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GRETA(2017)31

Reply from Iceland
to the Questionnaire for the evaluation of the implementation
of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against
Trafficking in Human Beings by the Parties

Second evaluation round
(Reply submitted on 6 October 2017)

Introduction

In accordance with Article 38, paragraph 1, of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, GRETA evaluates the implementation of the Convention following a procedure divided into rounds. At the beginning of each round, GRETA selects the specific provisions on which the evaluation procedure is based.

GRETA has decided that the second evaluation round of the Convention will start on 15 May 2014. For the second evaluation round, GRETA has adopted a questionnaire to be sent to all states parties which have undergone the first round of evaluation, following a timetable approved by GRETA. States parties are requested to transmit to GRETA a reply to this questionnaire within five months from the date it was sent.

Following a first round of monitoring, which provided an overview of the implementation of the Convention by each state party, GRETA has decided to examine during the second evaluation round the impact of legislative, policy and practical measures on the prevention of trafficking, the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking, and the prosecution of traffickers. The adoption of a human rights-based approach to action against trafficking in human beings remains at the centre of this new evaluation round. In addition, particular attention is paid to measures taken to address new trends in human trafficking and the vulnerability of children to trafficking. GRETA has selected provisions of the Convention which are mainly related to these issues.

The reply to the questionnaire should be submitted in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French), and preferably also in the original language. The reply to the questionnaire should contain all the relevant information on the implementation of the Convention since GRETA's first evaluation report. Particular emphasis should be put on the practice and impact of legislative and other measures taken. Where appropriate, in order to avoid unnecessary repetition, the reply may refer to information contained in the report submitted by the national authorities on measures taken to comply with the Committee of the Parties' recommendation concerning the implementation of the proposals made in GRETA's first evaluation report.

States parties should provide copies or extracts of relevant legislation, regulations and case law mentioned in the reply to the questionnaire (as an appendix to the reply). These copies/extracts should be supplied in the original language and, wherever possible, also in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe.

A variety of stakeholders and civil society representatives should be effectively consulted in the preparation of the reply to the questionnaire, to ensure that the information provided is as comprehensive as possible.

A. Follow-up questions

1. Please provide information on developments since GRETA's first evaluation report on your country in the following areas:

- the main forms of trafficking in human beings (THB) and emerging trends observed in your country (for example, any new types or sectors of exploitation, recruitment methods, countries of origin or destination of the victims);

Sex trafficking and labour trafficking are still the predominant trends seen. Trafficking victims recruited are predominantly from the Baltic States however some victims from South America namely Columbia (on Spanish passports) have been identified. As for places where victims are exploited there is no change.

With an increased number of asylum seekers in Iceland we have seen an increase in asylum seekers identified as possible victims of trafficking.

- any changes in your country's laws and regulations relevant to action against THB;

There haven't been any changes in Iceland's laws and regulations relevant to actions against THB since GRETA'S first evaluation.

- the institutional framework for action against THB, in particular: any changes in respect of the composition and functions of the bodies responsible for co-ordinating national action against THB, the involvement of NGOs in co-ordinating bodies, the entities specialised in the fight against THB, and the establishment of a national rapporteur or other mechanism for monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking strategies, policies and activities;

In 2016, the ministry of the interior (now ministry of Justice) established a consultation forum (a steering committee) of the relevant actors to consult and co-operate on development and implementation of anti-trafficking policy. Participants in the forum are from the ministry of the justice, ministry of welfare, police, directorate of immigration, social services of Reykjavik city, Human rights centre, trade unions and the Red Cross (from spring 2016). The main focus within the group has been on raising awareness for professionals regarding THB, the identifiers and what can be done to assist possible victims.

An education team with representatives from police and social services was formed in spring 2014. Educational programs have been held regionally for police officers, health care workers, social workers and labour inspectors to also boost local co-operation.

Education has also been provided to border guards, staff at the directorate of immigration and labour, children services, labour unions, hotel staff and many others. The education team had at the end of 2016 provided education for over 2000 people.

The Ministry of Welfare has had an agreement with The Women's shelter in Iceland since December 2014. The goal of the agreement is to ensure all female victims a temporary safe house.

The Human Rights office provides the victims with legal assistance, free of charge.

In the last two years authorities have put greater focus on labour exploitation. Close knit co-operation between police, tax authorities and labour inspectors on work site inspections where conditions are inspected as well as rights of workers and possible forced labour has been established.

A Human trafficking team has been formed at the Department of Labour and work procedures put in place. Specific measures at the Department of Labour include: increased awareness of employees, increased cooperation with other government agencies for example: police, tax authorities and trade unions, review of the process of work permits, temporary work agencies and posted workers cases are handled. Increased cooperation between supervisory bodies with special focus on social dumping and inspectors have had some training on how to spot possible trafficking cases.

The metropolitan police has made some changes to their investigation units and added an investigation unit focused on human trafficking and prostitution. They have also set up a special email address for tip offs or inquiries about possible human trafficking.

The Ministry of Welfare formed two teams in 2015 to provide needed assistance and services to victims of THB:

- A) *Cooperation and coordination team* with representatives from the Ministry of Welfare, Primary Health Care, the Ministry of Interior, The Women's Shelter, the State Hospital, the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police, the Icelandic Human Rights Centre, the Human Rights Centre of Reykjavík Municipality, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Stígamót – Education and Counselling Centre for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Violence, the Directorate of Immigration, the Department of Welfare Services of Reykjavík Municipality and the Directorate of Labour. The main task of the team is to have an overview of the situation regarding provision of welfare services to victims of THB and lay out a general process when a victim is identified. The team meets about twice a year and changes information about the service provided for victims of THB and their thoughts about the welfare system in general with the emphasis of improving services for victims of THB.
- B) *Operational team* consists of representatives from the Ministry of Welfare, Primary Health Care Center, The Women's Shelter, the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police, the Human Rights Centre of Reykjavík Municipality and the Department of Welfare Services of Municipality Reykjavík. The team is called together Ad-Hoc concerning individual cases to ensure the provision of welfare services to the victim, with the permission of the victim. The aim of the information gathering is to provide the victim with the best of service. All stakeholders concerned are invited by the Ministry of Welfare to attend the meetings of the operational team.

With these teams, with a wide range of representatives, it is expected that appropriate welfare services to victims and possible victims can better be ensured.

Bjarkarhlíð is a new multidisciplinary pilot project from 2016. It is a Service centre for adult victims of violence. It is built on an American Model, Family Justice Center, where the goal is to provide survivors of violence with necessary support at one location. Social Workers, Police officers and NGO's provide counseling and support. Bjarkarhlíð is cooperation between the Ministry of Welfare, the city of Reykjavík, The Metropolitan Police, the Women's' shelter, the human rights office of Iceland, The Ministry of Justice, Stígamót – Education and Counseling Center for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Violence and Drekaslóð - several NGO's.

