



CP(2019)06

**Report submitted by the authorities of Sweden
on measures taken to comply with
Committee of the Parties Recommendation
CP(2018)28 on the implementation
of the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

Second evaluation round

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Government Offices of Sweden

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Ministry of Justice
Division for Criminal Law
SE-103 33 Stockholm
Sweden

Ms Petya Nestorova
Executive Secretary
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Dear Ms Nestorova,

I hereby submit the report with information on the measures taken by Sweden to comply with the Recommendation CP (2018)28 of the Committee of the Parties on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, as requested by the Committee of the Parties in the said recommendation.

We look forward to the continuing dialogue and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Therese Thorblad'.

Therese Thorblad
Deputy Director
Contact Person for GRETA

Report on measures taken to comply with Committee of the Parties Recommendation CP(2018)28 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

GRETA recommends that the Swedish authorities take measures to address the following issues for immediate action identified in GRETA's report:

1. Take further steps to provide regular training on THB for different types of exploitation to all relevant professionals, including medical staff and labour inspectors.

The Government has assigned the Gender Equality Agency to strengthen and coordinate the overall work against prostitution and THB in Sweden. According to the assignment the Gender Equality Agency shall, among other things, gather and disseminate knowledge and guidelines to professionals on how they should act in cases where children, minors and adults are exploited or are at risk of being exploited for prostitution or THB. The Gender Equality Agency can also provide training to professionals who may meet children, minors or adults who are exploited or are at risk of being exploited for prostitution or THB.

The Gender Equality Agency is preparing a further education course for all professionals who may come in contact with victims of THB. The course will give participants knowledge on trafficking in human beings for all purposes. The course will be provided for the first time in the spring of 2020. The Gender Equality Agency has also provided special training on trafficking in children for the social services, the Migration Agency, special representatives, staff at homes for care or residence and NGOs.

The social services play a central role when it comes to THB and supporting and protecting children who are victims or potential victims of THB or exploitation. Accompanying children to persons who have been affected of THB or children of perpetrators may also need social protection and support.

To support the social services and to increase their knowledge about and awareness of THB and exploitation of children the National Board of Health and Welfare published in 2018 a guidance for the social services that provides personnel with practical support in the handling of cases and clarifies the responsibilities of the social services in accordance with Swedish and international law. Information about the guidance has been disseminated through national websites, conferences, pods, networks and NGOs. This work will continue in 2019.

Web based information material on trafficking in children can be found on the website "Kunskapsguiden", which is run by the National Board of Health and Welfare. The website contains information on risk factors and other signs, support and protection as well as information about the responsibility of various actors.

Education and training programs for personnel at homes for unaccompanied children includes knowledge of THB and exploitation.

Since 2010, the Swedish Police Authority offers all employees access to interactive training on THB, and since 2017 it also provides interactive training on trafficking in children for different purposes with a focus on sexual exploitation. The training is available on the intranet of the Police Authority and teaches staff how THB can be detected and investigated, and how to approach and support victims of crime etc. Investigators are also offered a two-week advanced course on THB run by the Swedish National Police Training Program in cooperation with Uppsala University. The advanced training is run once or twice a year. Each year, there is also a two-week training course on surveillance operations and targeted searches on the Internet. This course is run by the National Police Training Program in cooperation with the Blekinge Institute of Technology.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has developed an e-learning course about THB in general, with a special focus on THB for sexual exploitation. The e-learning course has been distributed to all Swedish embassies, consulates and missions to international organizations. All employees, both Swedish and local staff, will be asked to complete the course.

Since 2016, the intelligence unit within the National Operations Department (NOA) within the Police Authority has been running special action weeks against prostitution and THB for sexual purposes, procuring, child sexual exploitation etc. in the seven police regions. The aim is to carry out at least four such operations annually in cooperation with the police regions. In practice, the work involves spending the first collaborative day on efforts to improve skills together with the local police, as well as with representatives from the Prosecution Authority and social services. The issues covered include relevant legislation, operational measures, covert surveillance, Internet surveillance and support to victims of THB/individuals involved in prostitution.

Since 2016, there is a network of contact persons for THB in the police regions. The network is led by the national rapporteur together with NOA and the Division for Police Development.

During 2016-2018, NOA, together with the Swedish Economic Crime Authority and the Prosecution Authority took part in a THB-project run by ALEFA (the Association of Law Enforcement Forensic Accountants) within Europol. The project aimed at developing financial investigation methods in the area of THB. In 2017, the project team members made study visits to six EU countries to learn from local experiences. In 2018, a major international training event (the ALEFA THB training event) was conducted within Europol. During the event, 120 financial investigators and THB experts from across the EU and from the USA, Australia and Canada exchanged experiences, methods and knowledge and participated in workshops on financial investigations in the field of THB. The project resulted in a manual on how the judiciary should best handle the financial aspects of THB investigations. The manual serves as a practical support tool for financial investigations on trafficking in human beings throughout the EU and was published in 2018.

Every year, NOA and the National Rapporteur arrange a THB conference for police officers. In most of the seven police regions, the regional THB groups also arrange annual conferences, seminars and meetings for police personnel. Conferences are also held in cooperation with other public authorities within the police district and local police district level to strengthen local operational capacity.

In the autumn of 2017, the Division of Police Development, NOA's intelligence unit and the National Rapporteur produced tailored training materials on THB for the Border Police. The purpose of the material is for the Border Police to gain in-depth knowledge of what THB is, how the victims of trafficking can be identified and supported, and what measures should be taken when the Border Police meet such victims. The training initiatives continued in 2018 and 2019 for all staff of the Border Police.

Since 1 April 2018, all THB cases are handled by National Unit against Organized Crime (RIO) within the Prosecution Authority. The prosecutors who work at RIO are all senior prosecutors with long experience. As previously reported, the Authority provides an e-education that is available to all staff. Moreover, the Authority also provides a method support on THB crimes for prosecutors in the local public prosecution offices who come in to contact with these types of crimes, often during on-call. The method support aims to ensure that all prosecutors have basic knowledge on how to identify THB crimes and handle cases during on-call.

A sustainable working life that includes opportunities for continuous education for healthcare professionals is a prerequisite for a patient-safe care of high quality. The county councils are responsible for ensuring that there is the staff, premises and equipment needed for good care to be provided. In order to strengthen the county councils' conditions in the work with staffing and the provision of skills for a sustainable work environment, the Government and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions have concluded agreements for the years 2015-2019. In these agreements, funds have been allocated to the county councils for 2019, corresponding to approximately SEK 3 billion, for the purpose, for example, to offer skill development or further education to all categories of healthcare personnel.

The Swedish labour market model is based on the regulation of wages and various working and employment conditions in agreements between the social partners. The autonomy of the parties means that it is the responsibility of the trade unions and the employers to ensure compliance with the rules of collective agreements. In Sweden, the occupational health and safety inspectors do not inspect labour

law issues, only the working environment and working hours. The inspectors are not given general training related to THB.

In December 2017, eight authorities were given a government assignment covering 2018-2020 to develop their methods for joint control to counter fraud, regulatory violations and crime in working life. The health and safety inspectors involved in this work have received some training in indicators of THB. The idea is that all health and safety inspectors will take part in a training program that is being prepared by the Gender Equality Agency.

In 2018 the Migration Agency adopted an internal action plan for fair and equal opportunity treatment. The measures in the action plan are to be implemented by the end of 2020. As a part of the action plan, the Agency's internal manuals will be updated so that caseworkers more easily can detect potential cases of THB. The manuals apply to all employees and are an important step in increasing the competence within the Migration Agency. The manuals will be published by the end of 2019.

2. Intensify the efforts to prevent trafficking in children, in particular by:

a. raising public awareness about the risks and different manifestations of child trafficking, including trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality, forced begging and forced marriage;

The Gender Equality Agency has run two campaigns to raise awareness on prostitution and THB. The two campaigns are called "You decide" and "Travel Courage", and the aim is to disseminate information on prostitution and THB in order to discourage people from demanding sexual services.

The social services play a central role in terms of supporting and protecting children who come to Sweden and are said to be married. In 2017, the National Board of Health and Welfare conducted an in-depth analysis of the social services' handling of matters concerning children who are said to be married and what kind of support social workers and managers reported they needed. Based on the results the Board has published a Guidance for the social services, including information on how to assess, investigate and make decisions regarding potential intervention efforts for the children. Recipients of the guide are primarily social workers, supervisors and decision makers in social child and adolescent welfare services, but also units for financial assistance and prevention activities or other relevant parts of the social services.

The Inquiry Report "Increased protection against honour-related crimes" (SOU 2018:69) was submitted to the Government in August 2018 (See page 42). In addition to legal proposals, the report includes the inquiry's assessment regarding collaboration, working methods and areas of responsibility of authorities. The report points out important areas and actors in terms of identifying persons at risk; such as schools, health care settings and social services. According to the report development work is under way, but further steps could be taken to improve collaboration between authorities, to establish clear work procedures and to increase knowledge among personnel on honour-related violence and oppression. The report is currently being processed within the Governments offices.

