



G R E T A

Group of Experts on Action
against Trafficking in Human Beings

GRETA(2018)26_CYP_rep

Reply from Cyprus 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

Third evaluation round

Thematic focus: Access to justice and effective remedies for
victims of trafficking in human beings

Reply submitted on 20 March 2019

Introduction

In accordance with Article 38, paragraph 1, of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (“the Convention”), 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.

The first round of monitoring of the Convention provided an overview of its implementation by State Parties. The second evaluation round of the Convention examined the impact of legislative, policy and practical measures on the prevention of trafficking in human beings (THB), the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking, and the prosecution of traffickers, paying particular attention to measures taken to address new trends in human trafficking and the vulnerability of children to trafficking.

GRETA has decided that the third evaluation round of the Convention will focus on trafficking victims’ **access to justice and effective remedies**, which is essential for victims’ rehabilitation and reinstatement of rights and reflects a victim-centred and human-rights based approach to the fight against human trafficking. A number of provisions of the Convention establishing substantive and procedural obligations are relevant to this topic. Moreover, victims of trafficking, by virtue of their status as victims of human rights violations, are entitled to effective remedies under the European Convention on Human Rights. Access to justice and effective remedies must be guaranteed, in a gender- and age-sensitive manner, to all victims of trafficking subject to the jurisdiction of State Parties, irrespective of their immigration status or presence on the national territory and notwithstanding their capacity or willingness to co-operate in any criminal investigation.

Access to justice and effective remedies is contingent on the fulfillment of a number of preconditions, including prompt and accurate identification of victims of trafficking, the provision of a recovery and reflection period, the availability of material, psychological, medical and legal assistance, regularisation of the victim’s stay, the right to seek and enjoy asylum, and the application of the principle of *non-refoulement*. These preconditions, corresponding to different provisions of the Convention, have been examined at length during the first and second evaluation rounds of monitoring of the Convention. Consequently, GRETA has decided to ask each State Party for an update on the implementation of GRETA’s previous recommendations on selected topics, through a separate country-specific part of the questionnaire, rather than including once again questions related to the same provisions in the general questionnaire for the third evaluation round.

States Parties are requested to transmit to GRETA a reply to this questionnaire **within four months** from the date it was sent. 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. 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 second evaluation report. States Parties should provide links, copies or extracts of relevant legislation, regulations, national action plans and case law mentioned in the reply to the questionnaire, 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.

Part I - Access to justice and effective remedies

1. Right to information (Articles 12 and 15)

1.1 How, at what stage and by whom are presumed victims and victims of THB informed of their rights, the relevant judicial and administrative proceedings, and the legal possibilities for obtaining compensation and other remedies, in a language that they can understand? Please provide copies of any information materials developed to inform victims of THB, including any materials specifically developed for child victims, in the languages in which they exist.

According to the National legislation and the National Referral Mechanism, the initial briefing on their rights as victims is given by the Social Welfare Services, such as the organizations that can provide support to them, the kind of support they are entitled to, the identification process, the conditions and procedure of protection measures, the conditions for legal advice and who provides that advice, the option of applying for international protection, and the compensation procedure.

The Police and specifically the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OoCTHB) informs the victims of their rights in regards to the relevant judicial and administrative proceedings upon the first contact they have with the (presumed) victim, after being referred from the Social Welfare Services. The information is given orally, in the native language of the victim, by using the services of interpreters.

The information given to victims by the Police includes the kind of services they are entitled to and the organizations they can address to be given support in relation to legal advice and other advice they may need. Also, the victims are informed of the kind of assistance and support they can receive in regards to the criminal proceeding, where and how they can file a complaint against the perpetrator, the procedure that follows the official complaint and the role of the victims in those procedures, the conditions under which they can receive protection, legal advice, legal aid or other types of advice. Additionally, the victims are informed of their right and the conditions met to file for compensation.

Unless the information is deemed to impede with the fair and impartial criminal procedure, the victims are informed about the course of their official complaint, the progress of the criminal procedure in regards to the defendant, and the decision issued by the Court.

1.2 How is the obligation to provide translation and interpretation services, when appropriate, met at different stages of the legal and administrative proceedings by different agencies?

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) provides appropriate guidance and standard operating procedures for handling victims and potential victims of human trafficking (including identifying and referring victims to services), so that victims and potential victims have access to their rights. All authorities and organizations involved in dealing with (potential) victims have been informed and trained on the National Referral Mechanism for a more effective outcome.

According to the anti-trafficking law [60(I)/2014 (Article 44)], if a person or service believes or has reasonable suspicion that any person may be a victim of trafficking, he/she refers the potential victim to the Social Welfare Services. Social Welfare Officers provide potential victims, in a language that they can understand, information concerning their rights and access to services and notify the Police Anti-trafficking unit (OoCTHB), which is responsible for the official identification of trafficking victims. It should be noted that victims are often identified in police raids, following a complaint or inquiry made by competent government agencies or NGOs. If the potential victim is identified by the Police, then a Social Welfare Officer attends the Police Office, in order to inform the victim about his / her rights.

In addition, the Social Welfare Services as a first responded authority, in consultation and cooperation with other members of the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group, have developed a standard referral form, which has been introduced in 2019, to improve the identification and referral of potential victims of trafficking and exploitation into the National Referral Mechanism and to improve data collection as well.

Translation and interpretation services are provided to all victims of trafficking at the stages of protection and social support, including during the period of their stay at the state shelter.

Moreover, the legislation specifies that the victim has a right to be given any information, give any interview and statement in a language they understand. Any interaction of the victim with the police takes place in the presence and services of an interpreter qualified in the language needed. The Police has established a record on registered interpreters, divided by language.

2. Legal assistance and free legal aid (Article 15)

2.1 How, by whom and from what moment is legal assistance provided to victims of trafficking? How is legal assistance provided to children?

The Government of Cyprus, with the provisions of Article 36 of Law 60(I) of 2014, as well as with Article 6D(1)(a) of The Legal Aid Law of 2002 (165 (I) / 2002), ensures that every victim of Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings has effective access to legal aid.

Pursuant to Article 6D(2)(a) of Law 165(I)/2002: "Legal aid is provided free of charge to a person who is a victim of trafficking in persons, in proceedings in a District Court for the claim for damages under the Prevention, Fighting against Trafficking in and Exploitation of Human Beings and Protection of Victims Law, as is the case at hand modified or replaced."

Article 36 of Law 60(I) of 2014 provides the following: "Any victim, regardless of his or her willingness to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities, for criminal investigation, prosecution or trial, has the right of immediate access to legal advice and legal representation for the claim for damages under the Lawyers Law, as amended or replaced, and if the victim does not have sufficient financial resources, he is entitled to free legal assistance in accordance with the Law on Legal Aid, as amended or replaced."

In addition, Law 60(I) of 2014 and Law 165(I)/2002 include provisions concerning support and legal protection of child victims of THB. In particular, according to Article 6D(1)(b) of Law 165(I)/2002, legal aid is provided free of charge to a child victim of trafficking in persons in proceedings before a District Court seeking compensation under Law 60(I) of 2014, as amended or replaced.

Moreover, as the Article 38 of Law 60(I) of 2014 prescribes, in the case of a child victim of the offenses provided in this Law, and the event the holder of the parental responsibility under the Laws of the Republic are excluded from the child's responsibility, due to a conflict of interests between them and the child victim, the Director of Social Welfare Services is appointed as a representative for the child in order to be able to represent the child in the process, in cooperation with the Commissioner for Children's Rights.

Pursuant to Article 41 of Law 60(I) of 2014: "In case a victim of the offenses under this Law is an unaccompanied child, the Director of Social Welfare Services is appointed in each case as his representative in order to represent him in the exercise of his rights in the framework of the criminal investigation and procedure, in cooperation with the Commissioner for Children's Rights."

As far as the Police is concerned, the Police informs the victims of their right to access and request legal assistance, as mentioned above, irrespective of their decision to cooperate in the criminal proceedings. The victims are informed of the right to apply for temporary, long-term or permanent residence in Cyprus, for compensation through civil suit, international protection and asylum, as well as on the governmental departments and/or organizations that will ensure access to those rights. In regards to children, it is specified, in the legislation mentioned above, that during the procedures the legal guardian or the Ombudsman/ Commissioner for Children's Rights, or legal representative according to the circumstances, appointed by the Court is present during any interaction with children, to ensure and safeguard their rights and best interests.

The Cyprus Police is the only competent authority to investigate criminal cases. The prosecutor is involved when the investigation is completed and from there on is responsible to either give more directions to the police for further investigation or to submit the case for prosecution. The prosecutor is considered to be

the lawyer of the victims of trafficking and give any information or support needed after the investigation is completed and the case is submitted to the prosecutor. Up to date, no legal aid has been provided to victims of trafficking prior and during the investigation. Legal assistance and advice is provided mainly by the police, and in some cases NGOs have provided such services, through their organizations and their lawyers.

2.2 Do all presumed victims of THB have access to legal assistance, irrespective of immigration status or type of exploitation?

As set by Article 43 of Law 60(I) of 2014, any victim of THB, irrespective of his/her nationality, before, during and for an appropriate period of time after the end of the criminal proceedings, is entitled to practice his/her rights set forth in Law 60(I) of 2014. In addition, the provision of assistance and support to a victim does not depend on his willingness to cooperate in a criminal investigation, prosecution or trial.

According to Article 6A(2) of Law 165(I)/2002, free legal assistance shall be granted to natural persons in proceedings before a court in the Republic for a cross-border dispute involving advice, assistance and representation. Within the meaning of this Law, Cross-border dispute means a dispute in civil and commercial matters where the party requesting legal aid is either a citizen of the European Union or a third-country national.

All (presumed) victims referred to the Police by the Social Welfare Services, are given information of their rights, which includes the right to contact and have access to any organization that provides legal assistance. The immigration status of the victims or the type of exploitation does not impinge on the information or the right.

2.3 What are the conditions for access to free legal aid for victims of THB, including children? For which types of proceedings is free legal aid available? Is free legal aid available to help victims claim compensation and execute compensation orders? Please provide the text of the relevant provisions.

As provided under Article 33 and Article 36 of Law 60(I) of 2014, any victim, including children of THB, that does not have sufficient financial resources, has the right to free legal advice and legal representation in criminal proceedings and for the exercise of the right to compensation. Free legal aid is provided by the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus.

Moreover, according to Article 44, in the context of the National Reporting Mechanism and Victim information, Social Welfare Services provide, in a language intelligible to the victim, all the information they need to protect their interests as victims, which may, whenever possible, be given in writing and which include the extent and conditions under which legal advice is given, who is provided from etc.

Furthermore, in cases of child victims, where there is a conflict of interest between the parents/guardian and the minor or if the minor is an unaccompanied minor, the court may assign the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child to legally represent the minor during the court proceedings.

2.4 Are there lawyers specialised to provide legal aid and represent victims of THB in court? What regulations, if any, are applicable to the provision of such legal aid/representation?

There is no provision in the Law regarding this matter. The victim has the right to choose any lawyer for his/her representation in Court irrespective of specialization on the matter.

2.5 How is the provision of legal assistance and free legal aid for victims of THB funded? Do victims have to pay a fee to obtain legal assistance or start a procedure, or are there other financial barriers in place? If yes, please specify the amount(s).

There is no fee for the legal assistance given to victims.

3. Compensation from the perpetrators (Article 15)

3.1 What measures are in place to enable courts to award compensation to victims of THB, including children, from the perpetrators as part of criminal proceedings? What is the role of prosecutors in this respect?

Within the meaning of this Law, as provided in Article 2, 'victim' means the adult person or child who has been subjected to the process of trafficking, and/or exploitation, whether or not he has been harmed by the perpetration of the offenses, contained as part of this Law, as well as the person who has suffered harm, including physical and psychological damage or financial loss directly caused by the commission of the offenses provided for in this Law.

As the law applicable for the damages of such perpetrations in Cyprus is Law 60(I) of 2014, which is governed by Civil Law, the aforementioned measures that enable courts to award compensation to victims of THB, constitute civil law procedures. Thus, the actions for compensation due to offenses provided in this Law are private differences, and Civil Courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate on them. The plaintiff in the action is the victim and the defendant the offender.

For purposes of compliance with paragraph 2 of Article 15 of the Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, and also with paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA, new laws amending the Legal Aid Law were enacted (Law 64(I)/2014 and Law 105(I)/2014), which expand the free legal aid scheme, so as to cover also judicial procedures in Cyprus to children, who are victims of trafficking, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child pornography, or they are solicited for sexual purposes, for the purpose of claiming compensation, unless they have sufficient financial resources. The Legal aid scheme also applies for adult victims of trafficking. The legal aid provided under these amendment laws includes advice, assistance and representation.

More specifically, article 35 of Law 60(I) of 2014 on the Prevention, Fighting against Trafficking in and Exploitation of Human Beings and Protection of Victims provides, regarding the measures to compensate the victims of THB, that: "Independently and without prejudice to any other appeal or legal remedy provided under any other law or regulation, any person who is a victim within the meaning of this Law, shall have an institutionally-entitled right of indemnity against any person responsible for the criminal offenses committed against him/her under this Law and for violations of his/her human rights, who has a corresponding civil liability for the payment of special and general damages to its victims, including any arrears due to the exploitation of the victim's work."

3.2 How is the amount of compensation calculated and are there specific criteria or models for calculating it? What types of injury/damage and costs are covered? Are there any circumstances/conditions that would lead to a reduction of the amount of compensation?

The payment of adequate compensation for perpetrations concerning human right violations, contributes to the social rehabilitation of the victims and acknowledges that trafficking in human beings is a crime for which perpetrators should be punished in an exemplary manner. However, there are several factors that are being taken into consideration for the calculation of such compensations.

According to Article 35(2) of Law 60(I) of 2014, in order for the general damages to be fair and reasonable in their calculation, the Court should take account of the following:

- (a) The extent of the exploitation and the benefit the offender obtained or could derive from the exploitation of the victim;
- (b) the future prospects of the victim and the extent to which they were affected by his exploitation;
- (c) the degree of the offender's involvement;
- (d) the kinship or the relationship of power or influence of the offender to the victim.

In addition, Paragraph 4 of the same Article provides that: “When calculating special allowances, the Court shall take into account any costs incurred by the victim as a result of the exploitation, including the cost of repatriation, where applicable.”

Apart from the provisions of Law 60(I) of 2014, case law also enlightens the Courts on the calculation of the compensation especially when it comes to damages resulting from human rights’ violations.