Victims of violence are met with deep knowledge of the circumstances and an understanding of the situation in a warm welcoming environment. In Bjarkarhlíð there are facilities for the children while they wait for their adult supervisors. The Social Services of Reykjavík also use the house for counseling children that have witnessed domestic violence. Victims of THB are welcomed to seek for assistance at Bjarkarhlíð as other victims of violence.

During the first six months of the project, 193 survivors of violence have received assistance in Bjarkarhlíð. More women than men have received help, 175 women and 18 men. Most of the survivors are from Iceland or 171, 15 are from Europe and 7 outside of Europe. Most of the cases are regarding domestic violence cases, then sexual violence and physical violence in close relationships.

Bjarkarhlíð has seen some cases where THB is part of the violent experience that survivors seek help for. One had already been investigated in Italy and another had escaped from THB in Libya. Both of these cases are in a refugee process in Iceland. We have had some cases where Icelandic women are working as sex workers or in prostitution often as a consequence of childhood sexual abuse.

Bjarkarhlíð has in a cooperation with the police and social service assisted three women out of prostitution and been able to provide psychological support for those women. It is a priority in Bjarkarhlíð to provide service to survivors of THB and provide them with support and treatment regarding the consequences of violence.

Barnahus (Children's house) is a child-friendly, interdisciplinary and multiagency centre whereby different professionals work under one roof in investigating suspected child sexual abuse cases and providing appropriate support for child victims in line with the Children Advocacy Centre model. Barnahus was established in Iceland in 1998. The activities are based on a partnership between the State Police, the State Prosecution, the University Hospital and the local child protection services as well as the Government Agency for Child Protection which is responsible for its operation.

The basic concept of Barnahus is to avoid subjecting the child to repeated interviews by many agencies in different locations, including the courtroom, if an indictment is made. Research has shown that repeated interviews carried out by people that are not specifically trained in forensic interviewing are likely to distort the child accounts of events by suggestive questioning with detrimental effect on the criminal investigation. Barnahus provides a child friendly environment for investigative interviews which reduces the level of anxiety of the child which in turn is crucial for successfully eliciting the child's disclosure.

Barnahus is located in a residential area and its interior is designed to maximize the child's comfort e.g. by toys, pictures and selection of colours. The child is interviewed in a special room by a trained investigative interviewer according to evidence based protocol. The interview is observed in a different room by a judge, who is formally in charge of the procedure, a social worker from the child protection authorities, the police, the prosecution, the defence attorney and the child's advocate. As referred to above the interview is videotaped for multiple purposes, including child protection and criminal investigation and as court testimony at the main proceedings if an indictment is made. This arrangement makes it possible in most cases to do with only one interview with the child as the child need not appear in court. After the interview the child may have the medical examination in the medical room of the house.

Child friendly interviews are very important to find if there is suspicion of THB, as the victim's disclosure is the key evidence or the only evidence of the crime, as it is in most sexual abuse cases involving children. In article 28, paragraph 5 of The Foreigners Act no. 80/2016, that came into force on January 1st 2017, it is stated that all interviews with children must be done by an expert in matters of children.

In Iceland there has been a formal collaboration since February 2016 between the relevant agencies regarding interviews with unaccompanied children. The child's narrative is obtained in Barnahus and that interview provides basis for the asylum application, individual assessment, e.g. age, mental health, protective measures, including accommodation and collaboration between agencies and rapport building with unaccompanied children. Representatives from the Directorate of Immigration, the child protection agency and the Red Cross are present in the observational room and can put forward necessary questions to the specialist present with the child.

Children who are escorted by their legal guardians and have sought for an international protection can also get an interview in Barnahus, as the unaccompanied children do, if a reason has awoken about mistreatment of any kind. With this method it is more accurate to predict about vulnerable situation of the children in question, human trafficking included. Since the collaboration started around 25 unaccompanied children have been interviewed in Barnahus in Iceland.

Regarding NGO's: The Ministry of Welfare still has an agreement with the Women's shelter, were the goal is to ensure all female victims a temporary save house.

The agreement with the Human rights office is as well on-going, that is to ensure all victims with legal assistance, free of charge.

- an overview of the current national strategy and/or action plan to combat trafficking in human beings (duration, objectives and main activities, bodies responsible for its implementation, budget, monitoring and evaluation of results).

Development of a new action plan is on the agenda for this year. It will be co-ordinated through the consultation forum based on the experience built in the last few years taking into account the proposals from GRETA.

B. Cross-cutting questions

Gender equality (Articles 1.1.b, 5.3 and 17)

2. What specific measures are taken in your country to address the gender dimension of THB and incorporate gender equality into the policies to prevent and combat THB and to protect and promote the rights of victims, including through the empowerment of women and girls?

The 2013-2016 Action Plan for the prevention and protection against trafficking in human beings, does recognize that women and girls (children) are in particulate risk of becoming victims of THB and servitude including sexual exploitation, forced labor or services or as surrogates, and it linkages with organized crime. It also stresses the relationship between human trafficking (supply side) on one hand and pornography and prostitution (demand side) on the other. New action plan is being developed.

The governmental action plan on equality for the period 2016-2019 states under Action 12 that the Ministry of Justice shall engage in analysis of the status of refugees and asylum-seekers from the perspectives of gender, gender equality and human right including an examination of whether gender equality and human rights perspectives are given sufficient attention in Icelandic legislation and practice, including considerations of gender, sexual orientation or sexual identity, *individuals at risk*, survivors of violent offences *and trafficking in human beings*.

Non-discrimination (Article 3)

3. What measures are taken to ensure that trafficked persons who are members of ethnic minorities have access to the rights specified in the Convention?

In spring 2017 the minister of social services and equality put forth a bill concerning equal treatment and non-discrimination. The bill is still before the parliament.

4. What specific measures are taken to ensure that trafficked persons who are irregular migrants or migrant workers are identified as victims of THB and have access to the rights provided for in the Convention?

In the last two years authorities have put greater focus on labour exploitation. Close knit co-operation between police, tax authorities and labour inspectors on work site inspections where conditions are inspected as well as rights of workers and possible forced labour has been established.

Human trafficking team has been formed at the Department of Labour and work procedures put in place. Specific measures at the Department of Labour include: increased awareness of employees, increased cooperation with other government agencies for example: police, tax authorities and trade unions, review of the process of work permits, temporary work agencies and posted workers cases are handled. Increased cooperation between supervisory bodies with special focus on social dumping and inspectors have had some training on how to spot possible trafficking cases.

Icelandic Confederation of Labour (ASÍ) have been very proactive in this field see: http://www.asi.is/media/275485/plakat_vef-3-ensk.pdf

5. What measures exist to ensure that male victims of trafficking are identified and provided with assistance and protection, including safe accommodation, as provided by the Convention?

The Icelandic welfare system relies on current legislation and regulation. The municipalities are obligated to provide all residents, regardless of gender, with necessary services and assistance according to the Act of The Municipalities' Social Services, nr. 40/1991. If individuals do not have their legal residence in Iceland they are provided with necessary assistance from the municipality where they are located. All outgoing expenses regarding individuals that do not have their legal address in Iceland or have had their legal address for less than two years is refunded by the state treasury fund.