Every year before the summer school break the awareness-raising campaign "Missing" is run. It aims to prevent that children are being brought out of the country to be married. It has been initiated by the County Administrative Board of Östergötland and in the last campaign several other agencies participated, such as the Gender Equality Agency and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Starting in September 2018, the Government established within the Department of Consular Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs a targeted effort to address Family Conflict Issues in consular assistance, with a special emphasis on child and forced marriages. The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the efforts to provide consular assistance to persons who are brought or being held outside the country for the purpose of child or forced marriage or other forms of honour-related violence and oppression. The aim is to strengthen the efforts in this field on both an operative and a strategic level and to work with prevention. Through the development of working methods, strategies and practical support in managing individual cases, the goal is to enable the Swedish missions abroad to offer victims a more efficient consular service.

As mentioned in the answer to question 1, the Gender Equality Agency has provided special training on trafficking in children for the social services, the Migration Agency, special representatives, staff at homes for care or residence and NGOs.

The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) is a knowledge and resource centre, based at Uppsala University. NCK is divided in an academic department and a clinical department. NCK has developed a toolbox for professionals who meet both women and children subjected to violence and/or perpetrators, or who otherwise encounter cases of men's violence against women. NCK has developed an online basic introductory course on men's violence against women and domestic violence. The course is cross-disciplinary and aims at increasing the competency among the professionals. The course is free of charge and is available to the general public. The course was launched in September 2016 and has been completed by more than 35.000 users.

Barnafrid is a national center for knowledge, based at Linköping University. The university has a government assignment to collect and spread information on violence against children and other types of child abuse.

The Stockholm Centre for the Rights of the Child is a research center and platform at Stockholm University. The research activities focus on children's rights and legal issues relating to children in a broad spectrum of situations and within many different areas of law. Research at the center is conducted within many different legal fields, for example the child's best interest in migration cases, honour-related violence, children's right to participation in child protection cases etc. Many of the projects have multi-disciplinary connections.

b. strengthening efforts to prevent unaccompanied and separated migrant and asylum-seeking children from going missing from care, including by timely appointment of guardians, as well as better training and supervision of guardians and staff working in homes for such children;

Children who come to Sweden without their parents and apply for a residence permit can be provided with a special representative (in the report referred to as a guardian) to represent them and protect their interests in the period before a specially appointed custodian is appointed. Special representatives and specially appointed custodians are subject to the supervision of the chief guardian. The chief guardians are subject to the supervision of the County Administrative Boards.

The Government works actively with the issues in question. In July 2019, the Government appointed an inquiry that will examine how to strengthen the legal certainty of the rules about administrators and special representatives. The inquiry will among other things examine the need of training and support of the special representatives and how this need can be met. One other thing that the inquiry will examine is how to improve the supervision of the representatives. The inquiry shall submit its report on the 24 February 2021.

The directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection and the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU are under negotiation. The proposals contain provisions regarding how many children that can be assigned to the same guardian.

The proposed recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member States on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration contains, inter alia, a guiding principle which entails that a guardian should be appointed without undue delay.

The Migration Agency does not staff the accommodation centers for unaccompanied children but has a close cooperation with the social services, which has the legal responsibility for children that reside in Sweden. When encountering an unaccompanied child, the Migration Agency always conducts an initial interview with the child. Questions regarding the health of the child and the way the child travelled to Sweden are asked in order to detect indications of THB as soon as possible. It is crucial that the risk factors are detected early in the asylum procedure to prevent the children from going missing at a later stage. All suspicions of THB are referred to the Police Authority and the social services. In connection with the initial interview, the Migration Agency sends a request for a special representative to the Chief Guardians Committee.

As mentioned in the answer to question 1, the Gender Equality Agency has also provided a large number of trainings on how to prevent and detect trafficking with children and has an online course on this topic.

In January 2016, the County Administrative Boards of Sweden were given a government assignment concerning missing unaccompanied children. The County Administrative Boards were assigned to, in cooperation with other relevant authorities and actors, conduct a national mapping of missing unaccompanied children and propose measures to prevent disappearances. Results and methods have been spread to authorities, municipalities, county councils and other concerned actors. In 2018 the assignment was extended. According to the extension, every county is assigned to produce annual regional procedures and guidelines on prevention and response to missing unaccompanied children.

c. improving the exchange of information on missing unaccompanied children between police forces and local authorities;

If a refugee or migrant child disappears, the responsibility to make sure that the Police Authority is notified of the disappearance rests with the special representative and the social services. Depending on the specific circumstances in the individual case, it could be either the special representative or the social services that notify the police.

In some situations, the police will, in practice, be notified of the disappearance by foster home parents, staff at a home for care or residence or by staff at school etc. The special representative and the social services will in such cases, when it is brought to their attention, still be responsible to make sure that the police have been notified. This also applies in the few cases where an unaccompanied minor with a residence permit go missing.

If an unaccompanied child disappears from the Migration Agency's premises, the Agency reports the incident to the police and contacts the social services. If the Migration Agency suspects that a child is a victim of THB, it is to contact the social services.

The National Board of Health and Welfare cooperates with other authorities and actors to raise awareness and disseminate overarching knowledge about missing children. The Board gathers information and provides online support on its own website and on Kunskapsguiden.se which gathers quality-assured knowledge from many authorities and other actors. The Board also disseminates information through newsletters, seminars and dialogues with relevant actors.

d. systematically carrying out police investigations into disappearances of unaccompanied and separated children and strengthening follow up and alert systems on reports of missing children;

Missing unaccompanied children are always registered on a warrant list over missing persons when reported as missing. The authorities involved are legally required to exchange information and to aid each other when relevant to a case. The authorities involved in investigating missing children are continuously working to improve their methods.

e. sensitising and training child welfare professionals across the country on risks of trafficking and effective prevention measures;

As mentioned, the social services play a central role when it comes to supporting and protecting children who are victims or potential victims of THB or exploitation. To support the social services and to increase their knowledge about and awareness of THB and exploitation of children the National Board of Health and Welfare has published a guidance for the social services that provides personnel with practical support in the handling of cases and clarifies the responsibilities of the social services in accordance with Swedish and international law.

In 2017 the National Board of Health and Welfare was assigned by the Government to establish a Knowledge Centre for unaccompanied minors and young persons. The premise for the work of the Centre is that the National Board of Health and Welfare is responsible for the areas of activity relating to social services and health care, and the Board has special responsibility for coordinating government measures in the areas of activity relating to children and young persons. The work of the Centre aims at ensuring that professionals who receive and assist unaccompanied minors and young persons have the right prerequisites for providing them with good quality care based on the individual needs and rights of

the child or young person. Highlighted measures are those promoting greater cooperation between municipal authorities and county councils so that professionals working in schools, including pupil health professionals, and those working in health care and the social services, seek to ensure that children and young persons attend to school. The assignment lasts until the end of 2020.

Furthermore, The National Board of Health and Welfare has several ongoing assignments to develop easily accessible knowledge support regarding violence for social services, health care and student health personnel. This enables a more systematic, comprehensive and equal work across the country, including prevention, identification and support. Most of the Boards assignments in this field will be reported to the Government in the years 2020-2021.

There are also possibilities for municipalities, county councils and NGOs to, on a yearly basis, apply for state funds in order to improve their work against violence in close relationships, including honour-related violence and THB.

f. raising awareness by including THB as a topic in the national school curricula, accompanied by appropriate training of teachers.

The Education Act (2010:800) states that the education, from preschool-class to adult education shall be structured in accordance with basic democratic values and human rights such as the sanctity of human life, the freedom and integrity of individuals, the equal worth of all human beings, equal opportunities and solidarity between human beings. Everyone working within education shall promote human rights and actively counter all forms of degrading treatment (chapter 1, paragraph 5).

Furthermore, norms and values are already a significant part of the curricula for education at different levels enacted by the Government. For instance, the curricula for the compulsory school, preschool class and the leisure-time center state that the school should actively and consciously influence and stimulate students into embracing the common values of our society, and their expression in practical daily action (regulation SKOLFS 2010:37).

Sex education was introduced into Swedish schools in 1955, and since 2011 topics such as sexuality, relationships, gender, gender equality and norms are included in several of the course and subject syllabi for compulsory and upper secondary school and adult education. This means that the responsibility for this topic falls on several teachers and that it shall be brought up within the scope of a number of courses and subjects. According to the national curricula for compulsory and upper secondary school, the head teacher also has special responsibility for ensuring that the students receive knowledge on sex and relationships.

Moreover, in 2018 the Government commissioned the National Agency for Education to analyze if, and if necessary, propose how, sex education in the compulsory school, upper secondary school and adult education can be better supported through clarifications in the curricula. The aim was to reinforce the quality and equivalence in sex education (U2018/02960/S). At present, the proposals from the Agency are being processed in the Government Offices.

In 2017 the Government assigned The National Agency for Education and The National Board of Health and Welfare to improve collaboration between student health, health care and social services in order to carry out early and coordinated efforts for children and young people. The efforts shall include relevant authorities as well as a selection of municipalities, county councils and individual principals. A part of the mission includes mapping and identifying good examples and success factors as well as legal and structural barriers to collaboration. The mission also includes monitoring, evaluating and disseminating the results to municipalities and other key stakeholders. The assignment will be reported on 31 January 2021(U2017/01236/GV).

In 2011 the Government assigned The National Agency for Education to improve gender equality in schools. One part of the assignment was efforts to combat and prevent honour-related violence and oppression (U2011/4050/S). The assignment was reported in 2012. The National Agency for Education has produced guidance material for school improvement and provided in-service training for school staff on the topic. The guidance material has since been updated in 2018.