In the case *Yiallourous Takis v. Eugeniou Nicolaou (2001) 1 CRL 558* was mentioned that:

“The parameters for compensation for non-material damage resulting from violations of fundamental human rights in recent English case law are broadened to an extent that approximates the principles of leniency.”

“In New Zealand, the data taken into account in determining damages for violations of fundamental human rights are essentially the same as those which are being counted on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in defining injury and are in line with the modern approach of English case law.

“Cypriot case law on the interpretation of the terms “fair” and “reasonable” compensation in Article 146.6 and paragraph 4 (c) of Article 23 of the Constitution is also relevant. The concept of fair and equitable compensation is linked to equitable damage, which equates to the law.”

Moreover, general damages arising from violations of fundamental human rights also concerned the case *Attorney General v. Andrianis Palma and others Case No. 44/13 19/11/2015*, according to which:

“The issue of compensation for human rights violations has been examined by the Full Plenary Assembly in Yalluros (above), with a broad reference to both domestic and international jurisprudence. It was first acknowledged that the violation of a human right provides for the right to legal redress through legal proceedings, with the remedies of law. A recognition that is consistent with the principle of law that where there is wrong, there must be treatment. The victim of a violation of a human right is entitled to compensation, with the principle of equitable compensation being the measure of compensation for both material and non-material damages, known as moral damages. Damages that include, among other things, anxiety, sadness, concern, feelings of injustice, adverse effect on lifestyle, pain and suffering.”

3.3 How are compensation orders/verdicts enforced? What measures are in place to guarantee and ensure effective payment of compensation?

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus places high priority on ensuring effective payment of compensation for the victims of THB. To this effect, any victim of THB who is entitled to compensation with a Court’s order/verdict, is safe under Order 40 of Civil Procedure Rules, for the enforcement of such payment. In particular, Order 40(1) of Civil Procedure Rules sets that: “Where any person is by any judgment or order directed to pay any money, or to deliver or transfer any property movable or immovable to another, it shall not be necessary to make any demand thereof, but the person so directed shall be bound to obey such judgment or order upon being duly served with the same without demand.”

In addition, Article 40(7) provides that: “Every person to whom any sum or money or any costs shall be payable under a judgment or order shall, so soon as the money or costs shall be payable, be entitled to apply for the issue of writs to enforce payment thereof, subject nevertheless as follows: -

- (a) If the judgment or order is for payment within a period therein mentioned, no writ shall be issued until after the expiration of such period;
- (b) The Court or Judge may, at or after the time of giving judgment or making an order, stay execution until such time as they or he shall think fit.”

3.4 When foreign victims of THB are removed from or choose to leave the country where the exploitation took place, what measures are in place to enable them to obtain compensation and other remedies?

In the anti-trafficking legislation, there is provision that the victim can file an action against the offender for damages. The victim does not have to be in Cyprus to pursue the case. Physical presence is not required. According to our Civil Procedure Rules the plaintiff must sign a retainer to appoint a lawyer who will then

proceed with the filing of the case in Court. When all the procedural steps are finished and the case will be fixed for hearing, the victim will have to be present at the trial to give testimony in Court. In civil actions the burden of proof lies on the plaintiff.

3.5 What procedures are in place to ensure effective access to compensation for victims of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation? Can such victims bring civil claims for compensation and/or recovery of unpaid wages and social contributions on the basis of tort, labour, employment or other laws? Please specify the relevant measures. Can victims of THB working in irregular employment or without a contract claim unpaid wages and other compensation and if yes, how is the amount of unpaid wages and other compensation established?

According to Article 35(1) of Law 60(I) of 2014, victims of THB are entitled to compensation for the purpose of labour exploitation, where any arrears arise from such exploitation. Specifically, Article 35(1) provides that the victims of trafficking have an institutionally-entitled right of indemnity, for the payment of special and general damages, including any arrears due to the exploitation of their work. Pursuant to this Article, the victims of THB can bring civil claims for their unpaid salaries.

In the context of protecting the rights of migrant workers employed in Cyprus, the Department of Labour Relations has established a procedure for the effective and efficient examination of their complaints regarding violations of terms of employment with the purpose of the elimination of labour exploitation in general. This procedure ensures quick access to justice for victims of labour exploitation and is imperative for safeguarding the working conditions of foreign workers, as stipulated in their contracts of employment. The complaints of migrant workers, which include both domestic helpers and labourers, are firstly filed at the Aliens and Immigration Department, and then the District Offices of the Labour Relations Department undertake to invite both parties at its premises in order to investigate the complaints and seek a mutually, acceptable solution on amicable terms. During the investigation, the complaints and any other relating issues, are listed down in writing. The whole procedure is done both in Greek and in English, so as to achieve a clear understanding of each party's positions.

Based on the findings, the Labour Relations Inspector prepares a report and forwards it to the Migration Department, which is responsible to take the final decision, emphasizing that it is the duty of the employer to pay any owed wages and any other benefits that have not been paid to the complainant. In case where a breach of the employment contract is evident, penalties are imposed to employers, such as no further approvals for employment of third countries nationals, so as to ensure that such violations will not be repeated. In addition, permission for new employment is given to the complainant.

It should be noted that this procedure is in addition to the legal rights of affected employees and victims of labour exploitation to proceed with a civil legal action and file a case with the Labour Disputes Court for unpaid wages on the basis of the Protection of Wages Law.

3.6 What training is provided to build the capacity of relevant professionals, such as lawyers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges, to enable victims of THB to obtain compensation and other remedies?

According to Article 42 of Law 60(I) of 2014, services that are involved with the prevention and fighting of Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings, have an obligation to train and inform their staff for such undertakings and to cooperate with each other when necessary.

Article 42 provides that:

“(1) The services involved have an obligation to regularly inform and train their personnel, who may come into contact with victims and potential victims of trafficking in persons in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings by identifying victims and potential victims, identifying and assisting those persons, especially children, in relation to the provisions and the implementation of this Law.

(2) The services involved cooperate with each other as well as with non-governmental victim support organizations, so that the identity of the victims can be ascertained, taking particular account of the specific situation of women and child victims.

(3) The law enforcement authorities, in cooperation with all the services involved, as well as with non-governmental victim support organizations and after their own exams, carry out risk assessments at all stages of victim support, from recognition to repatriation, based on which measures to protect victims will be decided.”

As noted by the Legal Service, the prosecutors handling THB cases follow usually annual training.

As noted by the Police, the Police organizes systematic training courses at the Cyprus Police Academy, and THB is included in these trainings. The trainings are addressed to all police members of all ranks who come in contact with (presumed) victims of trafficking. According to the legislation, the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OOCTHB), is the competent authority for the formal identification of victims, which informs them of their rights, including their right to file for compensation. The members of the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, who are specialized and experienced officers on THB issues as well as the procedures that need to be followed when they come in contact with a (presumed) victim of trafficking, undergo systematic and regular trainings on victimization, trafficking trends, effective handling victims of THB, emerging and current issues on THB, both in Cyprus as well as abroad. The Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participates in research and cooperation projects. One of these projects, Trafficking as a Criminal Enterprise (TRACE), has been concluded. Another project in which members of the OoCTHB are actively engaged is the Chinese-THB project which is currently ongoing. Finally, the Head of the OoCTHB was elected as an international expert in two European projects, where her role was to organize and coordinate training sessions.

In general, even though not focusing specifically/explicitly on training of officials for enabling victims of THB to obtain compensation and other remedies, during the reporting period several educational workshops were organized by the competent Services. The table below shows analytically the trainings, seminars, projects that were organized during the reporting period by the competent services/organizations:

A/A	DATES	EVENT	ORGANIZER
2015			
1	30/01/15	Conference on THB, poverty and racism	Cyprus Stop Trafficking (NGO)
2	02/02/15	Training program of immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
3	09/03/15	Expert Group of the Belgian program "EU Guidelines for the establishment of National Focal Points for the Comprehensive Integrated Medical Support of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings"	Belgium
4	2-4/03/15	Expert meeting on project "China" – EMPACT	Europol
5	26/3/15	Training on THB	Ministry of the Interior
6	29-30/04/15	Expert meeting on financial investigation and asset recovery related to human trafficking	Europol
7	4-8/5/15	Training program on victim identification, collection and evaluation of information in THB	OoCTHB
2016			
1	18-19/1/16	Team Work – Strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation against trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation - conference	EU Presidency of The Netherlands
2	17/2/2016	Public discussion on labour exploitation	Ombudsman Cyprus Stop Trafficking NGO
3	16-17/02/16	EMPACT THB Kick-off meeting	Europol
4	23-24/03/16	EMPACT Operational meeting	Europol
5	11-12/04/16	OSCE Alliance Conference	OSCE
6	30-31/03/16	INTERPOL Trafficking Expert Meeting – INTERPOL Project to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in the Caribbean	Interpol
7	21-22/04/16	EMPACT THB Meeting	Europol
8	12-14/04/16	IOM Moldova – Strengthening criminal justice response to trafficking in persons, guaranteeing legal assistance to victims and preventing domestic violence and hate crimes in Moldova	IOM funded by US Department of State
9	25-26/04/16	EMPACT Operational Meeting	Europol
	27-30/06/16	CEPOL course 03/16 – Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery in the context of THB	CEPOL
10	30/08-02/09/16	Interview Techniques Seminar	Cyprus Police Academy
11	12-15/09/16, 12/12/2016	Refresh training courses of officers serving in detention center	Cyprus Police Academy
12	19/09-14/10/16, 17/10-21/11/16	Schengen Training Programs	Cyprus Police Academy
13	19-21/10/16	4th Interpol Global Trafficking in Human Beings Conference	INTERPOL
14	02/11/16	Training program for private employment agents	Cyprus Productivity Center Department of Labour
15	3-4/11/16	FP Phoenix THB Expert Meeting on Labour Exploitation	Europol
16	15-18/11/16	IOM Training Seminar, China	IOM

17	9/12/16	Respecting Human Rights Meeting	Cyprus Police
2017			
1	10/01/17	EMPACT Chinese THB	Cyprus
2	23/01/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
3	30/01/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
4	06/02/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
5	20/02/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
6	06/03/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
7	13/03/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
8	20/03/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
9	27/03/17	Training programs for border guards and immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
10	26-27/4/17	Awareness seminar "A European response to multinational crime"	Europol
11	08/02/17	Training by Western Union on financial investigation	OoCTHB
12	16-17/02/17	EMPACT THB kick-off meeting	Europol
13	28/02/17	Training program for police officers in detention centers	Cyprus Police Academy
14	01/03/17	Training program for police officers in detention centers	Cyprus Police Academy
15	02/03/17	Training program for police officers in detention centers	Cyprus Police Academy
16	03/03/17	Training program for police officers in detention centers	Cyprus Police Academy
17	09-10/03/17	THB Labour Exploitation Operational Expert Meeting	Europol
18	15-16/03/17	Interpol THB Expert Meeting	Interpol
19	19/04/17	EMPACT Chinese THB Expert Meeting	Europol
20	10/05/17	EMPACT Chinese THB Meeting in China	Europol
21	31/5/17	Training of Municipality Officers on indicators of victimization	Ministry of the Interior
22	20/6/17	Training of Municipality Officers on indicators of victimization	Ministry of the Interior
23	26/9/17	Training of Municipality Officers on indicators of victimization	Ministry of the Interior
24	3-4/7/17	Training of front-line officers for the referral of THB cases	Ministry of the Interior
25	27/09/17	Training of front-line officers for the referral of THB cases	Ministry of the Interior
26	28/09/17	Training of front-line officers for the referral of THB cases	Ministry of the Interior
27	29/09/17	Training of front-line officers for the referral of THB cases	Ministry of the Interior
28	5-9/6/17	OSCE Simulation - Based Training on Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes	OSCE

29	6-7/06/17	EMPACT Chinese THB Platform meeting	Europol
30	11-12/07/17	EMPACT THB Expert Meeting	Europol
31	4/9/17	Indicators and identification of victims – 33 participants from governmental departments	OoCTHB
32	5/9/17	Indicators and identification of victims to 22 police officers	OoCTHB
33	26/09/17	Chinese THB Expert Meeting	Europol
34	31/8/17	Social Media Briefing: illegal immigration and THB	EUROPOL
35	5/10/17	Training of Police Officers on indicators of victimization – 25 participants	Larnaca Police Directorate
36	11-15/9/17	OSCE Simulation - Based Training on Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes	OSCE
37	16-17/10/17 18-19/10/17	International Police Cooperation	Cyprus Police Academy
38	16-17/10/17	Financial Crime	Cyprus Police Academy
39	1-2/11/17	Interviewing techniques, the effect of the reactions of victims on the interviewer, and how to handle such reactions and handling the reactions of victims during the interviews	OoCTHB and Frederick University
40	13/11/17	Educational program of Private employment agencies	Labour Department
41	13-30/11/17	Online Financial Investigations and asset recovery for THB investigations	CEPOL
42	6/11/17	Presentation to High School students on THB	Aradippou High School
43	21/11/17	Child sexual exploitation cases	Office of Combating Child Abuse – Cyprus Police
44	15/12/17	Conference on Human Rights and the penal justice system	Cyprus Police
45	15/12/17	Presentation to High School students on THB	Aradippou High School
2018			
1	22/02/18	Training program of immigration officers	Cyprus Police Academy
2	27/02/18	Conference of unaccompanied minors	Cyprus Police Academy
3	17/4/18	Presentation in High School	High School
4	25/4/18	CID course in the Police Academy	Police Academy
5	27/4/18	Community officers training program	Police Academy
6	23/5/18	Seminar on THB	NGO Cyprus Stop Trafficking
7	09/05/18	The mental effects on the victims	University of Nicosia
8	10/07/18	Seminar on child sexual abuse	Police Academy
9	15-18/10/18	Dark web and crypto-currencies	Cyber Crime Office
10	19-22/11/18	Child Trafficking	CEPOL
11	12-16/11/18	Web IQ	Cyber Crime Office
12	21/11/18	Multiannual workshop on human smuggling and human trafficking	Austrian Presidency
13	10-15/12/18	Simulation training on THB cases – Vicenza	OSCE
14	13/14-02/18	EMPACT kick-off meeting and Expert Consultation meeting	EMPACT

15	17/4/18	THB Child Trafficking/Internet as an enabler – operational meeting	Europol
16	10/4/18	Chinese THB – Platform meeting	EMPACT
17	18-20/06/18	Expert meeting THB on document fraud	EMPACT
18	30-31/05/18	EMPACT Strategic meeting	EMPACT
19	12-13/09/18	EMPACT Chinese THB expert meeting	Europol
20	26-27/07/18	Interpol Expert Group meeting	Interpol
21	24-25/09/18	6 th Global Interpol Conference on THB	Interpol
22	12-14/11/18	3 rd platform operational meeting Chinese THB	Europol
23	09-10/10/18	EMPACT THB 2019 OAP Drafting meeting	EMPACT
24	13-15/12/18	Financial Investigation – THB	EMPACT

4. State compensation (Article 15)

4.1 Do the eligibility criteria for State compensation schemes for victims of crimes exclude some victims of THB (e.g. due to irregular residence status, nationality, nature of the offence)? Does access to State compensation depend on the outcome of the criminal case and on failure to obtain compensation from the offenders?

