of THB to exercise their right to compensation by guaranteeing their effective access to legal aid, building the capacity of legal practitioners to support victims to claim compensation and including compensation in existing training programmes for law enforcement officials and the judiciary*

Response: Increasing knowledge and skills of officials of relevant state bodies in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and migration law to support the effective use of legal assistance by THB victims, as well as inclusion of the right to get compensation for THB victims in human beings in training (specialized vocational training) programs for law enforcement officers, prosecution officers, judges and lawyers are envisaged in the draft "National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023".

The subject of compensation was included in the program of compulsory training course for successful candidates in the competition on admission to the service to the Justice bodies.

- *Removing the restrictions as regards which lawyers can provide legal assistance to victims of THB*

Response: The legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan does not define restrictions on provision of legal assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings by members of the Bar Association or other lawyers who are not members. It should be noted that, in addition to the cases of protection of the interests of victims of trafficking in human beings at the judicial stage, other lawyers can provide this assistance. However, at the trial stage, assistance to these victims is provided only by advocates.

- *Strengthen efforts to ensure that crimes related to THB for all types of exploitation are proactively investigated, prosecuted promptly and effectively, and lead to proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, in particular by:*
 - *Stepping up proactive intelligence-based investigations and engaging in international co-operation to uncover trafficking networks*

Response: The draft "National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023" on the eve of approval along with other issues, also defines measures to develop cooperation in the field of criminal prosecution and combating trafficking in human beings.

The mentioned project envisages measures to strengthen actions in the direction of strengthening cooperation between law enforcement bodies in combating trafficking in human beings and forced labour crimes, interaction between these bodies and courts, ensuring effective exchange of information and experience, conducting regular meetings and joint trainings; increasing effectiveness of activities on prevention of transnational organized crime related to trafficking in human beings, including determination of possible relations of transnational organized crime groups in the Republic. combating trafficking in human beings was learned, reports and experiences on combating human trafficking of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, GRETA - Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human beings of the Council of Europe, Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Organization for Security and. Cooperation in Europe, International Labour and Migration Organizations and other international, including non-government organizations, in particular countries in Europe were taken into account in the work on improving the activity of combating trafficking in human beings, cooperation with these donor organizations were strengthened to implement the National Action Plan.

Bilateral contracts and agreements on legal assistance were signed between Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Bulgaria, Moldova, Lithuania, Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of China, as well as Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates and Georgia.

Issues on legal assistance in criminal cases through multilateral agreements are regulated by the European Convention on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (20 April 1959), The Minsk Convention on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters" (January 22 1993) and the Chisinau convention of the same name (7 October 2002), United Nations Convention against Corruption (27 February 2004) and Criminal Liability Convention on Corruption (27 February 1999).

The Republic of Azerbaijan has bilateral agreements with the states listed below:

- "Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the United Arab Emirates" was signed in Abu Dhabi on March 21, 2011;
- "Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Hungary" was signed in Baku on November 11, 2011;
- "Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic of Georgia" signed in Baku on May 10, 1993;
- "Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation" signed in Moscow on April 9, 1996.

At the same time, the Republic of Azerbaijan has joined to the international documents listed below:

- The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Protocols "On prevention, elimination and punishment of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children" and "against illegal migration across land, sea and air borders" were signed in Palermo on December 12, 2000;
- Agreement on cooperation in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and illegal trade of human organs and tissues among states parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States" was signed in Moscow on 25 November 2005;
- "The agreement on cooperation of the ministries of internal affairs of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (police) in combating trafficking in human beings" was signed in Saint Petersburg on September 17, 2010;
- "The Final Protocol of the Convention on combating trafficking in human beings and exploitation of prostitution by third parties, dated March 21, 1950".
- *Making effective use of special investigation techniques and financial investigations*

Response: According to Articles 177.3.6, 177.4 and 259.3 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, acquisition of information about financial transactions and the status of bank accounts is carried out only upon a court decision. Pursuant to Articles 13.0.4 and 134.2.9 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the measures aimed at prevention of the legalization of proceeds from human trafficking provide for strengthening the evidence base on criminal cases of trafficking in persons and referring the proceeds from such kind of crimes on compensation of damage caused by the crime.

In addition, the draft National Action Plan on combating human trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023, which is on the eve of approval, also provides for measures on detection of cash money or other property gained from these crimes and prevention of their legalization within preliminary investigation of human trafficking and forced labor crimes.

- *Providing training and encouraging prosecutors and judges to develop expertise in dealing with cases of THB*

Response: Enhancement of knowledge and skills of staff in the field of combat against human trafficking is in the focus of the related work carried out with international partners and is prioritized.