Save the Children, in collaboration with the National Agency for Education, conducts training in trauma awareness care in order to enable all personnel in schools to support students, often new arrivals, who have been exposed to stress and traumatic experiences. The target group is everyone who works in preschool, compulsory school and upper secondary school.

According to the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100), the Swedish teacher education programs shall include, for instance, education in human rights and the fundamental democratic values. In Sweden, the higher education institutions (HEIs) enjoy a great deal of freedom within the framework of the statutes, ordinances and regulations laid down by the Parliament and the Government. Therefore, HEIs can make decisions about the content and design of courses and study programs. Hence, the content of the study element "in human rights and the fundamental democratic values" can vary between different HEIs.

3. Take steps to improve the identification of victims of trafficking, by ensuring that:

a. formal identification of victims of THB, upon which assistance measures largely depend, is not made conditional on their co-operation in the investigation and criminal proceedings or the initiation of criminal proceedings;

The Government's National Action Plan (NAP) against prostitution and THB, adopted in 2018, is a comprehensive strategy plan of action including different areas that require special attention, such as identification of victims, protection and support, co-ordination between agencies and other actors, and preventive measures. The overall objective of the NAP is to prevent and counteract prostitution and THB and to contribute to a better safeguarding and support of victims. The capability to promptly identify victims is essential to reach the main objectives of the NAP.

The Gender Equality Agency is responsible for the coordination of the authorities' work against THB on a national level and coordinates an operational network of authorities, the National Task Force against Prostitution and Human Trafficking (NMT). The purpose of the NMT is to strengthen as well as develop and streamline the cooperation against prostitution and THB. Furthermore, the regional coordinators support the local actors in cases involving THB. The regional coordinators are employed by the social services and are an important part of the support and protection process to assist victims of human trafficking and to support professionals who encounter cases involving THB. The regional coordinators are financed through the Gender Equality Agency in collaboration with specific municipalities and County Administrative Boards.

The National Referral Mechanism manual (NRM), based on national legislation and operative experiences from authorities identifying victims, defines the roles and responsibilities of different actors who may encounter victims of THB. The NRM is a valuable and helpful instrument to the actors concerned. A number of actors identify victims of THB, including the regional coordinators (see answer to 2 c). The regional coordinators have noticed a steady increase of presumed victims of THB which implies that knowledge regarding identification of victims has increased. However, it is not possible to rule out other plausible reasons for the increase.

The identification procedure by the social services, the Migration Agency and other civil actors is not linked to a criminal investigation. If the Migration Agency identify an individual as a victim of THB, an internal report is registered, and the victim receives information about the regional coordinators and the possibility to file a police report. In most cases, the Migration Agency itself files the police report on behalf of the applicant. Whether or not the Police Authority considers the individual to be a victim of THB does not affect the procedure within the Migration Agency.

As mentioned in the answer to question 1, in 2018 the Migration Agency adopted an internal action plan for fair and equal opportunity treatment. As a part of the action plan, the Agency's internal manuals will be updated so that caseworkers more easily can detect potential cases of THB. The manuals apply to all employees and are an important step in increasing the competence within the Migration Agency.

Prosecutors normally conduct preliminary investigations of THB crimes. Since 1 April 2018, as mentioned in the answer to question 1, all THB crimes are handled by the Prosecution Authority's National Unit against Organized Crime (RIO). As mentioned, the Prosecution Authority provides a method support on

THB crimes for prosecutors in the local public prosecution offices that come in to contact with these types of crimes. The method support aims to ensure that all prosecutors has the basic knowledge to identify THB crimes and handle cases during on-call.

Several websites contain information on how to help identify children who have been subjected to THB and other children and young persons in need of help and support, see answer to question 2 e.

b. the police, labour inspectors and other relevant actors adopt a more proactive approach and increase their outreach work to identify potential victims of trafficking;

Conducting surveillance work locally increases the chances of detecting and prosecuting human trafficking for various purposes. Within the Police Authority a project is underway that aims to develop tools for effective surveillance of such illegal and legal activities, with the objective to develop a national surveillance methodology. This includes practical support to make it difficult for "rogue" employers and criminal networks to establish operations in Sweden.

In 2017, a number of EMPACT joint action days were carried out in all the EU countries against forced labour and child trafficking. In 2018, two joint operations were carried out under EMPACT THB, which covered the whole of the EU. The first operation was carried out during one week together with the Swedish Work Environment Authority, focusing on forced labour and other forms of exploitation of workers. In the second week-long operation, the efforts were directed against sexual exploitation. Both operations are considered to be successful. During the operation against labour exploitation, approximately 100 inspections were carried out in Sweden, and all involved cases initiated by public authorities.

The multi-agency initiative to combat organized crime is in place since 1 July 2009 and is coordinated by the Police Authority since January 2015. The initiative was launched after a government decision to commission the then National Police Board to coordinate and ensure effective and sustained operations to combat organized crime (THB is obviously one of these crimes). The Prosecution Authority, the Economic Crime Authority, the Security Service, the Tax Agency, the Prison and Probation Authority, the Enforcement Authority, the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, the Migration Agency, the Social Insurance Agency and the Public Employment Service also participate in the initiative.

The initiative is led by the Liaison Group (comprising the heads of the twelve agencies, with the National Police Commissioner as chair), which decides on approaches and organization of interventions. The Operational Council, which comprises of the operational managers of the agencies, meets every month and decides on matters such as national multi-agency initiatives against organized crime and common priorities. The public authorities are also involved in joint intelligence centers, comprising one national and eight regional intelligence centers. They are tasked to produce situational overviews, support documentation for prioritization and proposals for efforts and actions. Seven regional liaison groups manage the multi-agency regional and local operations. The various institutions also develop training, handle security issues, analyze the need for methodological support, legislative needs, resource issues and other practical issues that concern inter-agency cooperation. In some cases, working groups are appointed to address specific common concerns.

On the basis of the various government assignments and the Liaison Group's policy decision of October 2016, the cooperating authorities jointly combat organized crime through crime prevention measures, administrative measures, executive action, prosecution and recovery of proceeds of crime. The focus is partly on combating serious organized crime that threatens society, and partly on combating organized crime in the local community, with focus on vulnerable areas. This action against organized crime may sometimes also involve action against human trafficking. THB is then targeted at the local level through local and regional multi-agency cooperation e.g. against organized prostitution and/or THB. For example, joint inspections of certain enterprises, such as body care facilities, are carried out where reports or intelligence have revealed suspicions of prostitution and/or THB for various purposes.

Alongside the development of methods for joint controls, as a part of the Government assignment mentioned under point 1, the health and safety inspectors of SWEA take part in joint controls to counter fraud, regulatory violations and crime in working life. In 2018, more than 1,100 joint controls were

carried out and so far in 2019 just over 1,300. It is within the framework of this cooperation that the chances of encountering victims of human trafficking are the greatest.

Another risk-group for THB is vulnerable EU citizens without a right of residence. The County Administrative Board of Stockholm has, since 2016, been assigned to develop collaboration and coordinate the work being done by public authorities and civil society regarding vulnerable EU citizens without a right of residence. The County Administrative Board of Stockholm is also responsible for professional development action, has an advisory function and is to contribute to a more uniform work in relation to this group. From 2018 the County Administrative Board's assignment also includes to support and encourage cooperation at local level between municipalities and NGOs in Sweden and their counterparts in the home countries.

Other measures have been to improve legal guidance for the municipalities and the social services when meeting vulnerable EU citizens. The guidance, produced by the National Board of Health and Welfare, places emphasis on the child perspective.

c. increased attention is paid to the identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, migrants and persons placed in detention centres.

The Migration Agency's work against THB is conducted in accordance with the Government's Action plan to combat prostitution and THB. The Migration Agency has a central coordinator and six regional coordinators who organize the work together with other parts of the Agency. Within the different operational units of the Agency, there are several contact persons with deep knowledge on THB and exploitation.

In 2018, as mentioned in the answer to question 3 a, the Migration Agency adopted an internal action plan for fair and equal opportunity treatment. As a part of the action plan the Agency's different internal manuals will be updated. The revised manuals will apply to all employees and will be important tools in order to increase the competence and efficiency when it comes to detecting victims of THB. Furthermore, a new specific manual has been adopted for case workers within the asylum procedure. Another new manual has been adopted to address the needs of the staff in detention centers. The Migration Agency's internal reporting includes measures taken in THB cases. The reporting shows a clear increase in the number of identified cases of THB, partly following the steps taken to work actively in order to identify victims of THB.

4. Ensure more effective and timely identification of child victims of trafficking with a view to providing them with appropriate assistance, and in particular:

a. conduct expeditious registration of asylum-seeking children who are at risk of disappearing;

The Migration Agency registers asylum applications on the same day as they are made or, in exceptional cases, within a few days. If a child comes into contact with the social services before coming to the Migration Agency, which usually is the case at night or during weekends, the social services contact the Migration Agency's unit at Arlanda airport which is open at all hours. In those instances, the caseworkers register the asylum application via telephone and sends a request to a unit for asylum applications to conduct a first interview. This interview is conducted on the same day or, in exceptional cases, within a few days.

b. ensure the timely appointment of guardians and adequate resourcing of the guardianship system in all municipalities, including limiting the numbers of children assigned to a guardian;

The Government works continuously with these issues. In April 2019, at the request of the Government, seven of the County Administrative Boards presented guidelines for the chief guardians on how the investigation on someone's suitability as a special representative should be carried out. According to the guidelines the chief guardian should make sure that the proposed special representative doesn't have too many other commitments before he or she is appointed as a special representative.