According to Article 4(1) of the Prevention and Combating of Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and the Protection of Victims Law [60(I)/2014], the implementation of this Law by any relevant service and non-governmental organization, and in particular the enjoyment of measures to protect and promote the rights of victims, shall be ensured without discrimination for any gender, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, being part of a national minority, property, birth or any other status.

Article 35 of Law 60(I) of 2014 on the Prevention, Fighting against Trafficking in and Exploitation of Human Beings and Protection of Victims, regarding the measures to compensate the victims of THB, provides that: "Independently and without prejudice to any other appeal or legal remedy provided under any other law or regulation, any person who is a victim within the meaning of this Law, shall have an institutionally-entitled right of indemnity against any person responsible for the criminal offenses committed against him under this Law and for violations of his/her human rights, who has a corresponding civil liability for the payment of special and general damages to its victims, including any arrears due to the exploitation of the victim's work."

As set by Article 43 of Law 60(I) of 2014, any victim of THB, irrespective of his/her nationality, before, during and for an appropriate period of time after the end of the criminal proceedings, is entitled to practice his/her rights set forth in Law 60(I) of 2014. In addition, the provision of assistance and support to a victim does not depend on his willingness to cooperate in a criminal investigation, prosecution or trial.

4.2 How is the amount of State compensation calculated so as to address the gravity of the harm endured by the victim?

The anti-trafficking legislation [L.60(I)/2014] provides for the setting up of a Victim's support fund, which shall be under the control and supervision of the Ministry of the Interior. To this end, the Ministry of Interior has created a budget line dedicated for this purpose, in which it has allocated state funds. The Ministry is still examining different practices of providing state compensation to victims of trafficking and will amend the legislation accordingly, should this be deemed necessary. For this purpose, practises of other EU Member States will be examined. So far, compensation has been provided in the form of purchasing airfare tickets for returning to Cyprus, for victims who wished to return and had already departed for their country of origin.

4.3 Is it possible for foreign victims of trafficking to submit claims for State compensation in your country after being returned or repatriated to their countries of origin? Please provide examples of any such cases and indicate the measures stipulating such a possibility.

Please see answer to Question 4.2.

4.4 Are victims seeking State compensation liable for lawyers' costs and fees? Are State compensation awards subject to taxation? Does the receipt of compensation have consequences for access to social security or other benefits?

Having in mind the above answers, it is noted that in case state compensation in the form of living allowance would be granted by the State to victims, this would not be taxed. It is noted that in the tax system of Cyprus there is the tax-free amount of gross income of € 19.500 for any natural person.

5. Sanctions and measures (Article 23)

5.5 Please describe the legislative and other measures adopted by your country which allow to: i) confiscate or otherwise deprive perpetrators of the proceeds of criminal offences, or property of an equivalent value to those proceeds; and ii) identify, trace, freeze or seize rapidly property which is liable to confiscation, in order to facilitate the enforcement of a later confiscation. Do these measures allow the identification, tracing and seizure of property into which the proceeds of illicit activities have been converted?

The Legislation on the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering, L. 188(I)/2007, as it has been amended, provides for seizure, confiscation or otherwise deprivation of perpetrators of the proceeds of criminal offences. The Law is harmonized with Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing. The law has not been translated in English, and only the Greek version is available. The abovementioned law provides for measures that allow for the issuance of confiscations orders, freezing of assets orders, investigation of income identified and linked to illicit activities. More specifically, on the above subquestions:

(i) The measures for the freezing and confiscation of illegal proceeds are included in the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Laws of 2007-2018 (AML/CFT Law). Relevant is Part II of the Law regarding domestic freezing and confiscation orders issued by the Court and Part IV and IVA of the same law regarding the registration and enforcement in Cyprus of foreign freezing and confiscation orders.

For the purpose of achieving effective enforcement of a confiscation order, realizable property may be frozen from the investigation stage. Realizable property is, any property held by the accused (i.e. not only the proceeds of crime per se but also equivalent value property held by the accused) as well as any unlawful gift made by the accused to a 3rd party or property held by another person to whom the accused has directly or indirectly made a prohibited transfer of property; prohibited transfer of property includes the proceeds of the offence or other property the value of which is equal to such proceeds. The relevant definition of realizable property is found in section 13 of the AML/CFT Law.

Further to the value based confiscation system, with an amendment of Article 8 of the AML/CFT Law, it is also possible for the Court to issue a confiscation order of the proceeds from crime per se.

Moreover, the AML/CFT Law provides for the possibility of extended confiscation in section 7(2), whereby the Court may assume that property received by the accused during the last six years prior to the commencement of criminal proceedings against him constitutes proceeds from the commission of illegal activities. For this purpose, the Court may take into account real circumstances and available evidence, including the fact that the property or the expenses of the accused are disproportionate or not justified by his lawful income.

There is also the possibility for non-conviction based confiscation in the case of suspect who is outside of the jurisdiction of the Republic or has died.

Further to the domestic confiscation orders issued by the Cyprus' Courts, there is also the possibility, to register and enforce in Cyprus foreign freezing and Confiscation Orders, either following the Mutual Legal Assistance Procedure (Part IV of the AML/CFT Law) or the procedure established on the basis of the Council Framework Decision 2003/577/JHA και 2006/783/JHA on the mutual recognition in the E.U. of confiscated orders.

(ii) Law Enforcement Authorities for the purposes of tracing illegal proceeds may apply to the court and obtain Court Disclosure Orders on the basis of section 44-45 of the above law, addressed to any person physical or legal (including banks) and obtain information relevant to the investigations. Also, the Police may use the provisions provided for in the Criminal Procedure Law.

Since the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has been investigating THB cases on a national basis (2015), the provisions of L. 188(I)/2007 on the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering are included in the indictments, when applicable. During the period 2015-2018, provisions of the abovementioned law were used in sixteen (16) criminal cases which involved fifty-eight (58) accused people. During the same period, there were two convictions based on provisions of this legislation. In most of those cases no criminal proceeds were traced for the main reason that the perpetrators carry out their transactions in cash mainly using the Hawala system as most of the persons involved come from Asian countries. Also, the cooperation with the origin countries in regards to financial investigation is not always feasible.

Freezing, under sections 14 and 15 of the above Law (as lately amended with the Law no. 158(I)/2018), of illegal assets/equivalent value property may take place from the initial stages, at the investigation stage so as to secure such assets for the purposes of future confiscation. The relevant section 14 paragraphs (1) – (6) of the above Law provides:

“14.-(1) The court may make a restraint order both before and after the issuance of a confiscation order, but the restraint order is issued before the issuance of the confiscation order where-

(a) criminal proceedings have been instituted and have not been concluded or are about to be instituted in the Republic against a person for the commission of a predicate offence or a laundering offence, or an application by the Attorney General has been made under sections 28 (Confiscation order where accused has died or absconded), 35 (Reconsideration of a case) or 36 (Re-assessment of proceeds) of this Law; or

(b) the Unit possesses information which creates a reasonable suspicion that a person may be charged or has been charged with the commission of a laundering offence or the commission of a predicate offence in Cyprus, in a member state of the European Union or a foreign country:

Provided that, for the purposes of the present paragraph ‘foreign country’ has the meaning given to such term in section 37 of the present Law.

(c) the court is satisfied that there is a reasonable ground to believe that-

(i) where an application under section 36 is submitted, the provisions of subsection (3) of the same section are fulfilled; and

(ii) the person mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) above has benefited from the commission of a predicate offence or laundering offence.

(2) A restraint order made under subsection (1) prohibits transactions in any way in realizable property. The prohibition shall be subject to such conditions and exceptions as may be specified in the order.

(3) A restraint order may affect-

(a) all realizable property held by a specific person whether the property is described in the order or not; and

(b) realizable property held by a specific person which was transferred to him after the order was made.

(4) This section shall not apply in relation to any property which is subject to a charging order made under section 15 (Charging order).

(5) A restraint order-

(a) may be made following an ex parte application by the Attorney-General; and

(b) shall provide for service of notice to all persons affected by the order.

(6) A restraint order-

(a) may be discharged or varied in relation to the property concerned;

(b) shall be discharged when the criminal proceedings against the accused for the offences with which he is charged are concluded;

(c) shall be discharged if an application under section 35 (Reconsideration of a case) or section 36 (Re-assessment of proceeds) is not submitted within a reasonable, in the opinion of the court, period of time."

The term "proceeds" is defined in section 2 of the above law as follows:

"proceeds" means any kind of property or economic benefit which has been generated directly or indirectly from the commission of illegal activities and includes every subsequent reinvestment or conversion of direct products and every substantial gain.

5.6 In what way do victims of THB benefit from seized and confiscated assets of perpetrators of THB? Do the confiscated assets go directly to victims, to a compensation fund or scheme for victims of trafficking or to other programmes for the assistance or support of victims of THB? Please provide information on seizures and confiscations of assets in THB cases and how they were used.

Regarding the disposal of confiscated assets or money to be received after the enforcement of the confiscation order, relevant is section 19 (5) (a) and (b) of the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Laws of 2007-2018 (AML/CFT Law) which provides:

"19 (5) (a) Monetary sums which are confiscated or received from the sale of assets pursuant to the enforcement of a confiscation order in favour of the Republic, are paid into the Budget of the Management of the Ministry of Finance under "Proceeds of Confiscation from Illegal Activities", (b) The monetary sums mentioned in (a) above are used for social purposes."

In practice, in cases of identified victims of specific sums of money such confiscated money may be returned to the victim, something which is decided on a case by case basis. According to available statistics held by the Unit for Combating Money Laundering there have been no confiscation orders issued in THB cases.

The anti-trafficking legislation provides that the confiscated assets are deposited in the State Fund of the Government. Compensation, assistance and support are covered by the budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

5.7 Is it possible to use plea bargaining or some other form of settlement in cases of THB? If yes, please provide the relevant provisions. What protections are in place for victims of THB to ensure that their right of access to justice and effective remedies is not compromised by the plea bargaining or settlement in the legal process?

Plea bargaining is possible in cases of THB, as in all other criminal cases. The decision is taken strictly by the Attorney General of the Republic, taking into account all the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the victim. Plea bargaining is used when there is no other option for the best handling of the prosecution case. Thus, it might, sometimes, affect the access to justice for damages of the victim, in cases that there are no THB offences anymore. On the other hand, if plea bargaining is not used and there is an acquittal, the victim will lose the right anyway.

5.8 What is the average duration of court proceedings in THB cases? In which circumstances are such cases given priority? Do you have a system to fast-track human trafficking-related prosecutions in order to improve the trial process and reduce the burden on victims and witnesses, including children? What safeguards are in place to ensure that judges deal with cases of THB without undue delay?

There is no average time for the duration of Court proceedings in THB cases. It depends on the complication and generally circumstances of the case, the number of co-accused, the number of defense lawyers, whether the case is tried at the Assize Court or at the District Courts (the Assize Court cases are processed faster) and the Courts' program. It should be noted that based on the principle of the distinction of powers that is ensured by our Constitution, the government cannot intervene with court proceedings and judges. There is no fast-track processes in place.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, prepared a draft bill for the amendment of the anti-trafficking law [Law 60 (I)/2014], which provides, among others, that the examination and cross-examination of a foreign victim who intends to leave the Republic permanently can be carried out and completed before the Court, as a matter of priority and in any case, prior to his/ her departure from Cyprus. The Bill has been forwarded to the Legal Service for legal vetting.

5.9 How do you ensure that sanctions for THB offences are effective, proportionate and dissuasive?

The sanction is strictly up to the trial court and no form of interference can take place. The Anti-trafficking law is clear and provides for the maximum of penalties. Courts, in their judgments, always emphasize the seriousness of these cases. Within this context, the penalty is the exclusive responsibility/ judicial discretion of the Court. The Court sets the punishment(s), following the principle of the individualisation of punishment - that is by taking into account the circumstances of each case and the circumstances of the accused (no previous convictions, age etc). In other words, the aim of the penalty is to be proportionate and dissuasive. It should be noted that the Cyprus Constitution ensures the principle of proportionality.

6. Ex parte and ex officio applications (Article 27)

6.1 What is the procedural position of a victim of THB in criminal proceedings? What steps are taken to assist victims of THB, including children, to enable their rights, interests and views to be presented and considered during the criminal proceedings against offenders? Who is entitled to assist victims of THB in court? Can victims of THB be represented by NGOs in criminal proceedings?

The procedural position of a victim of trafficking during the criminal proceedings is that of a witness. There are several steps taken to ensure that the victim is prepared to testify, and is protected and escorted in court. The victims are escorted to the court by the police and in rare cases they are escorted by NGO representatives, after relevant risk assessment of the case and those involved is carried out. According to the anti-trafficking legislation, to avoid intimidation of the victim by any of the involved and in order not to be afraid during the trial procedure, several measures can be put in effect. The prosecutor can ask for partition in order not to have visual contact with the defendant(s), and the court examines the motion made and the partition is set up in the court room. In a case of sexual exploitation where a minor is involved, the proceedings are conducted behind closed doors when the minor will testify. The same proceeding can occur in a case of adult sexual exploitation, with the prosecutor requesting a trial behind closed doors. During the criminal proceedings, the victims are informed beforehand of the need to appear in court and testify. The prosecutor of the case arranges for a meeting or meetings in order to prepare the victim for the upcoming court procedure and the testimony. In addition, the legislation provides for video recorded statements from the victims, and statements given in court through video conference. The use of written statements is the prevalent way of obtaining testimony from adult victims of trafficking. The main reason for that is that the majority of the victims are foreigners and therefore the services of an interpreter are necessary. That means that the statements take too long to be completed, and the formalities needed for the video-recorded statements cannot be easily implemented.