Male victims are provided with welfare services on an individual bases, as all other victims of human trafficking. There is not a specific save house for males in Iceland and the situation has not come up that a male victim was in a need for a shelter. If it would happen the social services that would be providing the individual with social support provide secure housing for the identified victim as well as counselling, financial aid if needed and would ensure necessary health services.

Training of relevant professionals (Articles 10 and 29)

6. Please describe how the needs for training of professionals in the area of action against THB are identified and met, with an indication of the categories of staff that receive such training, whether the training is obligatory or optional, the content and focus of the training, and the funding provided for training activities. If the impact of training has been assessed, please provide details.

Training programs have been held in the last few years. Increased effort needs to be put into training for the relevant professionals, for example: for prosecutors and judges. The Ministry of the Interior (now ministry of justice), Ministry of Welfare, Metropolitan Police, Federation of General and Special Workers in Iceland (SGS) and Department for Social Services of City of Reykjavik have been running an education program for relevant professionals (police, health care officials, social workers, labour union officials) on issues concerning trafficking, how to identify possible victims and what assistance can be provided. The Ministry of welfare and the specialist from the city of Reykjavik addressed the importance of good local welfare service for THB while raising awareness about the topic. Through awareness raising among professionals measures have been implemented to combat forced labour in already existing work place inspection systems through ASÍ's project Equal Rights, No Exception and in cooperation with the police, labour officials and tax officers amongst others.

The Centre for Police Training and Professional Development at the National Police Commissioner of Iceland was established June 1st 2016 as a result of changes to legislation regarding police education in Iceland. The centre has some courses planned in the winter 2017-2018 for the police in the field of THB. THB is a special topic in one of the courses in Police Science at the university of Akureyri (obligatory).

The Council of the Baltic States (CBSS) organized several seminars on trafficking in children. Around eight representatives from Iceland participated in the seminars; the Government Agency for Child Protection, the Ministry of Welfare, the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police and the Directorate of Immigration.

The Ministry of Welfare participated in IOMs'(International Organization for Migration) expert group on improving counter-trafficking efforts worldwide regarding Nordic health care professionals and counter-trafficking actors. The aim was to enhance health sector capacity to identify and respond to needs of victims of trafficking and to share Nordic counter-trafficking expertise.

In May 2016 the ministry of interior, ministry of foreign affairs and the Metropolitan Police held an open seminar about THB with the focus on labor exploitation. In September 2017 The Federation of General and Special workers in Iceland (SGS), the Centre for Police Training and Professional Development, City of Reykjavik, Metropolitan Police held an open seminar where the main focus was on modern day slavery see agenda here: http://reykjavik.is/sites/default/files/radstefna_dagskra.pdf

A representative from the Ministry of Welfare and the Directorate of Labor joined a Nordic expert group and project steering committee coordinated by The Danish Center against human trafficking. The first meeting was in September 2016.

The Directorate of Immigration has not a specific training program for these cases. Specialists from the Metropolitan police have come to teach staff members about THB and identification.

Special measures concerning children (Articles 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 28 and 30)

7. Please describe whether and how trafficking in children is specifically addressed in your country. If there are institutions responsible for taking the lead in combating trafficking in children and a specific national referral mechanism for child victims of trafficking, please provide details.

By including the Directorate of Immigration and the trade unions in the consultation forum the aim is to integrate the prevention of THB and raise awareness with the relevant professionals regarding unaccompanied children, migrant workers and asylum seekers.

The Government Agency for Child Protection and the Directorate of Immigration has been working together on the process of cases for unaccompanied children who arrive to Iceland and seek for an international protection. These children are interviewed in Barnahus, run by the Agency for Child Protection. There are specialists in the field of violence on children. The specialists are well aware of human trafficking and the affect that may cause.

As described in the response to question 1, all unaccompanied children have been interviewed in Barnahus since February 2016. Children that are escorted by their legal guardian and are in the process of seeking for an international protection can get an interview in Barnahus as well, if they are thought to be in a vulnerable situation.

The child's narrative is obtained in Barnahus and that interview provides basis for the asylum application, individual assessment, e.g. age, mental health, protective measures, including accommodation and collaboration between agencies and rapport building with unaccompanied children. Representatives from the Directorate, the local child protection committee and the Red Cross are present in the observational room and can put forward necessary questions to the specialist present with the child. With this method it is more accurate to predict about vulnerable situation of the children in question, human trafficking included.

The Government Agency for Child Protection provides instructions and council to Child Protection Committees at the local level with regard to family welfare and the management of child protection cases, they monitor the work of Child Protection Committees through the review of annual reports and other means to be determined and provide education and instruction concerning child protection among other tasks. The Agency also supports child protection personnel in Iceland that would provide children as victims of THB with welfare services.

The Agency also trains the personnel at the Directorate of Immigration regarding children.

All Municipalities in Iceland have specific child protection committee. In Iceland all persons are obliged by article 16 in the Child Protection Act, no, 80/2002, to notify a child protection committee if they have reason to believe that a child is living in unacceptable circumstances of upbringing, is exposed to violence or other degrading treatment or is seriously endangering his/her health and maturity. The committees should therefore be notified if anyone would have a reason to believe a child is a victim of THB.

All children at the age of 7 are educated in school about violence against children through a puppet show called *The Kids on the Block*.

8. What practical measures are taken to reduce children's vulnerability to trafficking and create a protective environment¹ for them, including through:

- a. ensuring registration of all children at birth, in particular from socially vulnerable groups;

Not applicable – all children in Iceland are registered at birth

- b. raising awareness of THB through education;

All children at the age of 7 are educated in school about violence against children through a puppet show called *The Kids on the Block*. But there isn't specific awareness raising of THB through education in elementary schools in Iceland.

- c. training professionals working with children.

See answer to question number 7.

9. Please explain what methods are used to verify the age of a presumed victim of trafficking where the age is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the person is a child. Would such a person be presumed to be a child until the age verification is completed?

The Directorate of Immigration nor the police has not had cases as this. When an individual seeking asylum claims to be under the age of 18 years old but does not have any documents that verify his/her age the Directorate of Immigration requests an age assessment. Age assessments in Iceland are conducted by forensic dentists and based on x-rays, examinations and other information. The benefit of the doubt is granted to the asylum seeker and he/she is considered a child until a decision to process the individual as a grown up, based on the age assessment report, has been made.

¹ The concept of a protective environment, as promoted by UNICEF, has eight key components:

- protecting children's rights from adverse attitudes, traditions, customs, behaviour and practices;
- government commitment to and protection and realisation of children's rights;
- open discussion of, and engagement with, child protection issues;
- drawing up and enforcing protective legislation;
- the capacity of those dealing and in contact with children, families and communities to protect children;
- children's life skills, knowledge and participation;
- putting in place a system for monitoring and reporting abuse cases;
- programmes and services to enable child victims of trafficking to recover and reintegrate.