As mentioned in the answer to question 2.b, the Government has appointed an inquiry that will examine how to strengthen the legal certainty of the rules about administrators and special representatives (dir. 2019:44). The inquiry will among other things examine if a national register of administrators and special representatives can be drawn up. Such a register could help the chief guardians to check how many commitments a proposed special representative has. The inquiry shall submit its report on 24 February 2021.

c. ensure that the child's views are taken into account in asylum interviews, at which they should always be accompanied by a guardian and/or lawyer;

The special representative (the guardian) and the public counsel always accompany the child during the asylum interview (see 4d regarding appointment of legal guardian and public counsel). Specific standards and procedures are followed during the interviews in order to make sure that the child's views are properly taken into account. In June 2019, the Migration Agency published a new manual regarding the best interest of the child in migration cases. The manual describes how to handle a case in a way that is adapted to children. As mentioned previously, a new manual will be published by the end of 2019. The new manual contains lists of indications of THB involving children. The lists are important tools in identifying child victims as most children do not talk about their vulnerability spontaneously.

d. routinely consider the possibility of child-specific forms of persecution, including trafficking, when interviewing asylum-seeking children;

For unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, the Migration Agency applies special standards and procedures in order to meet the special needs of children. When an unaccompanied child applies for asylum, a short interview is conducted the same day or, in exceptional cases, within a few days. The first interview focuses, among other things, on the health of the child and the way the child travelled to Sweden. One of the purposes of the initial interview is to detect if the child is a victim of trafficking. After the initial interview a legal guardian and a public counsel is appointed, and the child is designated to a Swedish municipality. As soon as the child has a legal guardian and a public council, the Migration Agency carries out a second, more in-depth, interview. Having a separate specific procedure for children enables a deeper investigation into the possibilities of family reunification but also increased opportunities to investigate if the child is particularly vulnerable. All special needs are documented in an official note in the case. Any indications of trafficking are documented in an internal report and sent to the regional coordinator within the Migration Agency. In addition to the internal report, the Migration Agency informs the Police Authority and the social services if an employee suspects that a child is a victim of trafficking in human beings.

e. proactively identify unaccompanied and separated boys at risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced criminality;

A separate group, located within the Border Police in Police Region Stockholm, uses an outreach and crime prevention approach with the aim to early detect any young unaccompanied minor, who are at risk of developing criminal behavior and who may be a victim of THB. In 2017, four preliminary investigations were launched in the region, concerning THB involving Moroccan boys between 11 and 15 years of age. In all these cases, intelligence information showed that the boys were forced to commit burglary and robberies or to beg on behalf of human traffickers. One of the preliminary investigations was discontinued because of lack of evidence while three are ongoing. Similar investigations were launched in 2018 but did not lead to any convictions.

The Migration Agency and the Police Authority work closely together on this matter. There are also other examples of cooperation in this area. For example, the Police Region Stockholm works closely together with the social services in order to identify victims of trafficking, including unaccompanied and separated boys at risk of THB for sexual exploitation and forced criminality.

f. proactively identify unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking children who might have become victims of THB for the purpose of forced marriage on their way to Sweden, including any related sexual exploitation;

A network of contact persons specialized in THB within the Migration Agency is actively working to detect trends and patterns so that children at risk can be identified more easily. Whenever a trend or a

pattern is noticed, special attention is paid to all incoming applications in order to identify all children within the same group. A new manual with lists of indications of human trafficking will help the employees to work proactively.

As regards the responsibilities of the social services, see answer to question 2 a.

g. make sure that no violence or abuse occurs at places of accommodation for unaccompanied asylum-seeking or irregular migrant children;

It is the responsibility of the local social services to ensure that all homes for care and residence, family homes etc. are of good standard and that no violence occurs in such places.

Knowledge on how to prevent and act upon incidents of violence, threats etc. is part of the introduction course that all personnel receives when they start working at homes for care and residence. (See answer to question 2 e)

Social services shall also investigate the individual needs of children and adolescents in care so that they get the help and support that they need and are entitled to. Such investigations can also help preventing acts of violence or other forms of misbehavior due to frustration or any kind of mental health problems. The possibilities of conducting such investigations have increased in recent years.

The National Board of Health and Welfare is responsible for providing support to local actors and make new knowledge and evidence-based methods easily accessible. In addition to the above-mentioned guidelines, websites and other forms of online support, the National Board of Health and Welfare will, in the late autumn of 2019, host a national conference to launch a new knowledge-support specially produced for personnel working in residence homes.

h. ensure that adolescent victims of trafficking who are transitioning to adulthood continue to receive specialised support and assistance.

The Education Act (2010:800) states that pupils in preschool-class, compulsory school and upper secondary school are entitled to student health care. Student health care shall include medical, psychological, psychosocial and special needs educational support. Student health should primarily be preventive and health promoting (Chapter 2, Section 25–28).

The higher education institutions shall be responsible for providing students with access to health care, in particular preventive health care intended to promote the physical and mental health of the students (The Higher Education Ordinance [1993:100], Chapter 1, Section 11). A student can turn to the student health care with any health problems he or she might experience. The student health care is a complement to other health and medical services. It is free for students.

As mentioned above (2 a.), Barnafriid is a national center for knowledge which collects and spreads information on violence against children and other types of child abuse. The center also offers courses at a higher education level, for instance a course on child abuse (including sexual abuse). The target group for the course is people who, in their professional life, meet children who have been abused in different ways.

Another course offered by the center is a course on trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy. The target group for the course is therapists who, in their profession, meet traumatized children and teenagers.

5. Ensure that a recovery and reflection period is provided to all foreign persons in respect of whom the authorities have reasonable grounds to believe that they are victims of trafficking, regardless of whether they co-operate with the law enforcement authorities in criminal proceedings or not.

A 30-day residence permit, that may be prolonged, may be granted a victim for the purpose of recovery and reflection so that the victim is able to make an informed decision of whether he or she wants to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities. One criterion for the 30-day residence permit for a recovery and reflection period is that a permit is necessary in order to conduct a preliminary

investigation or criminal proceeding, i.e. that the victim has relevance as a person of evidence. However, this permit is not conditional to cooperation with the police or prosecutor.

The Police Authority, the Migration Agency, NGOs and other organizations inform presumptive victims of the possibility of a temporary permit for recovery and reflection.

Due to the seriousness of the offense it is of outmost importance that the Police Authority is notified and informed of suspicions in order to prevent and combat THB as well as to provide protection and support to victims. The Migration Agency, NGOs and other organizations usually forward contact information to the police and/or file a police report. There is no need for direct contact between the victim and the police/prosecutor at this early stage.

The application for a 30-day residence permit for a recovery and reflection period can only be made by the preliminary investigating officer (the prosecutor or the police officer in charge of the investigation). The preliminary investigative officer has been considered best equipped to determine whether the victim has significance as a person of evidence and consequently to determine if the person may be a victim entitled to a recovery and reflection period.

According to Swedish legislation a preliminary investigation shall be initiated as soon as there, due to a report or for other reason, is cause to believe that an offence subject to public prosecution has been committed. Further, the prosecutor must initiate the prosecution *ex officio*, regardless of the existence of a victim's complaint or if the victim is unknown.

It should be noted that the evidentiary requirement is lower for the police authority to initiate a preliminary investigation (cause to believe that a crime has been committed) than for the competent authorities to formally identify a victim according to the Convention (reasonable grounds to believe). The preliminary investigation officer is furthermore obliged to act promptly in case a victim of THB needs recovery and reflection as well as other support measures.

Regarding the Prosecution Authority, see the answer to 3 a. Additionally, the Prosecution Authority's method support on THB crimes contains, i.a., information about what prosecutors should do regarding the recovery and reflection period. The method support states that the prosecutor through directives to the police shall give information to the victim about the possibility to a recovery and reflection period.

6. Strengthen efforts to ensure that victims of THB are not punished for offences they have been compelled to commit, in compliance with the non-punishment clause contained in Article 26 of the Convention. The adoption of an explicit non-punishment provision and/or guidance for its use, along with training about the non-punishment principle for police, prosecutors and judges, would facilitate the effective implementation of Article 26 of the Convention.

Regarding training for judges, see the answer to 7 b.

Regarding training for prosecutors, the general grounds for exemption from criminal responsibility in the Swedish penal code and the rules for waiver of prosecution in the Swedish code of judicial procedure is a part of the general training for prosecutors. As previously reported, there are a number of grounds which can be invoked with regards to non-punishment of victims.

The non-punishment clause is highlighted in the advanced capacity and skills training for investigators within the Police Authority and in the advanced courses for investigators at the Police Academy and higher education institutions, see the answer to 1.

As mentioned in the answer to question 3, the work to improve the identification of victims of THB has been strengthened in a number of ways. This is an important part of the work to prevent that victims of THB are being punished for offences they have been compelled to commit.