In the court room, the victims are, as mentioned above, escorted by the police and in some cases by NGO representatives. Additionally, the victims have to testify in court themselves. Their testimony is crucial and is given great emphasis in the whole procedure and the final decision; hence they cannot be represented by an NGO during the criminal proceedings. As for the prosecution of the case, the cases of the

victims/complainants are always defended by a governmental prosecutor and there is no need for the victims to be represented by a second lawyer.

In case of child victims, the Children's House (as described in answer to Q. 8.6) provides assistance to the child.

6.2 If the authorities fail to discharge their obligation to effectively investigate and prosecute suspected cases of trafficking, what possibilities for redress exist for victims of THB and their families? To what extent have victims of trafficking, including children, access to complaint mechanisms, such as Ombudsman institutions and other national human rights institutions?

A child and/or his/her parent/legal guardian, have access to complaint mechanisms. A child and/or his/her legal guardian can file a complaint to the Commissioner for Children's rights, to the Ombudsman, as well as to the UN Committee of the Rights of Child, since the Republic of Cyprus has signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure in 2017. The Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights has not received any complaints from THB victims, including children, during the reporting period.

More specifically, according to the national legislation, the victims regardless of any other proceeding or their willingness to cooperate with the authorities, have the right to file for compensation against all responsible parties for the criminal offences committed against them and for the violation of their human rights. The file for compensation is a civil suit and the victims can request for free legal assistance. The victims can have access to complaint mechanisms such as the Ombudsman, either with the assistance of an NGO representative or directly through their websites, or even personally, and the access to these institutions can be at any stage. The legislation provides that the identified victims have the right to be granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds, after the relevant risk assessments are conducted by the authorities and submitted to the Migration Department, without the provision that there is a criminal case under investigation or prosecution. In addition, the victim can apply for asylum and on a cases-by-case basis other forms of residence and/or working visas can be granted based on the individual factors.

6.3 What reporting and complaint mechanisms are in place for victims of trafficking who are in an irregular migration situation and/or in detention?

When there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person is a victim of trafficking, the person is immediately released from detention and the Migration Department settles their residence status, granting them a residence and employment permit, renewable annually, until the completion of the trial proceedings, or according to the personal circumstances of each victim.

In case of any indication that a person in an irregular migration situation and/or detention is a presumed victim of trafficking, there is immediate referral from the governmental or non-governmental organization that came in contact with that person to the Social Welfare Services and the Police. All necessary actions are taken to ensure that the presumed victim is transferred to a shelter and the identification procedure is initiated.

It should be noted here that any person in detention receives all the information and details of organizations that he/she can come in contact with, thus requesting assistance, and they can report their case or complaint to any government authority or NGO.

6.4 Can victims of THB bring claims against the State or its officials for: i) direct involvement in THB; ii) failure to prevent THB or protect them from THB? Have there been cases where State agents or persons acting on behalf, or at the direction, of the State were found responsible for engagement in THB and/or failure to prevent it or protect victims from THB by third parties? Please provide information on any prosecutions against diplomatic and consular staff for alleged involvement in THB.

As mentioned above, in Question 6.2, victims, regardless of any other proceeding or their willingness to cooperate with the authorities, have the right to file for compensation against all responsible parties for the criminal offences committed against them and for the violation of their human rights. The State and any

person acting under the commands of the state can be held liable for either direct involvement in THB or failure to protect a victim from THB that led to victimization and violation of their human rights. One recent case involving police officers has been submitted for prosecution.

Up to today, there have been no cases involving diplomatic or consular staff for allegedly being involved in THB cases.

6.5 What steps have been taken to strengthen and maintain the capacity of prosecutors to effectively prosecute trafficking cases?

Several trainings are carried out for capacity building in relevance to THB cases. For these, please refer to answer under Question 3.6. It should also be noted that prosecutors working on trafficking cases are specialized on the subject and efforts are made to minimize rotation of such personnel.

7. Non-punishment provision (Article 26)

7.1 Please indicate what measures are taken to ensure that victims of THB, including children, are not punished for their involvement in unlawful activities (criminal, civil, administrative offences), to the extent they were compelled to do so, providing any concrete examples of their implementation.

The national anti-trafficking legislation (article 29) ensures that victims are protected from penalization for any unlawful activities that were result of their victimization in the THB process and were compelled by the traffickers to engage in those activities. The same article of the legislation provides that third country nationals who unlawfully enter, and/or reside, and/or working in the country, and those actions were the result of their victimization are not prosecuted for those acts. In addition, if it is revealed during the trial of a case against a victim for an offence that the actions were related to the state of victimization, the proceedings are either suspended or concluded with no penalty imposed on the victim of trafficking even if found guilty. In the period of 2015 -2018, nine (9) cases of victims of trafficking were not prosecuted for offences they had committed as a result of their victimization.

The first example is a woman, EU national, who was forced to perform a fictitious marriage with a third country national after she was deceived on the purpose of her arrival in Cyprus. She was told at first that she would come to work and then they revealed to her that the real reason was to get married in exchange for money. She agreed to perform the marriage because of her difficult economic situation, therefore violating articles of the criminal code. The marriage was performed and she was given a certain amount of money but her personal documents were withheld by the supposed husband until he was able to obtain a residence visa. She reported the case to the police, she was recognised as a victim of trafficking, the case has been brought before the court of law, and there was a conviction for the defendants.

Another example is a man, who was a third country national, brought to Cyprus to work. The employer did not arrange for his working visa, and neither gave him a contract to sign. The third country national went to the Aliens and Immigration Service of the Police to file a complaint against his employer and after conducting a preliminary check was found that he overstayed his entry visa without ever having a residence and working permit. Instead of arresting him for those offences, he was referred to the OoCTHB, he was recognised as a victim of trafficking, he filed an official complaint against his employer and the case is pending trial before the Court.

A third example is a woman who was arrested for concealing giving birth to a dead child and was referred to the OoCTHB after being detained. Following the referral, she was interviewed and was transferred to the governmental shelter as a victim of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The case that was pending against her was suspended, as well as a previous case concerning domestic violence that she was involved in, has been reviewed by the OoCTHB and was suggested that she would not be prosecuted for those offences either, due to the fact that her passive behaviour towards her children was a result of the exploitation and abuse she was experiencing by her spouse and father of her children.

7.2 Can persons who have breached national laws in the course, or as a consequence, of being trafficked have access to remedies for victims of trafficking, including State compensation?

If the involvement of the victims of trafficking in an illicit act is a direct consequence of their victimization, then they have full access to their rights, including remedies for victims and compensation. In this context, victims of trafficking, regardless of having breached national laws in the course or as a consequence of being trafficked, have access to remedies, per the anti-trafficking legislation.

As provided under Article 33 and Article 36 of Law 60(I) of 2014, any victim, regardless of his or her willingness to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities, for criminal investigation, prosecution or trial, has the right to have direct access to legal advice in accordance with the Advocates Law, as amended or replaced. Furthermore, any victim including children of THB, that does not have sufficient financial resources, has the right to free legal advice and legal representation in criminal proceedings and for the exercise of the right to compensation. Also, as provided in Article 33, in addition to legal advice, the Republic compensates victims who cooperate with law enforcement authorities as witnesses in criminal proceedings for any costs they incur as a result of their participation in the criminal proceedings. Moreover, according to Article 44, in the context of National Reporting Mechanism and Victim information, Social Welfare Services provide in a language intelligible to the victim all the information they need to protect their interests as victims, which may, whenever possible, be given in writing and which includes the extent and conditions, under which legal advice is given, who is provided from etc.

Article 35 of Law 60(I) of 2014 on the Prevention, Fighting against Trafficking in and Exploitation of Human Beings and Protection of Victims provides, regarding the measures to compensate the victims of THB, that: "Independently and without prejudice to any other appeal or legal remedy provided under any other law or regulation, any person who is a victim within the meaning of this Law, shall have an institutionally-entitled right of indemnity against any person responsible for the criminal offenses committed against him under this Law and for violations of his human rights, who has a corresponding civil liability for the payment of special and general damages to its victims, including any arrears due to the exploitation of the victim's work."

8. Protection of victims and witnesses (Articles 28 and 30)

8.1 How are victims of THB protected in practice against potential retaliation or intimidation before, during and after legal proceedings? How is the assessment of the needs for protection performed and who recommends the application of the protection measures? Who is responsible of the implementation of the protection measures?

The Police and specifically the members of the OoCTHB, arrange scheduled meetings with a victim of trafficking, before, during and after criminal proceedings in order to conduct risk assessments to determine the needs and possible threats. Therefore, the risk assessments are conducted throughout the criminal procedure. Moreover, according to the individual risk assessments, the members of the OoCTHB advise the victims on issues related to their safety, discuss with them all the possible solutions and give clear instructions what to do in case of emergency. The assessment carried out by the Clinical Psychologists contributes to the selection of the measures for their protection.

Also, the place of living is selected carefully according to individual risk assessments. New phone devices and new phone numbers are given to the victims in order to sever any possible contact with the suspect(s) and also to minimize the risk of retaliation. Exiting from and returning to the shelters are discussed with them, but also with the personnel of the shelters. For some victims, it is decided to be escorted either by the Police or by members of NGOs when going out. Also, the shelters are patrolled by the Police in a discreet manner.

8.2 How do you ensure that victims are provided with realistic and practical information about the progress of the case and whether the perpetrator has been detained or released?

Members of the OoCTHB are in contact with identified victims during and after the investigation of cases. During all stages of a case and according its severity, the members of the OoCTHB come in contact with the victims and schedule meetings, with the assistance of an interpreter, either in the OoCTHB or in the

victims' residence, to update on the course of the case and according to the developments, issues of protection or other emerging issues are discussed with the victim.

8.3. How do you ensure respect for the victims' right to safety, privacy and confidentiality during court proceedings?

For this, please refer to answer under Question 6.1.

8.4 In how many cases were witness protection measures used for the protection of victims and witnesses of THB, including children? If witness protection measures/programmes are not applied to victims of trafficking, what are the reasons?

According to article 3(4) of the Witness Protection Law, L. 95(I)/2001, victims of trafficking are considered as witnesses who are entitled to protection. The actual protection measures are not specified in the law but are determined by the Attorney General, after the relevant recommendations made by the Police resulting from the individual risk assessments.

The main goal in handling victims is not to isolate them in protection programs, but to empower them in order to reintegrate in the society. Several protection measures are taken when a person is identified as a victim of trafficking, such as stay in the governmental and non-governmental shelters, change of phone devices and phone numbers, regular daily patrolling of the shelters, individual risk assessments during the procedure. Additionally, and according to Article 5, L. 95(I)/2001 of the same law, the Court can order specific protection measures to be implemented during trial, including the trial to be conducted behind closed doors, the placement of a partition in the court room, the use of CCTV, and the use of any other means or system that will ensure that the witness does not have direct eye-contact with the defendant(s).

It is noted that, all victims of THB are accompanied by the Police during the trials. As a result, in 2015 in 25 cases, 105 times police transported and accompanied victims during criminal proceedings. In 2016, in 33 cases 108 times, in 2017, in 23 cases 46 times and in 2018, in 30 cases 65 times the Police transported and accompanied victims during criminal proceedings. The Police are in close cooperation with NGOs and, in the stage of the trial proceedings, there are cases where the victim is transported and escorted to court by an NGO. NGOs can offer victims advice and assistance according to the competences of the NGO.

8.5 When victim protection is provided by NGOs, how are NGOs resourced and supported to perform this function and how do the police and the prosecution co-operate with NGOs?

Some of the Cyprus Based NGOs dealing with victims of trafficking operate houses/ apartments in different districts in order to offer safe accommodation to them. The Police have signed a memorandum of understanding with NGOs, which provides for cooperation in dealing with victims of trafficking. In the framework of that Memorandum of Understanding, the OoCTHB is in close cooperation with the respective NGOs, by discussing on a case-by-case basis, by keeping them informed about any needs the victims may have, by inviting them to handle a case more efficiently and to the best interest of the victim. The cooperation takes place throughout the procedure and, as mentioned previously, NGOs may transport and accompany victims of trafficking during the trial, again after an individualized risk assessment of the case and prior arrangement with the NGO. In some cases, the NGOs cover extra needs of the victims which may arise (for example sending money to their families).

At this point, it could also be noted that, as far as accommodation is concerned, in 2018 the Social Welfare Services signed a protocol of cooperation with an NGO in the areas of housing and general support, to victims of trafficking. Within this framework, financial support of €55.000 for 2018 was granted to an NGO-run shelter to accommodate victims. Social Welfare Services also informally partnered with other NGOs to house victims in apartments. In 2017, financial support of €30,000 was granted to an NGO-run shelter to accommodate victims. In 2016, €15.000 were provided to an NGO for housing services for victims of THB.

8.6 How do you ensure that child victims of THB are treated in a child-sensitive way and are provided with protection before, during and after judicial proceedings in accordance with the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child Friendly Justice? Are interviews with children conducted in specially designated and adapted spaces by professionals trained to interview children? What measures are taken in order to ensure a limited number of interviews?

Protection is provided to children at all the stages of the proceedings. A child victim is recognized by the OoCTHB and the interviews are undertaken by specialized, trained officers. In case of sexual abuse and/or exploitation of children, the Republic of Cyprus is operating, since 2017, the Children's House, where child friendly services are provided to child victims based on a multidisciplinary approach. Forensic interviews within the House are undertaken by specialized and trained Police Officers of the Office for Handling Cases of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. Support services include psychological support/therapy and social rehabilitation.

When a minor is suspected of being a potential victim of trafficking and comes in contact with the authorities, before any further action is taken, the Social Welfare Services are informed in order to ensure that all procedures are conducted in the best interest of the child. As mentioned above, the Police have trained and specialized officers taking statements from children, which are in all cases video-recorded statements. There are child friendly rooms in which the video-recorded statements are taken from children. During the criminal proceedings, the children's video-recorded statements are presented in court and the children do not have to testify, but only have to be present for the cross-examination. There is availability for the minor to be in a different room and the cross-examination to be conducted via teleconference.

9. Specialised authorities and co-ordinating bodies (Article 29)

9.1 What budget, staff and resources, including technical means, are put at the disposal of law enforcement bodies specialised in combating and investigating THB?

Since 2015, the role of the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Cyprus Police has been enhanced. Its personnel have been increased by four (4) investigators and since then the Office investigates cases of THB throughout the country. The OoCTHB consists of seven women and four men, and two members are psychologists. The office maintains a unique database recording THB cases and all the people involved. Analysis of information can be produced from the data in that database. The overall budget is included in the general police budget. The members of the Office carry out operations in cooperation with district crime prevention units and crime investigations departments. Additionally, they are in close cooperation with the prosecutors before and after submitting the case to be filed before the Court. The specialized investigators of the OoCTHB are responsible for the investigation, including the financial investigation, of THB cases.