10. What steps are taken in your country to ensure that the rights of the child and his/her best interests² are duly taken into consideration, in particular when it comes to:

- a. identification of child victims of trafficking;

Local Child Protection Authorities are always informed when a child is identified as a victim of THB or suspected to be a victim. The narrative approach by Barnahus is to give each individual the space and environment to be able to evaluate children's situation with more accuracy. The interviews are performed by trained personnel in forensic interviewing with children.

- b. appointing a legal guardian, organisation or authority which shall act in the best interest of unaccompanied minors identified as victims of trafficking;

See answer a

- c. locating the child's family;

The Ministry of Welfare has an agreement with the Red Cross of Iceland regarding locating family members of refugees. The ministry of Justice has an agreement with IOM.

- d. ensuring that the identity or details allowing the identification of a child victim of trafficking are not made publicly known through the media or by any other means;

All personnel of Child Protection services in Iceland are bound by confidentiality and discreetness. Same applies to all government officials.

- e. access to appropriate and secure accommodation, education and health care;

See answers above (1 and 10a)

- f. providing counselling and information in a language that the child can understand, legal assistance and free legal aid prior, during and after legal proceedings, including to claim compensation;

All Child Protection Services provide children with interpreters in their counselling and many unaccompanied children are provided with personal assistance, who often speaks the unaccompanied children's native language.

- g. carrying out best interests determination, including risk assessment, prior to any decision on the return of child victims to their country of origin, and ensuring the child's safe return in accordance with the best interests of the child;

Iceland has legalised the Convention on the Rights of the Child, so municipalities and whoever working with children should always be looking into its best interest. If a child is returning to his/her country of origin and has been in contact with Child Protection Authorities in Iceland, they always contact appropriate authorities in the country of origin to ensure a safe return.

² "The best interests of the child" means that any situation should be looked at from the child's own perspective, seeking to take the child's views into consideration and with the objective of ensuring that his/her rights are respected. Any decision concerning a child should therefore be guided by what is objectively best for that child, given her/his age and maturity.

h. special protection measures for children.

Child protection committees have vast role and are obligated to monitor and investigate the circumstances, behaviour and conditions of upbringing of children, and assess without delay the needs of those who are believed to be living in unacceptable conditions, to be mistreated, or to have serious social problems. They are also obligated to measure children's circumstances and should apply those child protection measures which are most applicable at any time, and which are deemed the most suitable to safeguard their interests and welfare.

11. What practical measures are taken in your country to identify victims of trafficking among unaccompanied foreign minors, including asylum seekers? What measures are taken to prevent their disappearance? Have there been cases of non-voluntary return of child victims of trafficking?

When an unaccompanied minor applies for residence permit the Directorate of Immigration works closely with the police and child protection agency in order to locate the child's parents or guardians.

As described in questions 1 and 7, all unaccompanied children have been interviewed in Barnahus since February 2016. The child's narrative is obtained in Barnahus and that interview provides basis for the asylum application, individual assessment, e.g. age, mental health, protective measures, including accommodation and collaboration between agencies and rapport building with unaccompanied children. Representatives from the Directorate of Immigration, the local child protection agencies and the Red Cross are present in the observational room and are able to put forward necessary questions to the specialist present with the child. With this method it is more accurate to predict about vulnerable situation of the children in question, human trafficking included.

Regarding asylum seeking unaccompanied minors they're all interviewed in Barnahus. The interview is conducted by a child psychologist specialised in interviewing children. And if there are any indicators that the child is a victim of trafficking, the police would also be involved. Regarding measures to prevent the disappearance of unaccompanied minors there is ample registration process, and all unaccompanied minors are either staying in an accommodation provided by the Directorate of Immigration where there is staff 24 hours or they are placed with a foster family. There hasn't been any case of a disappearance in these cases. There hasn't been a case of a non-voluntary return of children who are victims of trafficking.

12. What programmes and services exist in your country for the (re)integration of child victims of trafficking? What solutions are provided if the reintegration of the child into his/her family is not in the child's best interests?

Each case is approached on case by case basis.

C. Questions related to specific articles

Definitions (Article 4)

13. Have any difficulties been experienced in your country in identifying and prosecuting cases on the ground of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour or services, slavery and practices similar to slavery or servitude? If so, please provide details.

Article 227 a in the General Penal Code uses the term "forced labour" and reads as follows:

"Anyone becoming guilty of the following acts for the purpose of sexually using a person or for forced labour or to remove his/her organs shall be punished for human trafficking with up to 12 years imprisonment:-

1. Procuring, removing, housing or accepting someone who has been subjected to unlawful force under Art. 225 or deprived of freedom as per Art. 226 or threat as per Art. 233 or unlawful deception by awakening, strengthening or utilizing his/her lack of understanding of the person concerned about circumstances or other inappropriate method.
2. Procuring, removing, housing or accepting an individual younger than 18 years of age or rendering payment or other gain in order to acquire the approval of those having the care of a child.
3. To render payment or other gains to obtain consent for abuse by a man who controls the actions of another person.

The same punishment shall be applied to those who accept payment or another gains, according to section 3 in the first paragraph. If an offence according to first paragraph is against a child, it shall be considered as a factor in applying a more severe punishment.

Same punishment shall be applied shall be applied to anyone that is guilty of the following acts, one or more, to facilitate human trafficking.

To forge travelling or ID-documents.

To be an intermediary in obtaining such documents or provide them.

To keep in their possession, remove, damage or destroy travelling or ID-documents of another individual."

However a further definition of "forced labour" can neither be found in the GPC or in written explanatory notes. In defining this term it is therefore necessary to rely on general definitions and keep in mind that sources of legal grounds for punishment shall be defined in a narrow way. Among the challenges facing investigators and prosecutors is to figure out how much work the person in question has performed (working hours) and subsequently if the salaries and working conditions are such that the term "forced labour" can be used. Victims in human trafficking cases are often reluctant to inform the police of their working conditions and other relevant facts. This means that other avenues have to be pursued to gather information.

What has emerged in the prosecutorial stage is the importance of a comprehensive financial analysis to assess the nature of these cases. The same actually goes for investigating any of the other factors that have to be present according to legislation, in order to determine that human trafficking has occurred. This for example involves proving that the suspect has abused the "weak position" of the presumed victim to benefit financially. In that case, it is crucial to verify the conditions of the possible victims and if they can only give limited information, to gather the necessary evidence through other channels.

However, it can be a challenging task to obtain information from the home countries of the victims or the countries where they have lived before arriving in Iceland. Assessing the evidence to determine the likelihood of a conviction and thus making a decision whether to indict a suspect, depends on the nature and quality of the information that have to be available to fulfil the legal requirements in legal provisions on human trafficking.

In the light of recent experiences and possible cases that have come up the ministry of justice is looking into possible changes in the GPC regarding THB and exploitation.

14. How does your country's law define "abuse of a position of vulnerability" and what are the criteria for evaluating the vulnerability of a person subjected to THB? Please provide any relevant examples where the means used in THB offences involved an abuse of a position of vulnerability.