7. Take measures to ensure that THB offences are investigated and prosecuted effectively, leading to proportionate and dissuasive sanctions,

THB can be a very profitable type of crime and it is important for the judiciary to be able to recover the profits from the perpetrators. In Sweden, legislation allows for several methods of recovery of proceeds of crime. These include confiscation of the proceeds of a crime or confiscation of the proceeds of criminal activity (extended confiscation), confiscation under the Act (2017:307) on penalties for money laundering offences, or corporate fines. Damages to complainants can also serve as a legal tool to counteract the financial benefits of crime.

The purpose of a financial investigation is to:

- determine the scale and type of involved criminal networks and/or activities;
- identify, calculate and track the proceeds of crime, and funds for terrorist activities or other assets that are, or could be, subject to confiscation, and
- produce evidence that can be used in criminal proceedings.

Since THB often is a cross-border crime, it can be complicated to investigate and to secure assets held in other countries. In the case of financial investigations, however, the Police Authority regularly explore opportunities to use international legal assistance, and where the assets are located in another EU country, the possibilities provided by a freezing decision or the EU Directive on Confiscation are considered.

The Police Authority's financial investigators make use of the international networks for the exchange of information on crime, such as Asset Recovery Offices (ARO) and CARIN (the Camden Asset Recovery interagency Network). Responses are usually received quickly - within a few days. It is clear from the reply whether the information can be used directly as intelligence information or whether it must be obtained through cross-border legal assistance.

From experience, it is clear that success of the judiciary in recovering the proceeds of crime from the perpetrators also has a very strong symbolic value and increases the potential risks to the perpetrators. Working to recover proceeds of crime e.g. in the countries of origin of the perpetrators, sends a very clear signal that this type of crime is fraught with high costs and serious risks.

a. in particular by ensuring that units investigating THB offences are properly resourced;

THB crimes are handled by the Prosecution Authority's National Unit against Organized Crime (RIO), see answer to question 1. The Authority also provides a method support on THB crimes for prosecutors in the local public prosecution offices, aiming to ensure that all prosecutors has the basic knowledge to identify THB crimes and handle cases during on-call.

On 30 October 2015, the National Police Commissioner decided that the Police Authority should strengthen its capacity to combat human trafficking. An organization for operational efforts against prostitution and human trafficking throughout the country was created, and the Authority strives to stimulate sustained work and greater synergy between the relevant authorities and organizations throughout the country. In 2018 the Police Authority adopted an action plan against human trafficking. The plan aims to:

- limit the opportunities for criminals within international organized crime to operate in Sweden,
- develop existing working methods and review the need for new ones,
- achieve more successful prosecutions and
- end violence by men against women.

b. continuing to improve the knowledge of investigators, prosecutors and judges about the seriousness of THB, the severe impact of exploitation on the victims and the need to respect their human rights;

With respect to the independence of judges, The Swedish Judicial Training Academy, which is an independent part of the Swedish National Courts Administration, is responsible for providing training for judges, including information on which courses are offered and their content. The training program

offered is comprehensive and is based on an inventory of the need among the courts and judges. There is an awareness in the courts of the need for special knowledge and training on certain types of cases.

The Swedish Judicial Training Academy currently provides no specific training directed towards issues on THB. As previously reported, the courses covering criminal law and children in legal proceedings, as well as the comprehensive course program on the role of a judge, are however relevant for issues on THB. In addition, the academy offers a set of two courses on sexual offences and violence in close relationships. The first course emphasizes that sexual offenses and violence in close relationships require knowledge in areas other than law. The aim of the course is that participants should be able to use the knowledge of crisis reactions, the expression and mechanisms of violence as well as causal factors for sexual violence in the practical handling of cases. The aim is also that participants should be able to, in the examination of evidence, discuss and evaluate the impact that the character of the crime has on information provided during questioning. The second course focuses on the strains that the trial in cases of sexual offenses entails for all actors and the demand it places on the judge, who must combine a good organization of procedure with a professional and good treatment. The aim of the course is for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the parties to the proceedings and thus be able to critically review and analyze his or her own ability to organize the proceedings, professionalism and treatment of all actors in these cases.

As mentioned, THB crimes are handled by the Prosecution Authority's National Unit against Organized Crime (RIO) and the prosecutors who work at RIO are all senior prosecutors with long experience. The Authority provides an e-education that is available to all staff. Moreover, the Authority also provides a method support on THB crimes for prosecutors in the local public prosecution offices that come in to contact with these types of crimes, often during on-call. The method support aims to ensure that all prosecutors has the basic knowledge to identify THB crimes and handle cases during on-call. Furthermore, the Authority has a comprehensive training program and training about e.g. victims of crime, crimes against children and violence and sexual crimes is a part of the general training for prosecutors.

In 2018, the Police Authority updated guidelines for crime victims and personal safety issues. The guidance, which applies to all police staff emphasize the importance of the first meeting with the victim to establish trust. All police officers are expected to have a basic understanding of how victims should be treated and their rights to assistance and support. The Police Authority constantly work to improve the treatment of victims. For example, crime victim issues are a fixed part of police basic training and of a number of advanced training courses.

The Police Regions are responsible for maintaining a coordinated approach to victims of crime and issues of personal safety. Organizationally, issues related to victims of crime and personal safety groups are the responsibility of the police region, but the regional staff support and work with the police district and, where necessary, with the local police agencies.

In the field of personal safety, there is a focus on procedures and working methods to ensure that victims can feel and are safe. Recently, the work of the police on risk analysis/assessments has been reviewed and adjusted. The purpose of such risk analyses is to assess the need for adequate crime prevention measures, thereby minimizing the risk of the victims being re-victimized. Such assessments provide a basis for decisions for the provision of adequate support and comprehensive protection measures for victims.

When a human trafficking case is reported, an initial risk assessment is carried out to determine whether there is an immediate risk of the perpetrators or others subjecting victims to violence or threats of violence. Based on this analysis, a structured risk assessment is carried out in victim and personal safety groups. These groups consist of a small number of experienced police officers who all have relevant training.

In 2016, the National Rapporteur, in collaboration with the Department of National Operations (NOA) in the Police Authority, developed a comprehensive practical support system for crime victims and personal safety work. The practical support system addresses the multiple needs and requirements to be considered when police officers work directly with victims of human trafficking and provides information

on other forms of support available for dealing with these cases, including NGOs, women's shelter associations, health care and social services agencies and others.

In 2018, the Police Authority also translated into fourteen languages a general information booklet, which covers the support and protection available in the community. The publication details information that police officers are required to provide under the Preliminary Investigation Notice (SFS 1947:948). This makes it possible to give victims of crime the relevant information about their rights and venues for support, even though they don't speak Swedish. Another publication, also translated into fourteen languages, provides contact details for local organizations that can provide support and assistance, such as local women's and crime victim helplines and services provided by the municipalities. This means that more victims of crime can obtain information on local organizations they can turn to for support and help.

c. ensuring that THB cases are systematically prosecuted by prosecutors in the international prosecution offices;

See the answer to 7 a.

d. making full use of the existing legislation, including in view of safeguarding the victims' rights in the criminal proceedings;

See answer to 7 a and b.

e. strengthening efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

See answer to 1, 3 b and 7 a.

Regarding the Prosecution Authority, the Authority's method support on THB crimes also include nearby crimes such as labour exploitation.

Responses to some of GRETA's further conclusions

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should examine the possibility of designating as a National Rapporteur a separate organisational entity or another independent mechanism for monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions.

Sweden has had a National Rapporteur for more than 20 years. This function was established in 1998, in order to properly address trafficking and the following recommendations of the Hague Ministerial Declaration of April 1997. An important factor in establishing the National Rapporteur within the national police, was that it would provide the National Rapporteur access to the best possible flow of updated information, access to classified information and intelligence and access to key persons working with the issues in relevant authorities and organizations etc. This also allows the National Rapporteur to have close contact with the operative side of cases concerning THB. Additionally, the model chosen allows for international cooperation and a regular dialogue at policy level.

In January 2010, the then National Police Board renewed the decision to uphold the function of a National Rapporteur following an agreement between the Ministry of Justice and the National Police Commissioner. The function is currently upheld by one of the leading experts on THB in Sweden and the assignment is not limited in time.

Our experience is that the function of the National Rapporteur works well in Sweden and that the National Rapporteur acts independently in its work as rapporteur. Swedish authorities enjoy operational independence and cannot be given instructions of a political nature. Civil servants therefore have a strong tradition to carry out their work independently. The National Rapporteur is to provide the information required to properly assess the situation and need for further action regarding the work against THB. One example of this independence is that the Rapporteur in its annual report submits proposals for actions. Several of these proposals concerns the Police Authority. The National Rapporteur thus has the necessary independence and is able to carry out its functions effectively and free from any undue pressure.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should keep under review the work of the new Gender Equality Agency, in order to ensure that it effectively addresses all forms of THB, both in terms of combatting it and assisting its victims.

On 1 January 2018, the task to coordinate and strengthen the Swedish work in the area of prostitution and THB was transferred from the County Administrative Board of Stockholm to the Gender Equality Agency. Thereby the assignment was made permanent. The transfer also included the responsibility for the work carried out within the framework of The National Task Force against Prostitution and Human Trafficking (NMT).