Apart from the investigation, its responsibilities are, among others, the identification of victims, the coordination of actions related to the combating of human trafficking, guidance of other police departments, training of police officers and other governmental and non-governmental officers and representation of the Cyprus Police in EMPACT working groups, the Multidisciplinary Committee, and other forums where critical decisions have to be taken in regards to THB.

Special attention is given on the training of professionals, as it is a very important issue in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The need for training of professionals in the area of action against THB is identified by the OoCTHB. The CEPOL's common curriculum is duly taken into consideration when designing training programmes. Courses are divided according to the needs of the target groups, which are, members of the Immigration Service, Community Policing, Criminal Investigation Departments and other members who are entitled to carry out operations.

After the identification of training needs, the OoCTHB, in collaboration with the Cyprus Police Academy, prepare specialized courses that include subjects such as the legislative framework, victims' rights and identification, EU strategies, investigation techniques, emerging trends, connection with other crimes. Apart from those specialized training programs, THB is included in other training programs offered by the

Police Academy, such as basic training programs for recruiting police officers, sergeant courses, and crime investigation courses. The training programs are organized and delivered according to the availability of the officers of the OoCTHB.

9.2 If your country has specialised units for financial investigations, financial intelligence units and asset and recovery units, please describe whether and how are they used in investigating and prosecuting THB cases. Which special investigation techniques do these units use? Which public and/or private bodies do these specialised financial investigation units co-operate with in relation to THB cases?

For all trafficking cases, the financial investigation is undertaken by the investigators of the OoCTHB who have a considerable level of specialization in conducting financial investigations. However, when it comes to complicated transactions the involvement of a forensic accountant is critical. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) co-operates with the Police for the purposes of freezing illegal proceeds.

Specifically, for the purposes of tracing and freezing of property for the purposes of final confiscation, the police co-operates with the FIU. The FIU may apply to the Court to obtain a freezing order so as to restraint property in the course of criminal investigations. For the tracing of proceeds, equivalent value property subject to freezing, the Law enforcement authorities may apply to Court to issue court disclosure orders. Also, the FIU may use the powers conferred to it by section 55(2)(c) of the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Laws (the AML/CFT Law) to obtain information on bank accounts, other bank information and account balances or information on other property, without a Court order.

Of significant importance is the power of the FIU to give instructions on the basis of section 55(1)(e) of the AML/CFT Law for the non-execution of a transaction, where there is reasonable suspicion that the transaction relates to Money Laundering/Terrorism Financing (ML/TF) for the purpose of analyzing a suspicious transaction or for the future issuance or registration of a restraint order or confiscation of assets.

10. International co-operation (Article 32)

10.1 How does your country co-operate with other countries to enable victims of THB to realise their right to redress and compensation, including recovery and transfer of unpaid wages after they leave the country in which the exploitation occurred?

According to Article 37(1), L.60(I)/2014, where the victim is a national or resident of another EU Member State, the law enforcement authorities shall take appropriate measures to reduce the difficulties encountered when the victim resides in another EU Member State, in particular with regard to the criminal proceedings, by applying the provisions of the Convention of the Council on the basis of Article 34 of the EU Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the EU member states and the Protocol on the (Validation) Law of 2004.

International cooperation is included in the legal framework and enables the authorities to cooperate with other countries, utilizing Interpol and Europol channels. However, until today, the provision of the abovementioned article has not been utilized, since the respective authority provides the victims with residence permits on humanitarian grounds after the completion of their criminal case, in order to exercise their right to file for compensation. Moreover, most identified victims are third country nationals and come from countries where cooperation on such matters is difficult.

10.2 Has your country co-operated with other countries in the investigation and prosecution of THB cases through financial investigations and/or Joint Investigation Teams? Please provide statistics on such cases and examples from practice.

During the reporting period, the Cyprus Police has conducted several cooperative international investigations of trafficking in human beings. In addition to the Europol and Interpol channels of communication, which are used on a daily basis for the exchange of information, during the reporting period nine European Arrest Warrants have been issued from the Cyprus Police, against suspected

persons. In this framework of cooperation, Cyprus Police in cooperation with the Greek Authorities and Romanian authorities, executed 6 European Arrest Warrants, and brought the suspects before the court.

Moreover, in 2017 the Cyprus Police, participated in four operational meetings and organized one operational meeting in Cyprus with the Bulgarian Authorities. As a result, a Joint Investigation Team was formed. Based on the J.I.T. actions, simultaneous operations took place and the main suspect of a large organized group dealing with trafficking and sexual exploitation of women was arrested and put into custody. For this case, nine victims of human trafficking were identified, one in Cyprus and eight in Bulgaria, and the case is pending trial before the court in Bulgaria, while the main suspect has been arrested and is under custody.

In 2018, the OoCTHB received and investigated five (5) cases under Mutual Legal Assistance Requests from other countries, while in 2017 the OoCTHB received and investigated two cases under Mutual Legal Assistance requests. In addition, the Office of Trafficking in Human Beings takes part in parallel investigation of a high profile case of human trafficking with the purpose of committing crimes, meaning performing forced marriages, with the Polish and UK Authorities. Under this umbrella, members of the THB office participated in operational meetings with the Polish Authorities. Cyprus Police has not signed the JIT with Poland and UK Authorities, but has a supportive role for the investigations of the case.

A high-profile case of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation is being investigated in close cooperation with the Chinese Authorities. Among the activities planned to be carried out is the check of the financial transactions of the suspect from the Chinese authorities.

Moreover, during the reporting period, the Cyprus Police participated in several actions/operations organized in cooperation with Europol in the framework of the implementation of the EMPACT Operational Action Plan. Joint Actions Days relating to the combat of different forms of exploitation, took place. More specifically, in 2015 the Cyprus Police participated in operations during JADS for the combating of Chinese THB in March and for labour exploitation in May. In 2016, the OoCTHB participated in JADs operations for labour exploitation in May and for sexual exploitation in October. In 2017 the members of the Office participated in operations one in May targeting labour exploitation and one in October targeting sexual exploitation and exploitation for criminal offences in asylum seekers reception center. In 2018 the OoCTHB participated in JAD operations in May targeting labour exploitation, in July targeting child trafficking and in September targeting sexual exploitation.

Moreover, in the framework of international cooperation, an Israeli national was apprehended and arrested upon arrival in Larnaca International Airport, as an international arrest warrant was issued on his name by the Russian Authorities for trafficking in human beings for the purpose of the removal of organs.

In addition to the above, notable is the cooperation between the Cyprus Police and Liaison Officers serving in Cyprus or Liaison Officers located in the area and are responsible for Cyprus also. The Cyprus Police is in close cooperation with the foreign embassies located in Cyprus, not only to serve the best interest of the victims but also to facilitate the investigation. Direct communication with the embassies and in particular with the liaison officers has achieved excellent results in the area of the protection of the victims when they return home. Also, they contribute in the execution of European Arrest Warrants and to the return of the victims to testify before the court.

10.3 How many mutual legal assistance requests and/or European Investigation Order have you made in THB cases and what was their outcome?

The Cyprus Police have sent one mutual legal assistance request for execution, to the Authorities of the Philippines.

Since 2015, the OoCTHB received and executed five (5) mutual legal assistance requests and four (4) European Investigation Orders. The OoCTHB executed all requests in due time. Two (2) of the European Investigation Orders were received from the Romanian Authorities requesting the location of two witnesses in THB cases. The Police located the two witnesses who testified through a secure video line before a Romanian judge.

10.4 What forms of international co-operation have proven to be particularly helpful in upholding the rights of victims of trafficking, including children, and prosecuting alleged traffickers?

International co-operation has proven to be a very important tool in upholding the rights of victims of trafficking including children and prosecuting alleged traffickers. Exchange of information with relevant partners is very helpful for the prosecuting authorities, before, during and after the investigations. Communication channels are used according to the case under investigation. As mentioned in the answer for Question 10.1, there is a wide range of tools and channels used for the investigation of THB cases. Communication with Europol, which basically is on a daily basis, has proven to be decisive, efficient and effective. Moreover, Joint Investigation Teams are proven to be particularly helpful for the investigation of THB cases. Although up until now one (1) JIT was set up between the OoCTHB and the prosecuting authorities of another country for the investigation of a THB case, it can safely be mentioned that it is one of the most important form of cooperation and has many advantages. Investigators have direct communication; investigations take place at the same time in two or more countries, and any difficulties occurred can be dealt with in cooperation of the investigators of each participating country. In addition, the cooperation with liaison officers is of great importance. Direct communication with the liaison officers has achieved excellent results in executing requests and checking information in real time, and also in the area of the protection of the victims when they return home. Also, they contribute in the execution of European Arrest Warrants and to the return of the victims to testify before the Court.

10.5 What international co-operation measures are in place to ensure protection and assistance to victims on return from your country to their countries of origin following their participation in criminal proceedings?

According to the national anti-trafficking legislation [L.60 (I)/2014], victims who are witnesses in trafficking cases are repatriated following completion of the criminal proceedings. An individual risk assessment is conducted by the Cyprus Police, Health Services and/ or Social Services, in order to ensure that the return of the victims to their home-country will not lead to re-victimization. After the repatriation is decided, the respective authorities in the victim's country of origin are informed. Relevant authorities of the country of the victim are informed about the flight details (airport of departure/arrival, time of flights, etc), as well as the destination (place of residence) of the victim, in order to take necessary arrangements from their side for the safety of the victim and his/her family members.

Moreover, direct communication with the Embassies of the countries of origin of victims and, in particular, with the liaison officers, has been established, achieving excellent results in the area of the protection of the victims when they return home. Cooperation is also common in cases of voluntary repatriation of victims, for issuing travel documents and other practical matters.

10.6 What international co-operation measures are in place to protect and assist victims of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation through online streaming where the perpetrator is a national or habitual resident of your country and elements of the crime have occurred in your country's jurisdiction?

The national anti-trafficking legislation [L.60 (I)/2014] and specifically article 28 provides that the jurisdiction of the Court enables for the trial of offences included in the legislation, with the aid and assistance of an electronic system from which there is access to from the grounds of the Republic, whether such system is located in the Republic or not. Also, the general provision for the jurisdiction in the anti-trafficking law and the Law on Combating Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography, gives several possibilities for the investigation of such cases. Relevant is article 21 of L.60(I)/2014, providing that the law enforcement authorities can continue the criminal proceedings even after the victim withdraws their statement or is repatriated for any reason. Also, article 28(2) provides that when a victim reports on crimes specified in the law but occurred in a different country, the complaint is referred to the country in which the crime was committed, to continue with the investigation. In article 28(3) it is provided that when a complaint is made in a different country but concerns the commitment of a crime in the Republic of Cyprus, it is forwarded to Cyprus to be investigated in the same manner as if the victim resided in Cyprus.

Additionally, according to the Law on Combating Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography [L. 91(I)/2014], and specifically article 7(4), it is provided that anyone who uses technological means to invite or suggest to a child to participate in pornographic scenes is guilty of a felony. According to the same law and article 8, it is provided that anyone who uses any means of technology for the purpose of child pornography is guilty of a felony.

Moreover, the cooperation between other law enforcement authorities is ensured and enhanced through the channels of Europol, Eurojust, Interpol and through other tools (MLA, EIO etc).

11. Cross-cutting questions

11.1 What steps are taken to ensure that victims of THB have equal access to justice and effective remedies, irrespective of their immigration status and the form of exploitation?

According to Article 4(1) of the Prevention and Combating of Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and the Protection of Victims Law [60(I)/2014], the implementation of the Law by any relevant service and non-governmental organization, and in particular the enjoyment of measures for the protection and promotion of victims' rights, shall be ensured without discrimination for any gender, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, being part of a national minority, property, birth or any other status.

According to article 36, L 60(I)/2014, any victim regardless of its willingness to cooperate with prosecution authorities for the criminal investigation, prosecution or trial, has access to legal advice and legal representation to claim compensation under the Advocates' Law, and in the case where the victim does not have sufficient financial resources, he or she has the right to free legal aid under the Legal Aid Law.

Article 47 of the Law 60(I)/2014, provides for the measures of assistance and support for victims and protection of private life:

- 1) Each victim, regardless of nationality and regardless if he possesses identification documentation, provided that they do not have adequate resources, has the right to physical, psychological and social rehabilitation and in particular, has the right:
 - (a) to be granted the necessary means of subsistence, including appropriate and secure accommodation, psychological, material and financial assistance,
 - (b) of access to free emergency medical care and free necessary medical care,
 - (c) to interpretation and translation services where necessary,
 - (d) of access to education, where applicable,
 - (e) of satisfying any specific needs arising from pregnancy, state of health, disability, mental or psychological disorder or serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence.

Pursuant to Article 54 (1) of Law 60(I)2014, a victim of trafficking has the right to the forms of assistance described in Article 47 of the same law both before and after the issuance of a temporary residence permit or registration certificate, regardless of whether the victim co-operates with the prosecuting authorities or not. The assistance is provided to all victims regardless of their gender, citizenship or ethnicity.

Also, in regards to residence permits, all identified victims of trafficking have access to a residence permit, free of charge. The Civil Registry and Migration Department grants residence permits to victims of trafficking recognised by the Police, upon identification. All recognised victims are granted residence and employment permits and are eligible to apply for the Minimum Guaranteed Income.

11.2 What steps are taken to ensure that criminal, civil, labour and administrative proceedings concerning victims of THB are gender-sensitive?

Law 60(I)/2014 provides, inter alia, for the protection and promotion of the rights of victims, without any discrimination regarding sex, race, political beliefs, color, religion, language, national or social origin and association with a national minority, property, birth or other status. It also includes special provisions concerning support and protection of child victims of trafficking, including in the context of criminal investigations.

In practice, interviews and statements from victims (potential) are taken from police officers of same gender or according to the victims' wish. In cases of children victims of human trafficking the same procedure is applied, and any interview or statement is taken in the presence of the legal guardian of the child. Before the victims come in contact with the police, they are interviewed by clinical psychologists, assessing their special needs which are duly taken into consideration during the whole procedure. Additionally, the governmental shelter is only for female (potential) victims of trafficking.

It is noted that, great importance is given on trainings of police officers. Members of the Cyprus Police participate in seminars in Cyprus and abroad, related to gender-based violence and gender sensitive approaches. In addition, the Cyprus Police participate in the Project STEP4GBV – Support training, exchange practices for Gender Based Violence, of the Justice Programme and Rights, Equality and Citizenship.