As part of the project on "Enhancement of Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan" implemented by the International Organization for Migration, a number of activities have been implemented to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges, which includes: a Working Group consisting of the representatives of Academy of Justice, Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ombudsman's Office, IOM and the judges of Grave Crimes Courts, as well as national and international experts has been established in order to develop a Training Program for Regional Grave Crimes Courts, Supreme Court and General Prosecutor's Office;

The trainees went through a series of trainings; Within the program a training of 20 trainees which included judges of Grave Crimes Court and the staff of Prosecutor General's Office. The 20 trainees who went through the trainings attended lectures on European and international legal frameworks, criminal investigation and prosecution, access of victims to justice and their protection, national referral mechanism and European case law;

Two training visits to EU Member States with advanced experience in the field of combatting human trafficking for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers (30 persons in total) who attended the training program and a series of trainings, have been arranged. The delegation participated in this country visits got familiar with execution of court decisions, protection of victims of human trafficking, analysis of the legal framework of the host countries, decisions of the supreme courts of the selected countries on the cases of human trafficking;

As part of the project, attention has been given to trainings of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on the topic of sensitive behaviour within organization of work with victims who experienced psychological trauma, including methods of dealing with victims who suffered psychosocial trauma.

- *Strengthening efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation, including of children*

Response: During the first 9 months of 2019, 2 cases of forced labor (Article 144-2) (2 c / i, CC) were recorded as a result of investigative activities, one of which was with engagement of a child involved in labor exploitation.

- *Increasing the co-operation between labour inspectors and the police*

Response: The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population together with State Migration Service regularly and jointly implemented the actions provided in the Action Plan, dated of 10.10.2013, on combating human trafficking, forced labor, as well as preventing and eliminating the consequences of such cases.

In accordance with the Action Plan, seminars, discussions, meetings, and round tables have been held in national secondary education institutions on combatting human trafficking, legal awareness in this area with the participation of teachers and students.

Assistance to victims of trafficking is also provided through cooperation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population. For example, the provision of safe shelters is implemented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, whereas labor and professional skills development actions by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population.

In addition, it should be noted that in 2018, the relevant services of the Main Public Security Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs revealed 21 facts of day-to-day voluntary employment of children (without employment contracts) in the public catering and other service sector with a view to meet the personal and family needs and the relevant evidences were collected and sent to local units of the State Labor Inspection and other relevant agencies.

The State Labor Inspection Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population held 15 awareness-raising seminars (covering 26 cities and regions of the country) during 2018 to prevent child labor exploitation, forced labor and human trafficking.

Together with the Goygol District Police Department, regular raids in business entities operating in the region have been held and no violations linked with child labor exploitation has been revealed.

- *Systematically carrying out financial investigations in human trafficking cases with a view to seizing and confiscating criminal assets*

Response: See the response to paragraph 2, point 7, sub-point 2 of the report

- *Make full use of all measures available to protect victims of THB, witnesses and NGOs supporting victims and to prevent retaliation and intimidation during investigation, as well as during and after the court proceedings*

Response: Security of THB victims is carried out under the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On state protection and provision of safety of persons participating in criminal proceedings". The officer of the criminal procedure authority should inform THB victim about the possibility of measures on his/her security and the protection measures taken.

Safety measures taken with respect to the THB victim shall be continued unless the threat is fully eliminated during the preliminary investigation and trial of a THB crime, and post-trial time.

Under the Articles 17 and 18 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings", the following measures are being considered to protect the privacy of victims of trafficking:

- Access to information about THB victims stored in information services and databases shall be terminated in accordance with the relevant decisions;
- Pseudo (false) names shall be used in an effort to provide the anonymity of THB victims;
- Disclosure of the information, which is a secret of personal and family life of the THB victims is prohibited.
- Information threatening the life or health of the THB victims, their close relatives and persons who contribute to the fight against trafficking in persons shall be deemed as confidential, and any disclosure of such information is prohibited.
- Under the Article 316-1 of the Criminal Code, disclosure or intentional dissemination of confidential data on THB victims and security measures used concerning them is punished by imprisonment for up to five years.

In order to protect the confidentiality, personal life and privacy of THB victims, access to information about THB victims stored in information services and databases shall be terminated in accordance with a decision made by the criminal prosecution agency or court and its dissemination shall be prohibited.

- *Build strategic partnerships with civil society actors and the private sector with the aim of achieving the purpose of the Convention, and ensure that NGOs engaged in anti-trafficking action have effective access to adequate funding and are enabled to participate in the prevention of THB and victim protection and assistance, as envisaged in Articles 5, 12 and 27 of the Convention*

Response: See the response to paragraph 2, point 1.

The Council on State Support to NGOs under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan supports a coalition of 44 specialized NGOs, which co-operates with the Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and finances projects aimed at combatting human trafficking implemented by each member organization and provides assistance of other nature.

The Council on State Support to NGOs under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has awarded a total of 59,000 AZN for eight projects under the first grant competition held in 2019 within the "Initiatives to Combat Human Trafficking".