The County Administrative Board of Stockholm was tasked with facilitating the transfer of the national assignment on prostitution and THB to the new Gender Equality Agency during 2018. The County Administrative Board of Stockholm reported that during the transfer, all functions could operate without any breaks. To ensure a long-term administration at the Gender Equality Agency the County Administrative Board of Stockholm supported the new agency with their skill and know-how continuously during the year.

The Gender Equality Agency reports annually to the Government on their work in the area of prostitution and THB for all purposes.

As mentioned above, answer to question 1, in December 2017 eight authorities (among them the Gender Equality Agency) were given a government assignment covering 2018-2020, to develop their methods for joint control to counteract violations and crime taking place within the field of labour. Effective methods for joint control contributes to the authorities efforts to tackle several problems, among them THB for the purpose of labour exploitation. The Swedish Work Environment Authority co-ordinates the assignment.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should ensure that action against THB is comprehensive and addresses all victims of trafficking for all forms of exploitation, taking into account the particular vulnerability of irregular migrants and asylum seekers. The authorities should strengthen action against THB for the purpose of labour exploitation, by reviewing the legislative framework, improving the identification of, and assistance to, victims of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation, and involving civil society, trade unions, labour inspectorates and the private sector. The national action plan should aim to address all forms of THB, define concrete activities and stakeholders responsible for their implementation, envisage budgetary resources, and be accompanied by a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the activities.

In February 2018, the Government adopted a national action plan to combat prostitution and THB for all forms of exploitation. The aim of the action plan is to combat and prevent prostitution and THB for all purposes and to contribute to better protection and support for persons vulnerable to THB. The initiatives in the action plan is followed up in the Budget Bill.

One focus area in the action plan is enhanced coordination between agencies and other stakeholders. Cases involving THB are complex and require close collaboration between the relevant agencies and other actors. Several agencies are, in accordance with their mandate and remit, responsible for combating THB and meeting the needs of victims. In the Government Offices an inter-ministry working group coordinates the Governments work to prevent and combat THB.

As mentioned, the national assignment on prostitution and THB for sexual and other purposes was transferred from the Stockholm County Administrative Board to the Gender Equality Agency in January 2018. The Gender Equality Agency is responsible for coordinating efforts to combat THB and should in this context focus in particular on promoting the development of preventive action against prostitution and THB.

GRETA considers that additional training should be provided to police officers, migration staff and asylum officers to enable them to proactively identify victims of trafficking, as well as to prosecutors and judges. Further, training should be provided to private companies hired to carry out public sector services, such as the Visa Facilitation Service.

The Gender Equality Agency has participated in a large number of trainings, mainly for professionals, including knowledge on e.g. the identification process, the regional coordinators' function and the Return Program. The Gender Equality Agency regularly participates in The Police Authority's training on THB. The Gender Equality Agency has also provided a large number of trainings on how to prevent and detect trafficking with children and has an online course on this topic. The Gender Equality Agency also has provided training for the Border Police in Gothenburg on support to victims.

Regarding training for judges and prosecutors, see the answer to 7 b.

Also note the Government assignment about developing methods for joint controls mentioned above in the answer to question 3b.

In its role as Centre of Competence for crime victim issues, the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority informs victims and educates professionals, volunteers in NGOs and the public on matters regarding victims of crime. The Authority arranges seminars and training for professionals for example in the criminal justice system, NGOs, staff in health care, and social services. Training is provided both in more traditional ways as well as through several on-line training tools. The Authority also produces information material in Swedish and in many other languages.

The Authority is also responsible for carrying out governmental commissions and projects. Current projects are:

- a new website with information to crime victims (funded by the EU Internal Security Fund)
- a campaign on information and education on the new Swedish legislation on sexual offences, and
- a website for journalists, artists, researchers and influencers who are subjected to threats, primarily online.

Regarding training for police officers, see the answer to 1 and 7b.

While welcoming the inclusion in the statistics of data on victims of trafficking assisted by NGOs, GRETA considers that, for the purpose of preparing, monitoring and evaluating anti-trafficking policies, the Swedish authorities should develop and maintain a comprehensive and coherent statistical system on trafficking in human beings by compiling reliable statistical data on measures to protect and promote the rights of victims as well as on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking cases. Statistics regarding victims should be collected from all main actors and allow disaggregation concerning sex, age, type of exploitation, 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.

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) is responsible for producing and publishing Sweden's official crime statistics. The statistics comprise data on reported offences, processed offences, persons suspected of offences and persons found guilty of offences. At the moment, the statistics for reported and processed offences, as well as for persons suspected of offences, are organized according to crime codes. For any additional information being introduced in the statistics, a number of new crime codes are required. In order to not make the system too difficult to handle for the informant (generally, a police officer), and to maintain the quality of the reported information, the number of crime codes must be restricted. The Government has instructed the judicial authorities to develop a system for electronic sharing of information in the management of criminal cases, including the possibility to follow information along the entire judicial chain. In addition to efficiency gains, the exchange of information will result in the development of new statistics. The work is an extensive, long-term undertaking. A more flexible system, as the one being developed, will make it possible to register more information about the cases with maintained quality.

The Gender Equality Agency gathers statistics regarding potential victims of THB. The potential victims are detected by the national hotline for professionals who may meet victims of THB and by the regional coordinators against prostitution and THB. The statistics is based on the cases that come to the Agency's attention.

The National Rapporteur presents an annual report on THB for sexual and other purposes. The reports contain statistics, for example on the number of reported crimes and prosecuted crimes. The statistics are mainly based on the Sweden's official crime statistics, published by Brå.

GRETA welcomes the research undertaken in Sweden, which has covered the areas suggested in GRETA's first evaluation report, and invites the Swedish authorities to continue providing funding and support for research projects on THB. Areas where further research could be promoted include trafficking in children, trafficking for the purposes of forced criminality and begging, trafficking of EU nationals, and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

The Government has assigned the Gender Equality Agency to enhance their efforts within the framework of the National strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women, including prostitution and THB for sexual purposes. The assignment includes developing an overview of research on violence prevention, including identifying gaps in research and knowledge.

In Sweden, the Government normally does not steer the research activities on the detailed level proposed in the recommendation. According to the Higher Education Act (1992:1434), it is a general principle that research issues may be freely selected (chapter 1, section 6). However, national authorities have the possibility to use their resources to support research within their policy field.

In 2019, The Crime Victim Fund awarded approximately 74 000 Euro to a research project by the Linköping University entitled "Young people as victims of crime in an undocumented situation – unseen, unreported, unprotected?". The topic of the research is irregularised young persons who are victims of crime, and the barriers to accessing assistance and protection due to their irregularised immigration status. This project will consider a limited range of criminally sanctioned acts of violence, abuse and exploitation (including sexual and labour exploitation). The project is on-going at the time of writing.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should strengthen their efforts to raise public awareness of THB for all types of exploitation. Steps should be taken to raise awareness of the risk of trafficking faced by unaccompanied and separated migrant and asylum-seeking children, including of trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality, as well as the risks of sexual exploitation of men and boys.

The Gender Equality Agency has been running two campaigns to raise awareness of prostitution and THB. The two campaigns are called "You decide" and "Travel Courage", and the aim is to disseminate information on prostitution and THB in order to discourage people from demanding sexual services.

The National Board of Health and Welfare has published a report to raise awareness about young persons who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. There is also online information and web educations in order to increase knowledge and raise awareness among e.g. social workers, teachers and other professionals who come into contact with children, adolescents and other particularly vulnerable target groups.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should make further efforts to prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, in particular by:

- *continuing to sensitise relevant officials, including labour inspectors, police officers, prosecutors and judges, about THB for the purpose of labour exploitation, as well as the rights of victims;*
- *ensuring that on-going training is provided to WEA and Tax Agency inspectors to enable proactive detection of human trafficking cases, and that labour inspections are properly resourced, frequent, unannounced and targeted at sectors which show a high potential for human trafficking;*

- *strengthening the monitoring of recruitment and temporary work agencies and reviewing the legislative framework for any loopholes that may limit protection or preventive measures;*
- *taking steps to prevent possible THB exploitation in diplomatic households, including through interviews with household staff and monitoring of the terms and conditions of employment of staff;*
- *working closely with trade unions, civil society and the private sector to raise awareness of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, prevent trafficking in supply chains and strengthen corporate social responsibility, drawing on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3 on human rights and business.*

There is no explicit assignment for the fiscal parts of the Swedish Tax Agency (STA) to prevent THB and labour exploitation. Nevertheless, tax officials often come across suspected THB when investigating undeclared labour schemes for instance. The STA is also taking part in governmental cooperation against fraud, breach of regulations and other criminal activity in the labour market. A guideline to raise awareness on THB is under development. Beside indicators of THB, the guideline also will describe how STA's personnel should report suspected THB and labour exploitation.

The STA has a special unit assigned to prevent and investigate tax frauds, the Tax Fraud Unit. As THB is not part of the assignment of the unit, there are no planned activities in this area. However, it is not unusual to come across exploitation when mapping and investigating other criminal activities. Connection to THB in the governmental cooperation against organized crime where the Tax Fraud Unit takes part, is primarily a responsibility for the police to investigate. Nevertheless, efforts to counteract other criminal activities, such as tax crime by dishonest companies importing labour, also has an effect on THB for the purpose of labour exploitation.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) has developed a handbook for diplomatic and consular personnel on how to assist and protect victims of human trafficking. The handbook is distributed through various channels. The handbook contains recommendations on how consular sections can develop strategies to effectively work against THB. For example, the handbook raises the question of whether the consular section or embassies have a policy to protect domestic workers in diplomatic households.