11.3 What steps are taken to ensure that procedures for obtaining access to justice and remedies are child-sensitive, readily accessible to children and their representatives, and give weight to the child's views?

In cases of children victims of human trafficking, several measures are applied by the Police in order to ensure that procedures for obtaining access to justice and remedies are child-sensitive, readily accessible to children and their representatives. Interviews with child victims are carried out by specialized and trained personnel, without any delay, in places adjusted for this purpose. Interviews are carried out by the same person; the number of interviews is limited for the purpose of criminal procedures and proceedings. It is noted that all statements taken by child victims of human trafficking are video recorded. Police officers dealing with child victims of human trafficking undergo specialized training to take video recorded statements.

Also, child support services in the Children's House are provided in a child friendly manner and the views of the child are taken into consideration on matters affecting them, always based on the best interest of the child.

11.4 What steps are taken to ensure that private entities take steps to prevent and eradicate trafficking from their business or supply chains and to support the rehabilitation and recovery of victims? What options exist for victims of trafficking to access effective remedies from businesses implicated in human trafficking?

The "Strategy for the Employment of Foreign Manpower" (Council of Ministers Decision no 65.886, dated 25.07.2007) regulates the entry of non-EU nationals with a temporary permit for employment purposes. A preliminary permit is issued to employers, who want to employ non-EU nationals, provided that they fulfil certain criteria. Specifically, according to the "Strategy for the Employment of Foreign Manpower", employers are not granted permission to employ non-EU nationals, with a temporary permit, unless they comply with the provisions of the employment law and the collective agreements. Where there is evidence that an employer violates the working conditions regulations, reported by either the Department of Labour Relations or the Police, appropriate measures are taken against the employer. The Ministry performs inspections in workplaces about the terms of employment and living conditions of foreign workers.

All victims of THB that are non-EU citizens, both women and men, have free access to employment in the same manner as Cypriots and EU citizens during the period of the judicial examination of their case. Victims who wish to work can visit the Public Employment Services, where they are provided support in finding employment, by a suitably trained and qualified Employment Counsellor in a personalised approach. The Employment Counsellors that are responsible for providing support to victims make every possible effort to place them in a safe employment position. Victims also have access to vocational training.

Moreover, it should be stated, especially in regards to supply chains, that the Private Employment Agencies Laws and Regulations, apart from regulating the operation of Private Employment Agencies, aim to protect foreign workers who are placed to work through these agencies and prevent labour exploitation. More specifically, the Law sets the conditions and qualifications that need to be fulfilled in relation to natural or legal persons operating such agencies. The criminal record of the applicant is examined, in order to safeguard that the persons involved in the operation of such agencies have not been convicted for offences such as sexual exploitation, trafficking, or any other serious criminal offence. In case the person responsible for the operation of an existing agency has been convicted for a serious offense, as mentioned above, the license of the specific agency is revoked. Moreover, the said Law prohibits private employment agencies from providing false information regarding the terms and conditions of employment and the qualifications of the applicants, provides for control mechanisms which may lead to the withdrawal of an agency's operating license and the imposition of administrative and penal sanctions for the infringement of the Law. Finally, the said Law prohibits private employment agencies from imposing any direct or indirect charge/ fee on employees for the purpose of job search, placement and maintenance of employment.

As far as effective remedies are concerned, article 35 of the anti-trafficking regulation foresees that any victim of trafficking in human beings has an institutionally conducive right to compensation, against any person responsible for the criminal offenses committed against him. The person responsible for the criminal offences has a corresponding civil liability for the payment of special and general damages to his victim(s), including any delayed debts from exploitation of the work of the victim(s).

11.5 What legal, policy and practical measures are taken in your country to prevent and detect situations where corruption facilitates human trafficking and infringes the right of victims of THB of access to justice and effective remedies? Please provide information on any known or proven cases of corruption or related misconduct of public officials in THB cases and any sanctions issued.

The Cyprus Police takes several measures to prevent and detect situations where corruption facilitates human trafficking and infringes the right of victims of THB of access to justice and effective remedies. In all trainings of police officers, it is emphasized that corruption of public officials is an offence according to Article 18 of the anti-trafficking law, providing for up to five-year imprisonment or monetary fine up to €17000, or both sentences.

In 2018, the legislation on the composition and operation of the Service of Internal Control of the Cyprus Police [L.3 (I) 2018], aiming to combat corruption in the police force, was put in effect. In May 2018 the Unit has been formed and was staffed with experienced investigators. In addition, there is available and secure access through the official police website to the complaint platform of the abovementioned service.

During the reporting period, there are two cases, one conviction and one case investigated. More specifically, in 2017 there was a conviction of a police officer for 12 months imprisonment suspended for three years, for sexual exploitation. In 2018 a THB case for labour and sexual exploitation was investigated by the OoCTHB, in collaboration with the Service of Internal Control, where three police officers were involved. Investigations of the case have been concluded and the case is pending trial.

Part II – Country-specific follow-up questions

12. Please provide information on new developments in your country since GRETA's second evaluation report concerning:

- emerging trends of trafficking in human beings (new forms of exploitation, new recruitment methods, vulnerable groups, gender-specific aspects of trafficking, child trafficking);

The emerging trend emerging since 2015 is the abuse of visa regimes. The criminal networks abuse visa regimes in order to achieve the entrance of the victims in the country and consequently lead to their exploitation. There was observed that there has been an abuse of the tourist visa mainly from countries such as Ukraine, Russia and Moldova, since they can enter the country either on a biometric passport or by having a pre-visa. Also, there is an abuse of the working visa

from third country nationals, as victims enter Cyprus on a working visa and are then exploited either in the working field or by the agents and intermediaries. The use of intermediaries of the same nationality as the victims facilitates and enables the formation of criminal networks both in their home-countries and in the country of destination. Another group that abuses a certain visa regime is those coming from African countries that enter Cyprus, either on the promise of work or study, and are guided to apply for asylum. This group is usually exploited along the transportation route. European criminal groups recruit, under false promises and by taking advantage of their vulnerable situation, and exploit women mainly from Bulgaria and Romania for forced marriages.

The criminal networks use alternate means of recruitment, such as the social media and social platforms, as well as maintaining websites that facilitate trafficking and exploitation, such as escort services.

- the legislation and regulations relevant to action against THB (e.g. criminalisation of THB, identification and assistance of victims of THB, recovery and reflection period, residence permit, supply chains, public procurement);

Since GRETA's second evaluation report in October 2014, no amendments to the anti-trafficking legislation [Law 60(I)/2014] took place. It should be noted that the Law, that harmonises Directives 2004/81/EC and 2011/36/EU, provides a legal framework regarding the prevention and combating of trafficking and exploitation of human beings as well as victim protection.

- the institutional and policy framework for action against THB (bodies responsible for co-ordinating national action against THB, entities specialised in the fight against THB, national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism, involvement of civil society, public-private partnerships);

Please see answer to the following point.

- the current national strategy and/or action plan for combating trafficking in human beings (objectives and main activities, bodies responsible for its implementation, budget, monitoring and evaluation of results);

During the period under review, the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group worked towards the implementation of National Action Plans 2013-2015 and 2016-2018. The most important work produced is described below, in short:

- National Referral Mechanism (NRM): The National Referral Mechanism was established. It provides appropriate guidance and standard operating procedures for handling victims and potential victims of human trafficking (including identifying and referring victims to services), so that victims and potential victims have access to their rights. All authorities and organizations involved with dealing with (presumed) victims have been informed and trained on the Mechanism for a more effective outcome.
- Legislation: certain gaps of the legislation have been identified. The contributions of the Police and the Social Welfare Services, which are the two main government services involved in the said legislation gaps, were collected. Based, amongst others, on the findings of these two services, the Ministry of Interior has drafted an amending bill, which is currently under review from the members of the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group. The main amendments proposed in the bill concern:
 - the increase of the maximum penalty for trafficking of adults from ten (10) to fifteen (15) years, upon the recommendation of both the Criminal Court and the Police.
 - Redefining the role and competencies of the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group so as to ensure that all involved authorities will bear the core responsibility of implementing actions related to their competencies, under the overview and coordination of the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group.

- Protocols of Cooperation between the Government and NGOs: The Ministry of Interior, as a national coordinator and facilitator of the process, has collected needs of the government services for cooperation with NGOs. Currently, NGO "KISA", which is a member of the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group, is coordinating actions to promote cooperation protocols between government services and the NGOs. Examples of signed cooperation protocols:
 - Between the Cyprus Police and twelve (12) NGOs in regards to the protection and promotion of human rights, which also covers issues of trafficking in human beings.
 - Between the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance and the NGO "Cyprus Stop Trafficking", aiming at the protection and the provision of the best possible support to potential or identified victims.

➤ recent case-law concerning THB for different forms of exploitation.

During the period since 2015, three recent case-laws concerning THB for labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, and forced marriages are cited but the court decisions are in Greek language. The decisions were sent for translation by the relevant bodies. The case numbers of the decisions are 29524/10, 9292/15, 15044/16.

13. Please provide information on measures taken in your country in respect to the following recommendations made in GRETA's second evaluation report:

➤ strengthen protection measures for domestic workers; how is compliance with the regulations for the employment of domestic workers monitored and what is the impact of the new contracts?

During the reporting period, a new contract for domestic workers has been set into force. In the new contract, any outdated references were eliminated and all the rights as well as the obligations of the domestic workers and the employers are written in a clearer and more understandable way. In the new contract, special attention has been paid in listing/ clarifying all the ways with which the employment contract can be terminated, both by the employer and the employee. Also, a new release paper has been set into force, which reflects the provisions of the revised contract.

Also, during the reporting period, certain policy changes took place upon decisions of the competent Ministerial Committee for Employment of third country nationals. The policy changes provide for greater flexibility in changing employers and the possibility to stay for as long as wished with the same employer. This decreases the employment insecurity and contributes to the overall empowerment of the domestic workers.

➤ strengthen efforts to discourage demand for the services of trafficked persons, for all forms of exploitation, in partnership with civil society and the private sector;

During the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator's visit to Cyprus and on the occasion of the EU anti-trafficking day, a media lunch was held on 31.10.2018, in cooperation with the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), within the framework of the project "Disrupt Demand", which examines campaign strategies in Member States. The media lunch aimed at informing the press on trafficking issues and ways of portraying these issues in the media.

➤ increase efforts to proactively identify victims of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation, including among irregular migrant workers and domestic workers, and reinforce the role of labour inspectors;

In May 2017, an Inspectorate Service has been established at the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance. The Inspectorate is responsible for the enforcement of more than 30 Labour Laws and operates in close cooperation with the police and other public services. The inspectors

of the Inspectorate are under constant training and are well experienced regarding violations of the Law and how to handle them.

Members of the OoCTHB in cooperation with the Aliens and Immigration Service, other Police Departments and Services, and Labour Inspectors of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, participate in Actions Days organized by Europol, in the framework of EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats), of EU Policy Cycle against organized crime. The operations focus on different forms of human trafficking such as labour and sexual exploitation, child trafficking etc.

Members of the Aliens and Immigration Service are regularly trained at the Cyprus Police Academy on the victimization indicators and potential victims of human trafficking identification in order to proactively identify and refer potential victims to the respective authorities. Members of private employment agencies, before obtaining their license from the Ministry of Labour, undergo a series of training sessions, which include trafficking in human beings and victimization indicators.

- finalise as a matter of priority the adoption of the manual on the National Referral Mechanism;

The National Referral Mechanism has been adopted since late 2016.

- ensure that safe and suitable accommodation is provided for all victims of trafficking, according to their needs; is there any specialised shelter for accommodating male victims of trafficking in human beings?

The Social Welfares Services ensure that safe and suitable accommodation is provided for all victims of trafficking.

Victims receive the services and benefits as specified in the anti-trafficking law. They receive immediate support and assistance, including housing if it's required, during working hours or outside the business hours. It is important to mention that Social Welfare Services are operating an on-call system after the business hours and during the weekend. Social Welfare Officers who are in stand-by duty manage effectively any referral involving victim of trafficking or exploitation, provide immediate support and accommodation as a standard procedure.

Victims are entitled to financial, psychological, and social support, which they receive from the government, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. There is no difference to the services provided to male and female victims of trafficking, except the temporary accommodation to the governmental shelter for female victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Services are provided to female victims through the State Shelter for victims of trafficking in Nicosia, which has a capacity of 15 places. The shelter is one of the options available for the accommodation of women victims of sexual exploitation. Upon admission to the Shelter, the Social Welfare Officer informs the victims about the shelter regulations, their rights as well as their obligations during their stay at the shelter. Victims may stay in the shelter for one month or longer, as deemed appropriate, for reflection. In addition, information is provided concerning all the services available for the support of the victim. In case a victim does not wish to stay in the shelter, financial and other support (housing provided by NGOs) is provided for as long as required.

The government provides a rent subsidy and a monthly allowance for female sex trafficking victims who choose not to stay at the shelter as well as to female labour trafficking victims and all male victims. Also, trafficking victims have the right to apply for Guaranteed Minimum Income which includes rent allowance. Social Welfare Services also provide emergency financial assistance to cover basic needs and accommodation if needed.

- set up of a specific referral mechanism for children involving child specialists, child protection services and specially trained police officers and prosecutors, and ensure that child victims of trafficking are provided with appropriate accommodation;

As mentioned above, specialised services are provided to child victims within the Children's House. In cases where there is an issue of conflict of interest between the child and the parents, the Social Welfare Services can take the child into their care, according to a court order and place the child in foster or residential care, according to the needs of the child and based on the best interest of the child.

- amend the legislation pertaining to the right of the police to access electronic communications;

A draft bill has been prepared by the Ministry of Justice and Public Order for this purpose. The draft bill has been discussed before the competent Parliamentary Committee and its voting is pending before the House of Representatives.

- conclude protocols of co-operation with NGOs in order to provide assistance to victims of THB.

On April 2018, the Social Welfare Services signed a protocol of cooperation with NGO "Cyprus Stop Trafficking". The main purpose of the Protocol is to improve the coordination, cooperation and collaboration between the Social Welfare Services and the volunteer sector in the provision of services and support to victims of trafficking, including their access to information, housing, employment and social integration.

Also, the Cyprus Police has signed protocols of co-operation with twelve (12) NGOs in regards to the protection and promotion of human rights in general, which also cover issues of trafficking in human beings.