The projects covered a population group of approximately 2,500 people. Within the projects there were held 25 events on relevant topics, as well as 44 people who became a victim of human trafficking and of

the risk group were rendered free legal assistance in court, police and other relevant agencies. As a result of actions carried within the stated projects, 11 THB victims were returned to their families. 242 potential victims and of the risk groups received legal, 125 victims social and 153 psychological assistance. The number of people referred for medical examination was 17. A total of 35,000 people were informed about trafficking, domestic violence, and child labor through 1 film and 4 television programs. The stated eight projects covered 15 cities and regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, in the second half of 2019, the Council together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan announced a grant competition for funding NGO projects aimed at combating human trafficking. 11 NGOs were announced as winners within the competition carried out on September 4-10, 2019 and a total of 150,000 AZN was awarded. These funds are aimed at maintaining shelters for victims of trafficking, providing legal and psychological assistance to victims, as well as implementing preventing activities.

In order to ensure the execution of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No 272, dated August 04, 2005 "On Execution of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings", the Assistance Center for Victims of Human Trafficking under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population was established in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated November 9, 2005, No. 203 "On approval of "Rules on establishment, financing, operation, and inspection of activity of special institutions for victims of trafficking in human beings" and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 06, 2006, No. 62 "On approval of Rules of implementation of social rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking".

The state budget of the current year envisages 47.3 thousand AZN for organization of the activity of the Center. The main goal of the Center is to raise awareness of THB victims about current administrative and legal procedures related to protection of their rights and interests, to provide medical, psychological and other assistance, as well as to assist them in their social rehabilitation, reintegration into society and their normal lifestyle.

We believe that submission of detailed information on works aimed at provision of legal aid and psychological assistance to victims, their medical rehabilitation, implementation of therapeutic measures on rehabilitation of lost functions, provision of their vocational training, retraining and employment, continuation of their education, provision of housing, temporary accommodation in shelters by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population is reasonable to achieve these goals.

At the same time, we would like to inform you that during 2018, with support of the Council on State Support to NGOs under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 15 projects were financed at the amount of 110 thousand AZN. The projects were implemented in 5 cities (Baku, Sumgait, Lankaran, Ganja, Shirvan) and in 13 regions (Shamakhi, Masalli, Saatli, Khachmaz, Guba, Gusar, Sabirabad, Gazakh, Siyazan, Shabran, Shamkir, Tovuz, Agstafa).

Furthermore, we would like to inform you that the state budget envisages to allocate 84.7 thousand AZN for maintenance of the Shelter for victims of human trafficking under the Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In addition, a total of 110 thousand AZN will be provided to victims of human trafficking for the purchase of food and tobacco products, civilian clothing, as well as for provision of legal assistance and other expenses.

It should also be noted that on 17.10.2014, new amendments were made to the Laws on "Non-Governmental Organizations" (Public Associations and Foundations) and "Grant". These amendments cannot be regarded as any restriction on the activities of NGOs. Statistics show that there is a steady and significant increase in their funding, which confirms, once again, that there are no restrictions in operation of NGOs. In particular, in comparison with 2013, grants, donations and other non-profit funds (including external sources) received by NGOs and other entities increased by 2.5 times.

Regarding to funding of NGOs, please note that according to legislation they must ensure transparency in their activities. NGOs are participants of monitoring in the field of fight against legalization of proceeds or other property obtained through financing of crime and terrorism.

The amendments were aimed primarily at ensuring transparency in the use of funds from outside sources and increasing financial discipline in the activities of NGOs. In addition, the purpose of these amendments was to strengthen the national donor institution, to direct donors' grants on real needs, and to ensure the financial efficiency and effectiveness of projects.

On October 21, 2016 the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed the Decree "On the application of "one-stop shop principle" in the procedure of granting by foreign donors in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

According to the Decree, the principle of "one-stop shop principle" is applied in the procedure of granting by foreign donors in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan since January 1, 2017. Coordinating bodies on "one-stop shop principle" are the relevant state agencies.

The application of the "one-stop shop principle" exempted the donor from the need to apply directly to the two government agencies, while the coordinating government body undertook all the procedures related to registration of grant. An important improvement aimed at bettering the conditions for operation of NGOs is that the donor has been relieved of obligation to apply to the relevant government agencies. As a result of legislative amendments, it has been established that not only the donor but also recipient is entitled to register the grant.

Another important improvement the application of the "one-stop shop principle" enabled is a two-fold reduction in the number of documents required for submission to the relevant government agency, as well as the time for reviewing the issue of donor rights.

Also, the Ministry of Justice is completing the work on electronic registration of grants and other funds. There are no barriers to accessing foreign finance. According to statistics, the amount of funds allocated in the form of grants and other forms of non-commercial financing is steadily increasing.

Thus, in 2018, 213,924,075.4 AZN was allocated to support the activities of civil society institutions, which is 45.6% more than in 2017.