In the case of foreign nationals Act no. 80/2016 relevant articles apply:

Art 25

Analysis of the special needs and status of applicants for international protection

An applicant for international protection shall undergo a medical examination as soon as possible after submitting an application. As early as possible in the processing of an application for international protection the Directorate of Immigration shall ensure that an individualised assessment is made, with the assistance of appropriate experts, of whether an applicant is deemed to be in a particularly vulnerable position, cf. art. 3 no. 6. If an applicant is deemed to be in such a position, an assessment shall be made as to whether as a result he/she has any special needs which must be taken into consideration in the proceedings, e.g. a need for specific healthcare services. Such an assessment is not limited to the time of application and the individual's right to special assistance shall not be limited even if special needs arising from his/her vulnerable position only come to light after the submission of the application.

Provisions of Sections IV, V and VII of the Public Administration Act on the right of rebuttal, on notification of a decision, provision of grounds etc. and on appeal of administrative actions, and relevant provisions of Sections I and IX of this Act, do not apply to a decision on particularly vulnerable position under para. 1. Determination of a position under para. 1 has no legal effect other than those specifically stated in law or regulations.

If a case referred to in this Section concerns a child, the child's interests shall be the primary consideration. Children able to form their own opinions shall be ensured the right to express themselves in cases involving them, and account shall be taken of their opinions as appropriate given their age and maturity, cf. art. 10 para. 2. When a decision is contingent upon an authority's assessment, account shall be taken of the child's security, welfare and social development and his/her possibilities to be reunited with his/her family. When an application concerns an unaccompanied child or other individual in a particularly vulnerable position, efforts shall be made to ensure that an employee with appropriate expertise and experience handles the case.

If an unaccompanied child applies for international protection, the Directorate of Immigration shall ensure that he/she receives services commensurate with his/her age and maturity. As soon as possible following application the Directorate shall appoint an advocate for the child under art. 30 para. 1, and notify the Child Protection Agency thereof under art. 31.

The Minister issues regulations on the more detailed implementation of this article, including how a vulnerable position under para. 1 is to be assessed and on the examination and recording of characteristics and indications which could be covered by Art. 3 subparagraph 6.

Art 3 subparagraph 6

Person in a particularly vulnerable position: A person who, due to certain personal characteristics or circumstances, has special needs which must be taken into account in handling the case or who cannot fully, or at all, avail him/herself of the rights or satisfy the conditions provided for in this Act without assistance or special consideration, e.g. unaccompanied children, people with disabilities, people with mental illness or disability, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with young children, victims of human trafficking, seriously ill persons and persons who have been subjected to torture, genital mutilation, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence.

15. To what extent does your country's law recognise the relevance of forced marriage and illegal adoption to THB offences? Please provide any examples from case law where forced marriage and illegal adoption were considered in the context of THB.

We don't have any examples.

16. Can forced begging be considered as a purpose of THB according to your country's law? Have there been any cases of child trafficking for forced begging with the involvement of the child's family or legal guardian?

See answer 13.

17. Can the exploitation of criminal activities be considered as a purpose of THB according to your country's law? Please provide any examples from case law.

See answer 13

Prevention of THB (Article 5)

18. Is the impact of awareness-raising campaigns and other measures to prevent THB evaluated and how are the results taken into account? Please provide copies of any impact evaluation reports.

No such work has been done yet.

19. How does your country promote and fund research on THB and use its results in the development of anti-trafficking policy? Please provide examples of recent research.

No such policy is in place.

20. How do your country's migration legislation and policies seek to prevent THB by enabling lawful migration?

See answers above.

21. Please describe the measures taken in your country to prevent THB for the purpose of the removal of organs, and in particular:

- a. the legislation and regulations on organ transplantation and removal of organs, including requirements for the living donation procedure (information/consent, evaluation/selection, follow-up and registry) and criteria for authorising centres for living donation;
- b. the institution(s) in charge of overseeing and monitoring the medical care and recovery of donors and recipients and managing or supervising any waiting lists for organ transplantations;
- c. the guidance and training provided to relevant professionals to prevent this form of THB, to report cases and to identify and assist victims.

There is an act on removal of organs, no. 16/1991 where the requirements for approval of organ donation and organ removal are listed. Unfortunately the act has not been translated to English. The Directorate of Health is the responsible government body that oversees the approval process.

Measures to discourage the demand (Article 6)

22. What preventive measures to discourage demand that fosters different forms of exploitation has your country adopted, in particular in the areas of:

- a. educational programmes;
- b. information campaigns and involvement of the media;
- c. legislation (including in the areas of public procurement, disclosure requirements and anti-corruption);
- d. involvement of the private sector.

With the education program mentioned above the aim was also to raise awareness. Added media coverage has also been one of the benefits of that which has also helped with raising public awareness. We also held a conference open to the public on THB issues focusing on forced labour, with input from GRETA specialists.

With the Red Cross joining the consultation forum we also aim to tap into their expertise on awareness rising and their vast network for information and possible co-operation.

The Ministry of the Justice, Ministry of Welfare, Metropolitan Police, Federation of General and Special Workers in Iceland (SGS) and Department for Social Services of City of Reykjavik have been running an education program for relevant professionals (police, health care officials, social workers, labour union officials) on issues concerning trafficking, how to identify possible victims and what assistance can be provided.

23. Please describe the measures taken in your country to prevent trafficking for forced labour or services, *inter alia*, by means of labour inspection and labour administration, monitoring of recruitment and temporary work agencies, and monitoring of supply chains.

See answers above.

Border measures (Article 7)

24. Please describe the specific measures taken in your country to strengthen the capacities of border guards to prevent and combat THB, in particular as regards:

- a. identification of possible victims of THB in the context of border control;
- b. identification of possible perpetrators of THB offences;
- c. gathering of first-line information from victims and perpetrators;
- d. identification of vulnerable persons in need of international protection among possible victims of trafficking.

See answers above regarding education and training of professionals.

25. What measures have been taken to ensure that the personnel employed by commercial carriers, including airline attendants and staff working on other means of transportation by land and sea, are able to detect possible victims of THB and inform relevant bodies in due course?

No measures have been taken yet but this is a focus area on the agenda for more awareness raising.

26. What measures have been taken to promote co-operation between border control agencies as regards the establishment and maintenance of direct channels of communication? How have these channels been used for detecting transnational THB? Please provide examples of cases in which these channels were used and any difficulties encountered by border control agencies in this context.

Police is in charge of border control and use the proper police channels of communications when needed.

Identification of the victims (Article 10)

27. Is there a national referral mechanism (NRM) or an equivalent system for identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking, both nationals and foreigners, for any form of exploitation? If so, please specify the bodies involved in it and their responsibilities. If an NRM existed in your country at the time of the first evaluation, please indicate any changes that have been made to it in the meantime.

No – not yet.

28. Are there any formalised indicators for the identification of victims of THB for different forms of exploitation and how is their use by different professionals ensured in practice in your country?

We have made use of material from other countries but not formalised the indicators or adapted them.

29. What is considered as "reasonable grounds" to believe that a person is a victim of THB and which bodies have competence to identify victims upon "reasonable grounds"? Please provide examples from practice.

See answers 27 and 28.