Regarding training for judges, see the answer to 7 b.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority (SWEA) does not exercise supervision over the area of labour law, only in the area of working environment and working hours. However, suspected THB is occasionally encountered by the SWEA; primarily through the joint authority controls to counter fraud, regulatory violations and crime in working life that is assigned to SWEA and seven other authorities to develop (SWEA, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Migration Agency, the Swedish Police Authority, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority, the Swedish Tax Agency and the Gender Equality Agency).

Since the SWEA is not assigned to prevent THB, there are no focused efforts towards the phenomenon. For this reason, the labour inspectors are not given any general education on THB. However, the inspectors involved in the work against fraud, regulatory violations and crime have received some training in indicators of THB and have been given information on where to turn if suspicions are raised. However, it is important for the SWEA to identify THB during inspections and to send signals of suspected THB and labour exploitation to the authorities concerned, especially the police. Training for all inspectors is therefore under development.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should review the restrictions placed on family reunification in the 2016 Temporary Act on Migration, so as to enable legal forms of migration for children and reduce vulnerability to trafficking.

The validity of the Act on Temporary Restrictions on the Possibility of Obtaining Residence Permits in Sweden (2016:752), The Temporary Act, has been prolonged until 19 July 2021. However, at the same time as the prolongation, legislative changes have been made to enable that all persons eligible for subsidiary protection have the same possibilities for family reunification as refugees. Moreover, the

Government decided on 14 June 2019 to appoint a cross-party commission of inquiry to examine Sweden's future migration policy. The inquiry's remit includes considering the extent to which family reunification should be possible. The commission is to present its report by 15 August 2020.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should ensure that, as part of their training, medical and other health care professionals involved in organ transplantations are sensitised about THB for the purpose of organ removal.

In Sweden the county councils are responsible for the health care offered to the inhabitants. The county councils also are responsible for the further education of the medical staff in the health care system. National cooperation in the field of organs, tissues and blood is organized by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. In the framework of this cooperation, the problem of organ trafficking has been highlighted e.g. at the yearly conference on donation of organs and tissues, which gathers professionals from all over the country.

In order to promote organ donation in Sweden, in 2018 a national center was constituted at the National Board of Health and Welfare, with the mission to be responsible for national coordination and distribution of knowledge concerning donation. One of the center's tasks is to take responsibility for knowledge-supporting efforts in the area of organ donation and transplantation, directed to the Swedish health care system.

GRETA encourages the Swedish authorities to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs as this would contribute to the prevention of trafficking for the purpose of organ removal.

In 2018 the Government assigned an inquiry to examine the prerequisites for Sweden to accede the convention. The inquiry's conclusion is that Sweden should accede the convention, which requires some legislative amendments and other considerations about some articles in the convention. The inquiry's report has been referred for consultation until 5 November 2019.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should continue to strengthen the comprehensive approach envisaged in Article 6 of the Convention, by adopting measures to discourage demand that fosters all forms of exploitation that leads to human trafficking, in partnership with civil society, trade unions and the private sector. This should include measures to promote awareness among businesses, strengthen corporate social responsibility and require businesses to report publicly on measures to reduce human trafficking or forced labour in their supply chains.

The Gender Equality Agency finances a project called Competence building, Assistance provision and Prosecution of labour exploitation cases in the Baltic Sea Region (CAPE) conducted by the Council of the Baltic Sea States, CBSS.

The main aim of the project is to support relevant national and local authorities in combating and prosecuting forced labour in labour exploitation cases in Sweden and in assisting victims. Specific tasks of the project are to:

- Deepen knowledge about the THB for labour exploitation phenomenon in Sweden and the Baltic Sea Region.
- Stimulate dialogue and foster experience and a know-how exchange between the authorities in Sweden and other EU member states identified within the frame of the project.
- To increase the capacity and expand the mandate of national authorities to counteract THB for labour exploitation in Sweden.

The project activities will be three-fold: Research activities, study visits and conference, and awareness raising activities for the general public. The project will report on 31 August 2021.

It can also be mentioned that the Gender Equality Agency allocates funding to civil society organizations who work against THB. The organization Realstars has for instance been granted funding for a project called 'An enterprise free from trafficking'. Within the project the organization will i.a. produce guidelines for companies on how to make a risk assessment and develop policies to combat THB.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should continue their efforts to detect and prevent THB through border control measures, in particular in the context of increased migration flows. Written information should be provided to foreign nationals, in a language that they can understand, about the risks of THB and about their rights and where to secure advice and assistance. GRETA refers in this context to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) 2014 Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders.

During the last years Police Authority has reinforced its capacity to detect and prevent THB. There are different training programs and material, see answer under question 1. For the Border Police, there is for example tailored training on THB. The purpose of these initiatives is for the Border Police to gain in-depth knowledge of what THB is, how the victims of trafficking can be identified and supported, and what measures should be taken when the Border Police meet such victims.

GRETA welcomes the possibility for NGOs to provide assistance to presumed victims of trafficking, by means of the National Support Programme, which in practice allows presumed victims of trafficking who have not been formally identified to benefit from assistance, as well as the establishment of the first specialised shelter for male victims of THB. Nevertheless, GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should take further steps to ensure that all victims of trafficking receive specialised assistance and support as required by Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention, including by:

- *ensuring that in the absence of sufficient NSP funds to cover all victims' needs, co-operation with the criminal investigation is not be a precondition for assistance from municipalities;*
- *further developing the range of assistance measures for male victims of THB, including psychological support.*

The Gender Equality Agency recently updated the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) – a support and protection process for victims of human trafficking in Sweden. The responsibility of the municipalities to meet all victims' rights to support and protection is clarified in the NRM.

GRETA invites the Swedish authorities to review the age assessment procedures, ensuring that the best interests of the child are effectively protected, and in cases of doubt ensuring the presumption of childhood is respected and special protection measures taken, in line with Article 10, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Convention, and General Comment No. 6 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Migration Agency's age assessments are carried out according to current legislation and practice, which implies that the best interest of the child has to be taken into consideration in the process. On 1 January 2020 the Convention of the rights of the child will be incorporated into Swedish law. However, ever since Sweden ratified the Convention in 1990, the Swedish government and the Parliament has been committed to ensure that the Swedish legislation is in line with the rights of the child, which derives from the Convention. The Aliens Act also clearly states that in cases involving a child, particular attention must be given to what is required with regard to the child's health and development and the best interests of the child in general. Issues regarding legal certainty, evidence evaluation and law enforcement, such as the principle of the benefit of the doubt in an asylum case, is determined by the Migration Agency and thereafter, in an appeal, by the Migration Courts and the Migration Court of Appeal.

GRETA considers that specific consideration should be given to the needs of children of adult victims of trafficking.

The Government has tasked the Gender Equality Agency to strengthen its work against prostitution and THB. Within the assignment the Gender Equality Agency shall, among other things, provide good practices of inter-agency co-operation and gather and disseminate knowledge and guidelines to professionals on how they should act in cases where children, minors and adults are exploited or are at risk of being exploited in prostitution or trafficking. Children of adult victims of trafficking are highlighted in the assignment.

The recently updated NRM clearly underlines the importance of acknowledging the needs and rights of children of adult victims of trafficking.

The National Action Plan for 2016-2018 to protect children from human trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse contains 23 measures aimed at preventing abuse, protecting and supporting children, and creating conditions for the effective prosecution of perpetrators of such abuse. During 2018, work on implementing the measures continued. Some measures, such as the work of the Ambassador to combat trafficking in human beings, a position created in 2016 as part of the NAP, has continued during 2019.

As mentioned above, the Convention of the rights of the child will be incorporated into Swedish law on 1 January 2020. Incorporation of the CRC gives it the status of Swedish law, entailing a clearer obligation on courts and legal practitioners to consider the rights that follow from the CRC in deliberations and assessments that are part of decision-making processes in cases and matters concerning children. In general, the incorporation does not imply any new obligations for the practitioners due to the fact that the Swedish legislation already shall be interpreted in line with the rights of the CRC. Incorporation could however mean that the child's role as a legal entity with specific rights of their own is made clearer and can therefore be expected to contribute to greater focus on the child in situations concerning the child.

For the CRC to have an impact, continued transformation of the CRC's provisions into national law is necessary, alongside incorporation. Moreover, a combination of various measures is necessary, such as guidance, education and coordination between different actors at different levels in society.

The Government has therefore decided that a guidance document should be produced to support the methodical interpretation and application of the CRC. The Government has also decided to increase knowledge about the CRC among children and young people, and in municipalities, county councils and government agencies through a knowledge boost. Furthermore, the Government has decided to task an Inquiry Chair with conducting a survey to shed light on how compatible Swedish legislation and practice are with the CRC. The aim of the survey is to provide support in future work on the transformation of the CRC's provisions in various areas of law.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should continue their efforts to facilitate and guarantee victims access to compensation from the perpetrator or from the State, by ensuring their effective access to legal aid. In this context, the terms and conditions for granting legal aid to victims of trafficking should be reviewed.