Part III - Statistics on THB

14. Please provide the following statistics, **per year starting with 2015**, where available disaggregated as indicated below:

- Number of presumed victims and identified victims of THB in the sense of having been recognised by a state institution or mandated NGO as bearers of rights 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).

The Police are the competent authority for the victims of THB identification. All presumed victims are referred to the Police and more specifically to the OoCTHB. The specialized members of the OoCTHB put in place the identification procedure immediately after the referral.

The tables below concerning the presumed victims, include details for presumed victims for the years 2015 – 2018. The identified victims are not included in those specific tables.

PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2015 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
INDIA	-	33	-	13	46
NEPAL	-	2	-	3	5
CHINA	-	24	-	22	46
SOMALIA	1	1	5	1	8
SYRIA	2	1	5	-	8
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	4	4
VIETNAM	-	1	-	7	8
SRI LANKA	-	4	-	2	6
UKRAINE	-	1	-	3	4
KONGO	-	1	-	1	2
BULGARIA	-	-	-	9	9
ROMANIA	-	2	-	3	5
EGYPT	-	2	-	-	2
BANGLADESH	-	3	-	-	3
HUNGARY	-	-	-	1	1
POLAND	-	-	-	2	2
TOGO	-	-	1	-	1
CAMEROON	-	-	3	2	5
LEBANON	4	1	1	-	6
RUSSIA	-	-	-	4	4
PHILIPPINES	-	-	-	2	2
PAKISTAN	-	1	-	-	1
TOTAL	7	77	15	79	178

PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2015 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	3	14	39	56
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	7	73	1	39	120
THB FOR BEGGING	-	1	-	-	1
THB FOR ILLEGAL ADOPTIONS	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	7	77	15	79	178

PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2016 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
INDIA	-	36	-	3	39
BOULGARIA	-	4	-	19	23
KONGO	-	-	-	3	3
CHINA	-	-	-	2	2
NIGERIA	1	-	-	-	1
ROMANIA	-	5	-	21	26
MOROCCO	-	-	-	2	2
SOMALIA	7	-	-	1	8
CAMEROON	-	-	2	6	8
IRAN	-	-	-	1	1
VIETNAM	-	11	-	3	14
UKRAINE	-	-	-	1	1
MOLDOVA	-	5	-	5	10
SYRIA	2	2	1	-	5
CYPRUS	-	9	2	5	16
SRI LANKA	-	5	-	-	5
EGYPT	-	1	-	-	1
BANGLADESH	-	5	-	-	5
PHILIPPINES	-	-	-	1	1
MEXICO	-	-	-	1	1
PALESTINE	-	-	-	1	1
NEPAL	-	-	-	2	2
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	1	1
GREECE	-	-	-	3	3
HYEMEN	-	-	-	1	1
GAMBIA	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	10	83	5	83	181
PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2016 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	-	5	35	40
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	10	83	-	18	111
THB FOR COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCES (FORCED MARRIAGES)	-	-	-	29	29
THB FOR ILLEGAL ADOPTIONS	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	10	83	5	83	181

PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2017 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
CAMEROON	-	-	1	3	4
VIETNAM	-	4	-	10	14
CYPRUS	-	-	-	2	2
SYRIA	-	1	1	-	2
ROMANIA	3	3	-	17	23
PHILIPPINES	-	-	-	2	2
INDIA	-	6	-	1	7
BOULGARIA	-	-	-	6	6
IRAN	-	1	-	-	1
BANGLADESH	-	4	-	-	4
PAKISTAN	-	4	-	-	4
UKRAINE	-	-	-	11	11
CHINA	-	-	-	1	1
ESTONIA	-	-	-	1	1
RUSSIA	-	-	-	4	4
POLAND	-	-	-	2	2
EGYPT	-	2	-	-	2
MOLDOVA	-	1	1	1	3
MOROCCO	-	-	-	1	1
NEPAL	-	-	-	2	2
SRI LANKA	-	-	-	1	1
BELARUS	-	-	-	1	1
KONGO	-	-	-	1	1
LATVIA	-	-	-	1	1
LEBANON	-	-	-	1	1
NIGERIA	-	-	-	1	1
GHANA	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	3	26	3	71	103

PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2017 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	-	2	40	42
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	14	-	14	28
THB FOR COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCES (FORCED MARRIAGES)	-	11	-	14	25
THB FOR ILLEGAL ADOPTIONS	-	-	1	1	2
THB FOR BEGGING	3	1	-	2	6
TOTAL	3	26	3	71	103

PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2018 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
UKRAINE	-	-	-	30	30
CAMEROON	-	-	2	23	25
KONGO	-	-	-	2	2
ROMANIA	-	1	-	10	11
BULGARIA	1	1	-	6	8
GUINEA	-	1	1	-	2
GHANA	-	-	-	1	1
NEPAL	-	-	-	3	3
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	7	7
CYPRUS	-	1	-	3	4
INDIA	-	7	-	4	11
RUSSIA	-	-	-	17	17
CROATIA	-	-	-	1	1
SERBIA	-	-	-	2	2
GREECE	5	-	2	2	9
EGYPT	-	3	-	1	4
IVORY COAST	-	1	-	-	1
NIGERIA	-	-	2	2	4
PORTUGAL	-	-	-	1	1
SYRIA	1	-	1	3	5
GEORGIA	-	1	-	2	3
PHILIPPINES	-	-	-	1	1
VIETNAM	-	-	-	6	6
BELARUS	-	-	-	2	2
SOMALIA	5	1	5	2	13
NORWAY	-	-	-	1	1
PAKISTAN	-	2	-	-	2
ERITREA	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	12	19	13	133	177

PRESUMED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2018 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				NUMBER OF PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	1	6	110	117
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	2	16	-	8	26
THB FOR COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCES (FORCED MARRIAGES)	-	-	-	11	11

THB FOR COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	5	2	5	4	16
THB FOR BEGGING	5	-	2	-	7
TOTAL	12	19	13	133	177

IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF THB FOR THE YEAR 2015 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
INDIA	-	14	-	3	17
BULGARIA	-	-	-	3	3
ROMANIA	-	-	-	2	2
CAMEROON	-	-	-	2	2
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	2	2
GREAT BRITAIN	-	-	-	1	1
IVORY COAST	1	-	-	1	2
VIETNAM	-	-	-	1	1
UKRAINE	-	-	-	1	1
GREECE	-	-	1	1	2
PHILIPPINES	-	-	-	2	2
BANGLADESH	-	8	-	-	8
SLOVAKIA	1	-	1	-	2
CZECH REPUBLIC	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	2	22	2	20	46

IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF THB FOR THE YEAR 2015 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	9	9
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	21	-	6	27
THB FOR COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCES (FORCED MARRIAGES)	-	-	-	2	2
THB FOR COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	1	-	-	-	1
THB FOR SEXUAL AND LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	3	3
THB FOR BEGGING	1	-	2	-	3
THB FOR ILLEGAL ADOPTIONS	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	2	21	2	21	46

IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF THB FOR THE YEAR 2016 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
BULGARIA	-	-	-	8	8
ROMANIA	-	1	-	14	15
CZECH REPUBLIC	-	-	-	2	2
SYRIA	-	-	-	1	1
VIETNAM	-	1	-	1	2
CAMEROON	-	-	-	4	4
CYPRUS (T/C)	-	-	-	1	1
LATVIA	-	-	1	3	4
TOGO	-	-	-	1	1
GEORGIA	-	-	-	1	1
UKRAINE	-	-	-	3	3
INDIA	-	1	-	-	1
EGYPT	-	1	-	-	1
TOTAL	-	4	1	39	44
IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF THB FOR THE YEAR 2016 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	16	16
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	3	-	1	4
THB FOR COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCES (FORCED MARRIAGES)	-	1	-	21	22
THB FOR COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	-	-	1	1	2
TOTAL	-	4	1	39	44

IDENTIFIED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2017 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
BULGARIA	-	-	-	2	2
ROMANIA	-	2	-	4	6
ERITREA	-	-	-	1	1
CAMEROON	-	-	-	6	6
RUSSIA	-	-	-	1	1
IVORY COAST	-	1	-	-	1
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	1	1
CYPRUS	-	-	-	1	1
INDIA	-	2	-	-	2
UKRAINE	-	-	-	2	2
TOTAL	-	5	-	18	23
IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF THB FOR THE YEAR 2017 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	15	15
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	5	-	-	5
THB FOR COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCES (FORCED MARRIAGES)	-	-	-	2	2
THB FOR SEXUAL AND LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	-	5	-	18	23

IDENTIFIED VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2018 PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
ROMANIA	-	-	-	4	4
UZBEKISTAN	-	-	-	1	1
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	1	1
PAKISTAN	-	1	-	-	1
RUSSIA	-	-	-	3	3
INDIA	-	1	-	2	3
BULGARIA	-	-	-	1	1
EGYPT	-	1	-	-	1
VIETNAM	-	-	-	1	1
CYPRUS	-	-	-	4	4
UKRAINE	-	-	-	9	9
BANGLADESH	-	1	-	-	1
CAMEROON	-	-	-	5	5
CHINA	-	-	-	2	2
NIGERIA	-	-	-	1	1
GAMBIA	-	1	-	-	1
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	1	1
LATVIA	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	-	5	-	36	41
IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF THB FOR THE YEAR 2018 PER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	18	18
THB FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	2	-	1	3
THB FOR COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCE (FORCED MARRIAGES)	-	2	-	6	8
THB FOR SEXUAL AND LABOUR EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	12	12
TOTAL	-	4	-	37	41

- Number of victims of THB identified as part of the asylum procedure (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

As reported by the Police, during the year 2015 five (5) presumed victims of THB were referred by the Asylum Services to the Police, while during 2016 one (1) presumed victim was referred. During the year 2017 six (6) presumed victims were referred to the Police by the Asylum Service and during the year 2018 sixteen (16) presumed victims of THB were referred to the Police by the Asylum Service and three (3) by the Refugee Review Authority.

However, following data are provided concerning victims who have been identified by the Police, and whose status at the time of their referral was “asylum seekers”:

- In 2015 one (1) male, under the age of eighteen (18), from the Ivory Coast had been identified as victim of THB for the purpose of committing criminal offences.
- In 2016 four (4) adult females, from Cameroon, one (1) adult female from Georgia and one (1) adult female from Togo had been identified as victims of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- In 2017 six (6) adult females from Cameroon and one (1) female adult from Eritrea had been identified as victims of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- In 2018 five (5) adult females from Cameroon, one (1) adult female from Nigeria, and one (1) adult female from Uzbekistan, had been identified as victims of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation, one (1) female adult from India and one (1) male adult from Bangladesh had been identified as victims of THB for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage), while one (1) male adult from Pakistan and one (1) male adult from Gambia had been identified as victims.

The numbers refer to already recognised THB victims during their referral to the Police while being asylum seekers, without this meaning they were identified as potential victims upon submission of the asylum application or in the context of their asylum application interview.

As reported by the Asylum Service, since 2013, 14 cases of recognized refugees that were also recognized victims of trafficking are recorded. Possible victims' records were not kept as part of the statistics before 2018.

Lastly, please note that as reported by the Social Welfare Services, in 2018, 48 asylum seekers were referred to the Services as potential victims of trafficking. There are no data available on ethnicity, age group and type of exploitation.

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

The number of victims of THB who received assistance is as follows:

- In 2015, 46 victims of THB (23 men and 23 women) received assistance.
- In 2016, 44 victims of THB (4 men and 40 women) received assistance.
- In 2017, 68 victims of THB (31 men and 37 women) received assistance.
- In 2018, 111 victims of THB (14 men and 97 women) received assistance.

Also, please see the number on victims of THB accommodated at the government shelter below:

- In 2015, 20 victims were accommodated at the government shelter.
- In 2016, 53 victims were accommodated at the government shelter.
- In 2017, 30 victims were accommodated at the government shelter.
- In 2018, 69 victims were accommodated at the government shelter.

There are no data available on ethnicity, age group and type of exploitation.

- Number of child victims of THB who were appointed legal guardians.

There were no cases of child victims of THB who were appointed legal guardians.

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

The table below illustrates the number of victims who were granted a recovery and reflection period after the OoCTHB's request.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER	AGE (MINOR OR ADULTS)	TYPE OF EXPLOITATION
2015			
GREECE	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
VIETNAM	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
BULGARIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
BULGARIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
2016			
SYRIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
VIETNAM	Female	Adult	THB for labour exploitation
BULGARIA	Female	Adult	THB for forced marriage
UKRAINE	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
UKRAINE	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
ROMANIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
2017			
INDIA	Male	Adult	THB for labour exploitation
RUSSIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
ROMANIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
2018			
RUSSIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
BULGARIA	Female	Adult	THB for sexual exploitation
EGYPT	Male	Adult	THB for labour exploitation
ETHIOPIA	Female	Adult	THB for labour exploitation

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

Residence and employment permits are issued with a duration of one year. Upon their expiration, permits are renewed on a yearly basis. Information on the form of exploitation in correlation to the residence permit issued is not possible to be produced for the reporting period. Improvements have been made to the information systems for providing the ability to produce such data in the future.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	AGE GROUP OF CURRENT AGE	SEX	TYPE OF PERMIT	NUMBER
CHINA	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
CHINA Total				2
BANGLADESH	18-24	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	25-34	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	8
	35-44	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	2
BANGLADESH Total				11
CAMEROON	18-24	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	5
	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	8
	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
CAMEROON Total				14

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	AGE GROUP OF CURRENT AGE	SEX	TYPE OF PERMIT	NUMBER
COTE D'IVOIRE	18-24	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
COTE D'IVOIRE Total				2
MOLDOVA	18-24	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	2
	35-44	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
MOLDOVA Total				4
MOROCCO	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
MOROCCO Total				1
PHILIPPINES	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	45-54	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	2
PHILIPPINES Total				3
SRI LANKA	25-34	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
SRI LANKA Total				1
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC Total				1
UZBEKISTAN	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
UZBEKISTAN Total				1
VIETNAM	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	3
	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	6
		MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	45-54	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	2
	55-64	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
VIETNAM Total				13
EGYPT	25-34	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	2
EGYPT Total				2
ETHIOPIA	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
ETHIOPIA Total				1
GAMBIA	18-24	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
GAMBIA Total				1
GEORGIA	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
GEORGIA Total				1
GREECE	18-24	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	AGE GROUP OF CURRENT AGE	SEX	TYPE OF PERMIT	NUMBER
GREECE Total				2
INDIA	18-24	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	7
		MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	20
	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	6
		MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	14
	45-54	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	2
		MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	5
55-64	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1	
INDIA Total				56
NIGERIA	18-24	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
NIGERIA Total				1
PAKISTAN	35-44	MALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
PAKISTAN Total				1
ROMANIA	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
	45-54	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
ROMANIA Total				2
RUSSIA	25-34	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	2
	35-44	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
RUSSIA Total				3
UKRAINE	18-24	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	3
	25-34	FEMALE	REFLECTION	1
			RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	5
	45-54	FEMALE	RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT	1
UKRAINE Total				10
GRAND TOTAL				133

- Number of persons given refugee status or subsidiary/complementary protection on the grounds of being victims of THB (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

Below are the numbers of the persons that were given refugee status protection on the grounds of being victims of THB:

Country of Origin	M/F	Birth Year	Status	Reason	Year of Recognition
Nigeria	F	1988	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2016
Cameroon	F	1993	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2013
Syria	F	1985	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2013

Country of Origin	M/F	Birth Year	Status	Reason	Year of Recognition
Nigeria	F	1988	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2015
Cameroon	F	1984	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2015
Zimbabwe	F	1999	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2016
Togo	F	1999	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2016
Cameroon	F	1991	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2015
Cameroon	F	1986	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2016
Cameroon	F	1982	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2017
Cameroon	F	1988	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2016
Eritrea	F	1991	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2017
Cameroon	F	1990	Recognition	Trafficking - Sexual exploitation	2018
Cameroon	F	1995	Recognition	Trafficking- Sexual exploitation	2018

- Number of victims of THB who claimed compensation, who were granted compensation and who effectively received compensation (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).