30. What measures are taken in your country to encourage self-identification of victims of THB?

With the Red Cross joining the consultation forum we also aim to tap into their expertise on awareness raising and their vast network for information and possible co-operation. It is also on the agenda for the Red Cross to extend the use of their existing help line to address possible THB issues. Training for volunteers is under way.

31. What measures are taken in your country to identify victims of THB during the examination of asylum applications and during return of persons whose applications are rejected? How is communication ensured between the authorities responsible for identification of victims of trafficking and immigration and asylum authorities when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person who is irregularly staying in the country is a victim of trafficking?

If there is any suspicion of trafficking The Directorate of Immigration contacts the police.

The protection and service for a victim of human trafficking have been assessed case by case. The police, specialists by the social service or other stakeholders report possible victims to the Ministry. The Ministry takes a decision with the social service and if the situation demands with the police on necessary support and protection. The Ministry of Welfare hosts an operational team with the stakeholders that are in contact with the victim. That is usually the local social service, local police, the Women shelter and the local health care centre. The local Social service has an overview over the service that is provided for each victim and takes care of the victim's needs.

The operational team is called up on whenever a suspicion of a victim arises and the goal is to ensure individual victims of human trafficking relevant welfare service. The Team works on case by case status and is gathered to have a multidimensional approach on each case with specialists from different fields and to ensure comprehensive welfare service. The Team members are from: The health care center in Reykjavik city center, The Women's shelter, The Reykjavik Metropolitan police, The human rights office of the city of Reykjavik, The Welfare department within the Municipality of Reykjavik and the Ministry of Welfare that chairs the team.

When victims are located outside Reykjavik a temporary Team is established with representatives from the local service providers. That is most often the social service, the health care center and the police.

The Ministry of Welfare has an agreement with the Women shelter so all the women that are identified as victims of human trafficking can stay at the shelter and get the necessary protection there. Male victims would be provided with other kind of an arrangement that would suit them, like guesthouses. It has not come to that.

The child's protection agency is always informed if there is a child involved with an adult that is a possible victim of human trafficking. If a child is thought to be trafficked it would always be put under the care of child's protection.

The aim is to train specialist at local service to identify possible victims and specialise in providing them with service.

The Human right office provides the victims with legal assistance, free of charge.

As mentioned previously Bjarkarhlíð was established in march 2017 where victims are interviewed and supported. The project is a cooperation between the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Justice and the municipality of Reykjavik and several NGO's.

Protection of private life (Article 11)

32. What measures are taken by relevant professionals to protect the confidentiality of information and protect the personal life and identity of victims of THB, including as regards storing of their personal data? Are there any conflicts of interest between professional ethics, on the one hand, and the obligation to report an offence, on the other hand? If so, how are these conflicts resolved in practice?

Service providers for victims of THB are all bound by confidentiality by their profession. Whether they are health care professionals, personal from the social service, child care committee or police. Specialists within each case cooperate with the permission of the victim itself.

Assistance to victims (Article 12)

33. When assistance to victims is provided by non-state actors, how do your country's authorities ensure compliance with the obligations under Article 12 of the Convention, in particular when it comes to:

- a. funding;

The welfare service provided for individuals is usually provided by municipalities or public health care clinics. The State Treasury reimburses the municipality the cost of assistance granted to foreign nationals who are not legally domiciled in Iceland or have had their domicile in Iceland for less than two years by article 15 in the Municipalities' Social Services Act, no. 40/1991.

There is one NGO that has a contract regarding service providing for victims of THB. That is the Women's shelter in Iceland. The Ministry of Welfare has a contract with them regarding temporary safe shelter for women that are victims of THB.

The Ministries of Welfare and Justice also have a funding agreement with the Human rights office regarding legal assistance for foreign citizens so victims of THB can have counselling there.

- b. victim's safety and protection;

See answer above.

- c. standards of assistance and their implementation in practice;

Multidisciplinary approach is practised with the operational team by the Ministry of Welfare as described before. Each case is evaluated and an assessment made by the stakeholders that are providing welfare service and sometimes also the police.

- d. access to medical treatment, psychological assistance, counselling and information;

Always provided by a state actor. Health support for victims of human trafficking is ensured in the regulation about health care service to those who do not have public health insurance in Iceland and their payments, nr. 1142/2015. In article 15 it is stated that individuals that do not have public health insurance should be provided with necessary support furthermore it is stated that if victims of human trafficking are not capable of the payment they should not be charged and the cost is on the service provider.

- e. translation and interpretation, where appropriate?

Within current legislation and given agreements, if necessary and taken under consideration.

34. What specific measures are taken to ensure that the provision of assistance to victims of THB who have been issued a residence permit for the purpose of their co-operation in the investigation or criminal proceedings is not made conditional on their willingness to act as a witness?

The Ministry of Welfare coordinates an Operational team that exchanges information on individual cases, focusing on how to assure that victims of THB have appropriate welfare service. Which is unconditional to their cooperation or lack thereof.

35. What accommodation is available for victims of THB (women, men and children) and how is it adapted to the victims' needs?

The Women's shelter has an agreement with the Ministry of Welfare and provides female victims of THB and their children with temporary safe house.

In other rare cases the municipalities that provide male victims of THB with social service would assist with providing housing solutions.

If a child would be a victim of THB the child protection services would provide with safe housing as well as comprehensive support.

36. What measures are taken to ensure that services are provided to victims on a consensual and informed basis?

According to article 57 in the Municipalities Social Service Act, the collection of data and information shall take place in cooperation with the person receiving assistance and his/her approval sought, if possible.

Professionals working with THB victims respect their self-determination and secure them with necessary information.

The Ministry of Welfare coordinates the *Operational team* that exchanges information on individual cases, focusing on how to assure that victims of THB have appropriate welfare service. The team meets ad hoc if necessary. Relevant representatives have their key persons in the team each time.

37. Is there any follow-up provided after the termination of assistance programmes? Can victims continue to receive assistance, where necessary and taking into account their specific needs resulting from the type of exploitation (including the removal of organs), after the termination of criminal proceedings, and if so what type of assistance?

Since all welfare support is provided on individual basis the welfare service (both health and social) assesses the need for and provides continuing support to victims of THB in each case, as long as the victim is located in Iceland.

Recovery and reflection period (Article 13)

38. Please specify in which cases a recovery and reflection period can be granted and who is entitled to it (nationals, foreign nationals). Please describe the procedure for granting a recovery and reflection period, the assistance and protection provided during this period, and any difficulties encountered in practice.

New act on foreigners entered into effect on January 1st 2017. Article 75 stipulates that possible THB victims can be issued a temporary residence permit for nine months. Same applies if the victim has child and the child is in the country with the victim.

The Directorate of Immigration can only grant this period to third state nationals. If a person is identified as a possible victim of THB an application has to be submitted to the Directorate of Immigration and the police has to give an opinion in the case. If the police give an opinion stating that the person is a possible THB victim the permit is granted. All assistance and protection is in the hands of the Police and the Ministry of Welfare. The main challenge is regarding self-identification. The victims are not willing to talk or seek help from the Directorate or the police and therefore don't apply for the permit. Another challenge is that there is no permit to work on the basis of this type of residence permit.