The Government works continuously with these issues. On 1 July 2018, the following legislative amendments regarding counsel for an injured party came into force:

- the counsel for an injured party has to be a lawyer (i.e. have a law degree) and only persons who, due to his or her knowledge and experience and otherwise, is particularly suitable for the assignment may be appointed as a counsel for an injured party.
- the counsel for an injured party may not substitute another person to act in his or her place without the court's consent.

GRETA invites the Swedish authorities to:

- *ensure that the return of victims of trafficking is conducted with due regard for their rights, safety and dignity. This means informing victims about existing programmes, protecting them from re-victimisation and re-trafficking and, in the case of children, fully respecting the principle of the best interests of the child;*
- *continue to develop international co-operation in order to ensure proper risk assessment and safe return, as well as effective reintegration of victims of THB;*
- *ensure compliance with the non-refoulement obligation under Article 40, paragraph 4, of the Convention.*

The Gender Equality Agency is responsible for financing Sweden's return program for persons who have been involved in prostitution or who have been victims of THB. The program is coordinated by the UN body, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with its office in Helsinki, Finland. The Gender Equality Agency coordinates the regional coordinators who together with IOM decides on participation in the return program.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should keep under review the capacity of the new Gender Equality Agency to ensure that the co-ordination of antitrafficking action in relation to returns of victims of trafficking effectively vindicates Sweden's obligations under Article 16, in particular with regard to children.

The return program has continued as planned after the transfer from the Stockholm County Administrative Board to the Gender Equality Agency and is well functioning. Both adults and accompanying children can participate in the program, which ensures a safe return. The Gender Equality Agency has participated in study visits together with IOM and the regional coordinators and followed up the work in for instance Bulgaria.

GRETA would like to be kept informed of the status of the amendments to the CC.

As GRETA notes in paragraph 173 in their report, a bill with proposed legislative amendments to the Criminal Code was presented by the Government in March 2018. These amendments entered into force on 1 July 2018.

On 9 March 2017 the Government decided to commission a public enquiry into whether legislative changes or changes to the implementation of existing rules will be necessary to better prevent child marriages, forced marriages and honour crimes. The final report with the results of the enquiry is expected by September 2018. GRETA would like to be kept informed of the outcome of this enquiry.

The inquiry submitted its final report Increased protection against honour-related crimes (SOU 2018:69) in August 2018. The report includes the following legal proposals.

The introduction of a penal provision regarding child marriage. Unlike the present regulation of coercion to marry, the suggested provision does not include the requirement of coercion or exploitation of a vulnerable situation in the case of offences directed at children. A design of that kind is in line with the regulation of THB, where there is no requirement of such means in the case of offences directed at children. It is also proposed that responsibility for a child marriage offence should be borne by the person who "induces" or "permits" the child to enter into a marriage. The penal provision covers both legally valid marriages and informal marriages whether these are entered into in Sweden or abroad. The penalty proposed for the offence is imprisonment for at most four years.

The penal provisions on coercion to marry and luring a person into travelling abroad for the purpose of a forced marriage shall be made explicitly subsidiary to the provision on trafficking in human beings. The purpose of this proposal is to clarify that the first provisions shall apply only if the provision on THB, which has a more severe scale of punishment, is not applicable. The aim is to raise awareness of the

fact that for example a forced marriage may in some cases also be covered by the provision of THB and thus should be investigated and prosecuted as such a crime.

The introduction of a special ground for more severe penalties for offences with honour motives. The purpose of this proposal is for the seriousness of criminal activity taking place in the name of honour to be reflected clearly and regularly in its penal value. It is important that there is a scope to assign offences with honour motives a higher penal value than corresponding criminal activity that is not honour-related. The proposed ground for more severe penalties can also be a step towards clarifying the particularly great vulnerability of these victims and towards strengthening the protection of rights of those affected.

The introduction of a travel ban on leaving the country for children at risk of being taken abroad to enter into marriage or be subjected to genital mutilation. The possibilities of intervening with preventive measures when children are being taken abroad to enter into marriage or be subjected to genital mutilation are limited. The purpose of this proposal is to meet the need of being able to restrict the possibility of travelling abroad for children at risk of being taken out of the country to enter into marriage or to undergo genital mutilation. The proposal also includes a penalty for breaching the ban. The penalty proposed is imprisonment for at most one year.

As a step in the legislative procedure the inquiry's report was referred for consultation. The end date for comments was on 28 May 2019. The above proposals are currently being processed within the Government Offices.

GRETA invites the Swedish authorities to consider establishing as a criminal offence the use of services which are the object of all forms of trafficking exploitation, with the knowledge that the person is a victim of trafficking in human beings.

The use of services of victims of THB may, depending on the circumstances, be sentenced according to different provisions in the Criminal Code and other legislation. For example, the crime usury can be applied. That is when a person in connection with an agreement or some other action with legal consequences takes advantage of someone's distress, lack of judgement, thoughtlessness or dependent status, in order to obtain a benefit which is clearly disproportionate to the consideration afforded or for which no consideration should be provided. Also, crimes concerning unlawful coercion, extortion and fraud can be applied. In addition, the Aliens Act (Chapter 20, Section 5) provides that a person who intentionally or through negligence has an alien in his or her employment, even though the alien does not have a legal right to stay in the country or does not have the prescribed work permit shall be sentenced to a fine or, in aggravating circumstances, to imprisonment for not more than one year.

In July 2018, legislative amendments entered into force which introduced a new crime in Swedish criminal law: human exploitation (Chapter 4, Section 1 b of the Criminal Code). A person who, in cases other than kidnapping or trafficking in human beings, by unlawful coercion, deception or exploitation of another person's position of dependence, defenselessness or difficult situation, exploits another person in forced labour, labour under clearly unreasonable conditions or begging is guilty of human exploitation and is sentenced to imprisonment for at most four years. A person who commits such an act against a person who has not attained eighteen years of age is held responsible even if no unlawful coercion, deception or exploitation of another person's position of dependence, defenselessness or difficult situation took place. This also applies if the person who commits such an act did not have intent but was negligent regarding the circumstance that the other person had not attained eighteen years of age.

A Committee of Enquiry has recently proposed an expansion of the scope of application of corporate fines to cover not only entrepreneurs/business activities but also public sector activities that can be equated with business activities and other activities conducted by a legal person if the illegal act was intended to bring the legal person financial benefit. A Government bill based on the proposals of the Committee of Enquiry is expected to be presented to Parliament in the spring of 2019. GRETA would like to be kept informed of any developments in the legislation on corporate liability following the proposals by the Committee of Enquiry.

A Government Bill (prop. 2018/19:164) was submitted to Parliament in September 2019. Once adopted by Parliament, the new legislation will enter into force on 1 January 2020. In the Bill, the Government proposes that the maximum amount for corporate fines is increased from 10 million Swedish Crowns to 500 million Swedish Crowns. The Government also proposes an expansion of the scope of application of corporate fines to cover not only entrepreneurs/business activities but also public sector activities that can be equated with business activities and other activities conducted by a legal person if the illegal act was intended to bring the legal person financial benefit.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should review the effectiveness of the legal provisions on corporate liability in relation to THB offences, examine the reasons why no legal entities have been prosecuted for trafficking-related acts and, in the light of the findings, take measures to ensure that the criminal liability of legal entities can be acted upon in practice.

The aim with the new legislation is to ensure that the Swedish criminal law regulatory framework for legal persons is efficient, effective and modern, and that it is adapted to Sweden's obligations under EU Law and other international commitments. The proposal to expand the scope of application of corporate fines to other activities conducted by a legal person if the illegal act was intended to bring the legal person financial benefit is one of the measures the Government has taken to ensure that the legal framework is compliant in relation to international commitments.

GRETA considers that the Swedish authorities should:

- *strengthen the procedural measures available for protecting victims and witnesses within the meaning of the Convention;*
- *step up protection specific to child victims of trafficking, regardless of the type of exploitation;*
- *train law enforcement authorities in assessing the risks faced by victims and to provide the police with adequate human resources and procedural means to ensure the protection of victims and witnesses who might be threatened in the framework of the investigations they are leading.*

On 1 July 2019, amendments to the procedural law aimed at ensuring that the courts are a safe and secure environment for everyone attending a trial entered into force. The amendments allow the courts to conduct hearings under orderly and safe forms and enable them to make sure that witnesses and plaintiffs can give testimony without feeling disturbed, threatened or under pressure. The amendments include increasing the possibilities for parties and witnesses to give evidence via video-link and increasing the judge's mandate to decide that the accused shall not be present in the court room during a witness's testimony. The ban on photographing in the courtroom is extended so that it also applies to photography into the courtroom. Electronic equipment that a person in the audience brings into the court room shall as a general rule be turned off and tucked away. Security control when entering the court building shall become more effective by having more people covered by it.

GRETA invites the Swedish authorities to secure sufficient and continuous funding for the National Support Programme, including after the transfer of the co-ordination of antitrafficking action to the new Gender Equality Agency, as well as to provide funding for other anti-trafficking activities by civil society in the areas of prevention of human trafficking and protection of victims' rights.

In the work against THB many authorities play an important role. Regarding support to victims, several NGOs carry out valuable work. Victims may prefer a first contact with NGOs before contacting authorities.

Funding to civil society is allocated through ordinances and handled by appointed agencies, such as the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Support to victims of THB is a key issue. The Government has an ongoing dialogue with the Platform Swedish Civil Society against Human Trafficking with a view to finding a solution.