According to the data provided to the OoCTHB, a total number of ten (10) victims have filed an application for legal aid by the Court, for the purpose of exercising their right to compensation against any person responsible, as it is provided for in the articles 35 and 36 of the Law 60(I)/2014.

Five (5) male adult victims of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation from Bangladesh, three (3) male adult victims for the purpose of labour exploitation from India and two (2) female adult victims of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation from Morocco have proceeded to the above procedure.

All those cases are in the process of examining the victims' applications by the Court for the authorization to grant legal aid.

- Number of victims of THB who received another form of financial support from the State, with the indication of the amount received.

In 2018 the Social Welfare Services have granted the total amount of €25.000 to victims of trafficking for immediate financial support (Article 11 of the Guaranteed Minimum Income Law).

- Number of victims of THB who received free legal aid.

According to the data provided to the OoCTHB, a total number of ten (10) victims have filed an application for legal aid by the Court, for the purpose of exercising their right to compensation against any person responsible, as it is provided for in the articles 35 and 36 of the Law 60(I)/2014.

Five (5) male adult victims of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation from Bangladesh, three (3) male adult victims for the purpose of labour exploitation from India and two (2) female adult victims of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation from Morocco have proceeded to the above procedure.

All those cases are in the process of examining the victims' applications by the Court for the authorization to grant legal aid.

- Number of victims of THB who were returned or repatriated to/from your country (disaggregated by sex, age, country of destination, form of exploitation).

At first, it should be stressed that according to the anti-trafficking legislation [Law 60(I)/2014 as amended], identified victims of trafficking are protected from deportation. Thus, no victim has been deported during the reporting period. Any repatriation of a victim of trafficking takes place only with their consent and after an individualised assessment is conducted by the prosecuting authorities and health services in order to determine whether there is any danger for revictimization upon return and whether the person is suitable to travel. After the completion of the assessment the person can be repatriated when the Minister of Interior is satisfied that the repatriation of the victim is safe and to the victim's interest, as a permanent solution of social reintegration. Statistics on the number of victims of THB cannot be produced for the reporting period as these are not kept in any information system, but only within the physical administrative file of each person. Based on police records, during the reporting period, twenty-seven (27) victims were voluntarily returned to their countries of origin.

- Number of investigations into THB cases (disaggregated by type of exploitation, with an indication of the number of victims concerned).

In 2015, nine (9) cases of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or other related offences were opened for investigation and five (5) persons were identified as victims, six (6) cases of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and/or other related offences were opened for investigation and nineteen (19) persons were identified as victims, one (1) case of THB for the purpose of begging was opened for investigation and two (2) persons were identified as victims, one (1) case of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and labour exploitation was opened for investigation and two (2) persons were identified as victims, one (1) case of THB for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage) was opened for investigation and two (2) persons were identified as victims and one (1) case of THB for the purpose of illegal adoptions was opened for investigation and one (1) person was identified as victim.

In 2016, seven (7) cases of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or other related offences were opened for investigation and five (5) persons were identified as victims, one (1) case of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and/or other related offences was opened for investigation and one (1) person was identified as victim, eight (8) cases of THB for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage) were opened for investigation and seventeen (17) persons were identified as victims and one (1) case of THB for the purpose of committing other criminal offences was opened for investigation and two (2) persons were identified as victims.

In 2017, ten (10) cases of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or other related offences were opened for investigation and five (5) persons were identified as victims, three (3) cases of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and/or other related offences were opened for investigation and two (2) persons were identified as victims, one (1) case of THB for the purpose of begging was opened for investigation and one (1) person was identified as victim, four (4) cases of THB for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage) were opened for investigation and two (2) persons were identified as victims and one (1) case of THB for the purpose of illegal adoptions was opened for investigation.

In 2018, twelve (12) cases of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or other related offences were opened for investigation and twenty (20) persons were identified as victims, five (5) cases of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and/or other related offences were opened for investigation and six (6) persons were identified as victims, one (1) case of THB for the purpose of begging was opened for investigation, one (1) case of THB for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation was opened for investigation and one (1) person was identified as victim, one (1) case

of THB for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage) was opened for investigation and six (6) persons were identified as victims and two (2) cases of THB for the purpose of committing other criminal offences were opened for investigation and one (1) person was identified as victim.

It must be noted that, during the investigations of the abovementioned cases, a large number of persons was handled by the Police as presumed victims of THB. Some of them have been identified as such. Some the abovementioned cases are still under investigation.

It is the policy of the OoCTHB to open all the cases under the anti-trafficking law. However, during the investigation, the offences under the anti-trafficking law could not be further proved and, therefore, some of the cases are investigated and prosecuted under other Laws.

➤ Number of prosecutions in THB cases (disaggregated by type of exploitation, with an indication of the number of victims and defendants concerned).

During the years 2015-2018, a total number of fifty-eight (58) cases of THB and or other related offences, had been submitted by the police for prosecution. Some of those cases are still pending trial. Moreover, some those cases were opened for investigation as trafficking cases under the provisions of the anti-trafficking law, although they might have been remitted of other offences for which the Police does not keep such data.

- Twenty-eight (28) cases of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or other related offences were submitted by the Police for prosecution. These cases concern eighteen (18) persons who were identified as victims and sixty-seven (67) defendants.
- Sixteen (16) cases of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and/or other related offences were submitted by the Police for prosecution. These cases concern forty-eight (48) persons who were identified as victims and fifty-one (51) defendants. Also, these cases concern six (6) legal entities as defendants.
- Nine (9) cases of THB for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage) were submitted by the Police for prosecution. These cases concern twenty-two (22) persons who were identified as victims and forty-seven (47) defendants.
- Two (2) cases of THB for the purpose of committing other criminal offences were submitted by the Police for prosecution. These cases concern three (3) persons who were identified as victims and two (2) defendants.
- One (1) case of THB for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation was submitted by the Police for prosecution. This case concerns two (2) persons who were identified as victims and four (4) defendants.
- One (1) case of THB for the purpose of begging was submitted by the Police for prosecution. This case concerns two (2) persons who were identified as victims and two (2) defendants.
- One (1) case of THB for the purpose of illegal adoptions was submitted by the Police for prosecution. This case concerns one (1) person who was identified as victim and one (1) defendant.

➤ Number of convicted perpetrators of THB (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

In 2015, eleven (11) male adults from Cyprus, one (1) female adult from Cyprus, one (1) female adult from Morocco, one (1) male adult from Bulgaria and one (1) female adult from Bulgaria were convicted for offences under the anti-trafficking law concerning cases related to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

In 2016, no defendants were convicted for offences of the anti-trafficking law.

In 2017, one (1) male adult from Cyprus, one (1) female adult and one (1) male adult from Greece were convicted for offences under the anti-trafficking law concerning cases related to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Four (4) male adults from Cyprus and two (2) male adults from Bangladesh were convicted for offences under the anti-trafficking law concerning cases related to trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. One (1) male adult from Bangladesh was convicted for offences under the anti-trafficking law concerning a case related to trafficking for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage).

In 2018, two (2) adult females from Romania, one (1) male adult from Romania and one (1) male adult from Pakistan were convicted for offences under the anti-trafficking law, concerning cases related to trafficking for the purpose of committing criminal offence (forced marriage).

Also, there is a conviction of a legal entity in trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

- Number of convictions for THB, with an indication of the form of exploitation, whether the victim was adult or child, the type and duration of the penalties, and whether they were effectively enforced or suspended.

The table below illustrates the convictions concerning the offence of trafficking in human beings for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Also, one (1) legal entity was convicted to €126.000 fine for the offence of labour exploitation.

NUMBER OF CONVICTION	FORM OF EXPLOITATION	DURATION OF PENALTY	TYPE OF PENALTY	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED
1	Sexual exploitation	3 years imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and withholding of personal documents	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	1 year imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, living on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	18 months imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, living on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	2 years imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, living on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	9 months imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, living on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	9 months imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, living on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	9 months imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, living on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	2 ½ years imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the	4 adult victims

NUMBER OF CONVICTION	FORM OF EXPLOITATION	DURATION OF PENALTY	TYPE OF PENALTY	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED
			purpose of sexual exploitation and leaving on the earnings of prostitution	
	Sexual exploitation	18 months imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and leaving on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	6 months imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and leaving on the earnings of prostitution	4 adult victims
	Sexual exploitation	2 ½ years imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, living on the earnings of prostitution, withholding personal documents	4 adult victims
2	Sexual exploitation	8 years imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1 adult victim
	Sexual exploitation	8 years imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1 adult victim
3	Sexual exploitation	1 year imprisonment with 3 years suspension	Sexual exploitation of an adult	1 adult victim
4	Sexual exploitation & Labour exploitation	15 months imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and attack causing actual physical injury	1 minor and 1 adult victim
	Sexual exploitation & Labour exploitation	15 months imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, attack causing actual physical injury and common attack	1 minor and 1 adult victim
	Sexual exploitation & Labour exploitation	5000 euro fine	Labour exploitation	1 minor and 1 adult victim
5	Forced/marriages of convenience	2 years imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of performing forced/marriages of convenience, attempt of performing a	3 adult victims

NUMBER OF CONVICTION	FORM OF EXPLOITATION	DURATION OF PENALTY	TYPE OF PENALTY	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED
			marriage of convenience, attempt to provide assistance to a third country national to remain illegally at the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and conspiracy to defraud	
	Forced/marriages of convenience	4 years imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of performing forced/marriages of convenience, attempt of performing a marriage of convenience, attempt to provide assistance to a third country national to remain illegally at the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and conspiracy to defraud	3 adult victims
	Forced/marriages of convenience	1 year imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of performing forced/marriages of convenience and conspiracy to defraud	3 adult victims
	Forced/marriages of convenience	5 years imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of performing forced/marriages of convenience, attempt of performing a marriage of convenience, attempt to provide assistance to a third country national to remain illegally at the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and conspiracy to defraud	3 adult victims
6	Forced/marriages of convenience	8000 euro fine	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of performing a forced/marriage of convenience, contribution to the performance of a marriage of convenience and	1 adult victim

NUMBER OF CONVICTION	FORM OF EXPLOITATION	DURATION OF PENALTY	TYPE OF PENALTY	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED
			assistance to a third country national to remain illegally at the territory of the Republic of Cyprus	
7	Sexual exploitation	1 year imprisonment	Sexual exploitation of an adult, maintaining a brothel, living on the earnings of prostitution, pimping	4 adult victims
8	Forced/marriages of convenience	8 months imprisonment	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of performing a forced/marriage of convenience, contribution to the performance of a marriage of convenience, assistance to a third country national to remain illegally at the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and ensure recording with false pretenses	1 adult victim
9	Labour exploitation	5 years imprisonment	Conspiracy to commit a felony, trafficking of an adult for the purpose of labour exploitation, circulation of a forged document, forgery, securing a foreigners residence permit in the Republic of Cyprus with false pretenses, impersonation, illegal staying in the Republic of Cyprus, withholding personal documents, money laundering	5 adult victims
	Labour exploitation	18 months imprisonment	Conspiracy to commit a felony, labour exploitation	5 adult victims
	Labour exploitation	18 months imprisonment	Conspiracy to commit a felony, labour exploitation	5 adult victims
	Labour exploitation	12 months imprisonment	Conspiracy to commit a felony, labour exploitation, withholding personal documents	5 adult victims
	Labour exploitation	12 months imprisonment	Conspiracy to commit a felony, trafficking of an adult for the purpose of labour exploitation,	5 adult victims

NUMBER OF CONVICTION	FORM OF EXPLOITATION	DURATION OF PENALTY	TYPE OF PENALTY	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED
			illegal staying in the Republic of Cyprus	

It must be noted that the number of convictions is disproportionate with the prosecutions for the following reasons:

1. The number of prosecutions includes the cases which were opened for investigation as THB cases and then prosecuted under other related offences (e.g. offences against the Criminal Code etc.). But the convictions given represent only the convictions under the anti-trafficking law.
2. The convictions presented on the above table refer to the year of the final judgment by the Court (2015-2018). The date of prosecution of those cases might have been before the reported period.

➤ **Number of judgments in THB cases resulting in the confiscation of assets.**

Even though a financial investigation is carried out in all THB cases, no criminal profits have been so far detected at the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. One of the reasons identified is that the transactions are made in cash and, on the other hand, there is no transnational cooperation with the countries of origin of the victims, where the criminal profits return.

Also, the transactions are very often made in the countries of origin of the victims, before the exploitation phase and the perpetrators use the HAWALA system of payments. This makes the connection of the transactions to the criminal offence more difficult.

Additionally, it is underlined that the involvement of the Police in the financial investigation in cases of trafficking in human beings is relatively recent and needs more improvement.

➤ **Number of convictions of legal entities for THB.**

During the period 2015 – 2018, no legal entity was convicted for the offence of trafficking in human beings. However, in 2015 a penalty of €126.000 fine was imposed to a legal entity for the offence of labour exploitation.