All victims of THB are provided with health and social services during the recovery and reflection period according to Icelandic legislation.

Residence permit (Article 14)

39. If there is a provision in your country's law that provides for the possibility of issuing a residence permit owing to the victim's personal situation, how is this interpreted in practice? Please provide examples.

Article 76 of the new act stipulates that a one year renewable permit can be issued for a thb victim and the victim's child if it is present in the country as well.

The article allows the Directorate of Immigration to issue a renewable residence permit if it is considered necessary due to the personal circumstances of the person concerned. There have been no cases where this article has been used.

40. When a residence permit is issued for the purpose of co-operation with the competent authorities, how is "co-operation" interpreted and what does it consist of in practice?

There have been no cases in Iceland where this provision has been used in practice.

41. What measures are taken to ensure that a residence permit is provided to victims of THB in compliance with the obligation under Article 12.6, which states that the assistance to a victim of trafficking should not be made conditional on his or her willingness to act as a witness?

There have been no cases in Iceland where this provision has been used in practice.

Compensation and legal redress (Article 15)

42. Please indicate any measures taken since the first evaluation report to promote effective compensation of victims of THB, in particular when it comes to:

- a. access to information on the relevant judicial and administrative proceedings in a language the victim can understand;
- b. access to free legal assistance and legal aid during investigations and court proceedings;
- c. compensation from the perpetrator;
- d. compensation from the state;
- e. compensation for unpaid wages to victims of trafficking.

Please provide examples of compensation awarded and effectively provided to victims of THB.

There haven't been any significant changes since the first evaluation report. A lot of the measures were already in place before the last evaluation and are stated above in previous answers.

43. What specific measures are taken to make available the assets of traffickers to provide compensation (for example, effective financial investigations resulting in seizure of assets of perpetrators with the view to their confiscation)?

With the establishment of The District Prosecutor 2016 which handles the prosecution of criminal cases for example THB cases. It also operates a Financial Intelligence Unit and handles procedure in cases involving the recovery and confiscation of illicit gains from criminal activities. The DP takes the necessary steps to recover and confiscate unlawful gains resulting from all types of criminal offence investigated by the police in Iceland.

44. Is there a possibility for victims of THB to claim damages and compensation in the country of destination after their return to the country of origin? Please provide any relevant examples.

Repatriation and return of victims (Article 16)

45. What steps are taken to ensure that the return of victims of THB from your country to another country is carried out preferably voluntarily and in full observance of the duty to ensure their rights, safety and dignity, including the obligation not to return a person to a country where his or her human rights are at risk of being violated (*non-refoulement* principle)? How is risk assessment carried out when deciding upon return and repatriation of victims of THB? What is the procedure and what are the modalities of co-operation with the authorities of the receiving state?

There has not been a case where this has been addressed. If the possible victim is an asylum seeker the asylum process will take care of these provisions according to their standards which are more detailed than the THB process.

46. Has any victim of trafficking who is a citizen or permanent resident of your country been returned against their will? If yes, what steps, if any, were taken to assist them after their return?

Not that the Directorate of immigration is aware of.

Corporate liability (Article 22)

47. Have there been any developments in your country's law regarding corporate liability for THB offences? Does corporate liability apply to legal persons involved in THB for the purpose of forced labour or services, including by their sub-contractors throughout the supply chain? Please provide examples of any relevant cases and the sanctions imposed.

In spring 2017 the minister of social services and equality put forth a bill regarding corporate liability and supply chains but the bill hasn't been passed yet in the parliament.

Aggravating circumstances (Article 24)

48. Have there been any prosecutions and convictions for THB with the aggravating circumstance of involvement of public officials in the exercise of their functions? Please provide any relevant examples.

No.

Non-punishment provision (Article 26)

49. Is the non-punishment provision incorporated in law and/or prosecution guidelines? If so, please provide the relevant texts. Please give details, including references to case law where relevant, of cases where the non-punishment principle has been applied and the outcome of such cases.

According to the Office of District Prosecutor there are no special provisions in either Icelandic law or prosecution guidelines that can be specifically applied to human trafficking cases, in order not to impose penalties on victims that have been forced to take part in unlawful activities. However, general provisions in the GPC on reasons for non-punishment could be taken into consideration and if the person in question is punished, to consider applying general reasons in the GPC for a more lenient punishment.

Ex parte and ex officio applications (Article 27 in conjunction with Article 1.1.b)

50. Does your country's law provide for the possibility of investigating a THB case in your country if the offence was committed on your territory, but the complaint was submitted in the country of residence of a foreign victim of THB? Please provide any relevant examples.

Art. 4 of the GPC states the following:

"Punishment shall be imposed under the Icelandic Penal Code as follows: For offences committed within the Icelandic state. If the offence is committed by a person employed, or by a passenger, on board a foreign ship or aircraft travelling within Icelandic jurisdiction against someone travelling with the craft, or against interests closely associated with the craft, then punishment shall only be imposed in Iceland if [the minister] orders an investigation and prosecution."

51. Please describe the measures taken in your country to ensure compliance with the obligation of effective investigation into THB cases, in particular as regards:

- a. setting up specialised investigation units and the number of staff involved;
- b. exchange of information with, and obtaining evidence from, other parties;
- c. use of special investigative techniques (such as informants, cover agents, wire-tapping, controlled deliveries), with an indication of how their use is regulated and whether they can also be applied in cases not related to organised crime;
- d. investigation of THB offences committed through the Internet, including the possibility of blocking websites which are used to facilitate the recruitment of trafficking victims or the dissemination of child pornography;
- e. financial investigations to disrupt criminal money flows and ensure asset recovery;
- f. use of joint investigation teams (JITs).

Unfortunately we have not received the necessary information from the police to be able to answer these questions properly. But as stated above, police has put greater efforts into investigations and education. Icelandic police also puts great effort into international police co-operation.

52. Have you had any cases or suspected cases of THB for the purpose of the removal of organs? How did investigations take place in such cases and what special investigation techniques were used?

No, we haven't had any cases of suspected cases of THB for the purpose of the removal of organs.

Protection of victims, witnesses and collaborators with the judicial authorities (Article 28)

53. What measures are taken to protect victims, witnesses and NGOs assisting victims during criminal proceedings from potential retaliation or intimidation during the investigation and during and after the criminal proceedings? In how many cases have special protection measures been used in respect of victims and witnesses of THB? Please specify any difficulties in providing victim/witness protection and creating a safe environment for their participation in investigations and court proceedings.

Articles 65 and 66 in chapter 8 and articles 122 and 123 in chapter 18 of the Icelandic Law on Criminal Procedure no. 88/2008 are in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 32. Article 108 in the Icelandic General Penal Code no. 19/1940 is also in line with this part of the Convention.

Iceland does not have a formal witness protection program but several legal provisions provide methods and measures to protect witnesses. Police procedures take into consideration the need for protecting crime victims and witnesses, general witness protection measures are available, plus general procedural protective measures and special procedural measures. Overall the Icelandic police is aware of the challenges in this field and has used measures to protect witnesses, an example is a human trafficking case few years ago where international cooperation was important. Drawing from that experience the police has assessed numerous risks and important measures regarding witness protection.

54. What other measures are taken to promote the participation of victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings and to give testimonies which accurately reflect their experiences and assist courts in establishing the truth? Can a victim of THB be assisted by a social worker, psychologist and/or NGO representative during the investigation and court hearings?

The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police has issued guidelines for police officers concerning detection, investigation, interviewing victims, assistance and protection.

Jurisdiction (Article 31)

55. Please outline the measures taken by your country to establish and exercise jurisdiction over the offences set out in the Convention, in particular with regard to offences committed outside the jurisdiction of the state (including in cases where your national is a victim of THB committed abroad).

We haven't had any cases like that.

International co-operation (Article 32)

56. Please provide examples of international co-operation initiatives with other states in preventing and combating THB, as well as an assessment of the impact of such initiatives, including any difficulties you have experienced in this area. Please also indicate any bilateral or multilateral agreements concluded by your country concerning mutual legal assistance and how such assistance is provided in the absence of an agreement.

International co-operation in this field is vital for us and has proven to be a source of education and best practices and in light of THB being a transnational crime that knows no borders. Iceland chaired the task force against trafficking in human beings within the council of the Baltic Sea States in 2016-2017. The police is active in the work of Frontex and Europol as well.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States have held four seminars to train Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on assistance to victims of human trafficking and providing them with tools to act confidently and responsibly. Two representatives from Iceland have attended every seminar. The representatives have been from the Ministry of welfare, the Metropolitan Police, the Child Protection service in Reykjavik and the Government Agency for Child Protection.

IOM started a new project called Nordic Health Care Network on Counter-Trafficking in the year 2016. The goal was to share expertise among Nordic health care professionals and counter – trafficking actors to enhance health sector capacity to identify and respond to needs of victims of trafficking. Three meetings were held; one in Copenhagen in June, one in Helsinki in September and one in Oslo in November. A representative from the Ministry of Welfare took part in all three meetings.

Measures related to endangered or missing persons (Article 33)

57. What measures are envisaged in your country to transmit information to another party concerning a victim, witness or collaborator with the judicial authorities in a THB case, who your authorities believe is in immediate danger on the territory of another party? What protection measures are envisaged for such persons, should another party to the Convention inform you about their presence on your territory? Please provide examples from practice.

We have no experience in cases like that.

58. Has an early warning system for missing children been introduced in your country and is the harmonised European telephone number for missing children available? What other measures are there for early signalling to other countries about endangered and/or missing children? Has your country concluded any agreements or taken any other measures to reinforce co-operation with other countries in the search for missing people, in particular children, where your authorities have reasonable grounds to believe that missing children may be victims of trafficking or are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking?

No, unfortunately not.

Co-operation with civil society (Article 35)

59. What steps are taken by your country to encourage state authorities and public officials to co-operate with NGOs and other civil society organisations, including trade unions, so as to involve them in the elaboration and implementation of anti-trafficking policies, programmes and other initiatives to prevent THB? Please provide information on any memoranda of understanding or other agreements concluded between public bodies and NGOs in this field.

See answers related to this issue above.

Relationship with other international instruments (Article 40)

60. Please indicate any agreements concluded by your country in accordance with Article 40.2 of the Convention.

None.

61. Please provide details of cases where victims or possible victims of THB have been granted refugee status or subsidiary/complementary protection.

None.

D. Final questions

62. Which bodies and organisations contributed to responding to this questionnaire?

The Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Welfare, The National Commissioner of the Icelandic police, The District prosecutor, The Directorate of Immigration, The Directorate of labour.

63. Who was responsible for co-ordinating and collecting the replies to this questionnaire?

The Ministry of Justice

E. Statistics on THB (per year, starting with 2010)

Number of victims identified in the sense of having been recognised by a state institution or mandated NGO as deserving any of the rights or entitlements to services provided for by the Convention (with breakdown by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation, internal or transnational trafficking, and body which identified them).

There have been 11 victims registered in the data base of the Ministry of Welfare since August 2015. Before that the Ministry did not have a special data base for those victims. Of those 11 cases there were 8 women. Ten of the victims had contact with the social service within the Municipality where they were staying. Three different Municipalities had some contact with these victims and sometimes, when they had had the service from another municipality, they also received a support from the municipality of Reykjavik when they stayed at the Women's shelter. Most of the victims were in contact with the Welfare department in Reykjavik, only one did not have contact with them.

Six women stayed at the Women's shelter from December 2014 until December 2016. All of them, except for one, stayed there in the year of 2016. These six women came eight times to the shelter and stayed from two days up to 27. They were from the age of 15 up to 32. Only one was under the age of 18. They came from five different countries, all outside of EU.

Number of presumed victims whom the competent authorities had "reasonable grounds" to believe were victims of THB (with breakdown by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation, internal or transnational trafficking, and body which identified them). Please clarify whether this number includes victims who were formally identified or is an additional number.

In 2016 the Directorate of Immigration issued one permit based on reflection period.

In 2017 there have not been any applications.

The Ministry of Welfare has a data collection of victims or suspicions about victims of THB since 2015. There were notes about four suspected victims of THB in 2015, eight victims in 2016 and three up until September 2017.

Only one of those individuals received a residential permit on the grounds of being a victim of THB.

Data from May 2016 until September 2017 has been broken down. At that time ten cases came to discussion at the Ministry of Welfare. The Operational Team was called upon in four of those cases. Six cases concerned forced labour, the matter of the other ones were not as clear. Seven were regarding females and one regarding a child, which was then not thought to be a victim of THB.

Number of victims granted a recovery and reflection period (if possible, disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

See above

Number of victims who received assistance (if possible, disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation, internal or transnational trafficking).

See above

In 2016 and 2017 the Ad-Hoc *Operational Team* was activated four times.

Number of victims who were granted a residence permit, with an indication of the type of the permit and its duration (if possible, disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

None

Number of victims given refugee status and subsidiary/complementary protection.

None

Number of victims who claimed compensation and who received compensation (if possible, disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation), with an indication of whether the compensation was provided by the perpetrator or the state, and the amount awarded.

None.

Number of victims repatriated to your country (if possible, disaggregated by sex, age, country of destination, form of exploitation).

None

Number of victims repatriated from your country to another country (if possible, disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

None

Number of investigations into THB cases

Year of report	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of police investigations into THB cases	1	1	4	0	4	3	2	6	6

Number of prosecutions of THB cases.

None

Number of convictions for THB resulting in penalties involving deprivation of liberty, with an indication of the duration of the penalty and whether effectively enforced or suspended.

None

Number of judgments resulting in the confiscation of assets.

None

Number of judgments resulting in the closure of a business or an establishment which was being used to carry out THB.

None

Number of convictions for the use of services of a victim of THB.

None