



G R E T A

Group of Experts on Action
against Trafficking in Human Beings

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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

Fourth evaluation round

Thematic focus: Addressing vulnerabilities to trafficking in
human beings

Reply submitted on 10 November 2023

Adopted by the Group of Experts on Action against
Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) on 30 June 2023

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 States 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, in particular trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, and the vulnerability of children to trafficking. The third evaluation round focused on trafficking victims’ access to justice and effective remedies.

GRETA has decided that the fourth evaluation round of the Convention will focus on **vulnerabilities to human trafficking** and measures taken by States Parties to prevent them, detect and support vulnerable victims, and punish the offenders. This includes a focus on the use of information and communication technology (ICT), which brings structural changes to the way offenders operate and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities.¹

A number of provisions of the Convention establishing substantive and procedural obligations are relevant to this topic. The concept of “vulnerability” appears in Articles 4 (definitions), 5 (prevention of trafficking in human beings) and 12 (assistance to victims) of the Convention. According to paragraph 83 of the Explanatory report to the Convention, “by abuse of a position of vulnerability is meant abuse of any situation in which the person involved has no real and acceptable alternative to submitting to the abuse. The vulnerability may be of any kind, whether physical, psychological, emotional, family-related, social or economic. The situation might, for example, involve insecurity or illegality of the victim’s administrative status, economic dependence or fragile health. In short, the situation can be any state of hardship in which a human being is impelled to accept being exploited. Persons abusing such a situation flagrantly infringe human rights and violate human dignity and integrity, which no one can validly renounce.”

GRETA refers to the ICAT Issue Brief No. 12/2022 on Addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons which refers to vulnerability as “those inherent, environmental or contextual factors that increase the susceptibility of an individual or group to being trafficked”. It classifies vulnerability factors in three categories: personal (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, disability), situational (e.g. destitution, unemployment, legal status) and contextual (e.g. discriminatory laws, policies and social norms, armed conflicts, crises) factors, which interact and may increase the risk of human trafficking for certain individuals, groups and/or communities.² Vulnerability to human trafficking is also subject to intersectional factors, such as gender, belonging to a minority group and socio-economic status.

Applying a socio-ecological approach to the analysis of vulnerability to human trafficking demonstrates how different risk factors influence vulnerability, and how protective factors may reduce the risk of victimisation by increasing resilience.³ The socio-ecological model considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community and societal factors. It helps to understand how anti-trafficking strategies should: (a) reduce the vulnerability of individuals, (b) work with the communities (which may also include relationships) concerned to ensure that their practices or current dynamics

¹ [Paolo Campana, Online and Technology-Facilitated Trafficking in Human Beings, Council of Europe, April 2022.](#)

² [ICAT Issue Brief No. 12 on Addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

³ https://www.avoiceforcentraloregon.com/uploads/1/3/9/9/139904528/socio_ecological_model_and_trafficking.pdf

do not exacerbate or contribute to vulnerabilities to human trafficking and, (c) change a number of system-driven or structural elements (such as policies) so that they do not facilitate but discourage an environment conducive to human trafficking.

In addition to the thematic focus on vulnerabilities to human trafficking, GRETA has decided that each State Party will receive **country-specific follow-up questions** related to recommendations not implemented or partially implemented after 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 third 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 1 – Addressing vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings

I. PREVENTION (Articles 5, 6 and 7)

1. Do you have specific data/research/analysis of what makes people vulnerable to trafficking in human beings (THB) in your country? Please provide information on the categories/groups of people identified as being at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, and how they are addressed in the national anti-trafficking strategy and/or action plan. Have you identified geographical regions or economic sectors in your country as particularly vulnerable to THB, and how do you address them in your strategy or policy?

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Social Welfare Services (SWS) of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare (DMSW) don't have available specific data of what makes people vulnerable to trafficking in human beings (THB), however most of the potential victims referred to the SWS by the government services and NGO's were women, asylum seekers from African countries with the identification procedure taking place at the Reception Center Pournara.

OFFICE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

In Cyprus, no research or analysis has been conducted to determine what makes people vulnerable to trafficking in human beings. In spite of this, data collected through the investigation of THB cases indicate that migrants and people from Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa are the most likely to be exploited.

- With regard to sexual exploitation, women from Eastern European countries such as Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, and members of the Roma Community are at a high risk. The majority of them, have previously been involved in prostitution.

Women are sexually exploited in hotel rooms and Airbnb apartments which are rented for short periods of time.

- Labour exploitation (agriculture, farming) is also a high-risk issue for workers from Asian and African countries such as Egypt, Syria, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, China, Vietnam and Bangladesh who have come to Cyprus with work permits.

Members of the (Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) OoCTHB, with the assistance of other stakeholders such as the labour inspector, conduct operations throughout Cyprus in factories, farms, pubs, massage clinics, hotels, and airbnb apartments.

Furthermore, the National Action Plan specifies a number of steps that must be taken to protect potential victims/victims (such as recognition, awareness raising, investigation of THB cases, and trial procedure).

Police also, create and distribute leaflets in places where potential victims gather, explaining their rights and directing them to the hotline 1497, if they wish to provide anonymous information about THB. In September 2022, the THB platform went live for reporting human trafficking online. This platform is linked to the Cyprus Police website and is monitored daily by members of the OoCTHB.

During the same period of time a new place for contacting interview with victims and presumed victims was set up. The house entails of two separate interview rooms, comparable to a pleasant and welcoming living room of a real-life home, where the victims /possible victims can feel secure and relaxed and freely express themselves. There is also a separate office, fully equipped with two desks and a computer, suitable for taking statements from victims. Moreover, there is a playroom, which offers the possibility to children, potential victims, to play or occupy themselves with educational toys.

The aim of the set-up of the establishment is to build trust with potential and identified victims of human trafficking, as well as to ensure that victims feel safe, comfortable, and free to express themselves and cooperate with the police officers.

Moreover, during the reporting period, a TV spot on human trafficking for begging was promoted. The short film targets to raise awareness on THB especially for the purpose of begging.

NATIONAL COORDINATOR (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR)

In the new National Action Plan against Human Trafficking 2023-2026, an emphasis is placed in the organisation and participation in training seminars of Frontline Officers from all stakeholder services. These include Police Officers, Social Welfare Officers, Labour Inspectors and other Ministry of Labour and Social Insurances' Officers, Asylum Service Officers, Department of Labour Officers, Migration Officers, Attorney General Officers, Mental Health Officers, Local Government and NGOs. The training sessions, which will be hosted in Cyprus and abroad, fall under the first pillar of the new Action Plan titled "Strengthening prevention and reducing the risks of victimization" and its strategic aim is to "Prevent cases of trafficking in persons and discourage demand, through public awareness and strengthening of the framework for respect of human rights and elimination of stereotypes, discrimination and racism based on gender, nationality or sexual orientation".

The expected results of this action is to increase awareness and sensitisation on the issues of human trafficking and shift the focus of attention towards the preventive identification of possible victims by all frontline Officers. Furthermore, it aims to better training in identifying initial signs of victimization, in adoption of best practices in the investigation of human trafficking cases and exchange of educational visits with other countries.

In regards to training of frontline officers, Asylum Officers - the officers who examine asylum requests (caseworkers) as well as to the officers who work at the reception of asylum seekers (reception/safe zone etc.) - will participate in training on an annual basis regarding the indications that lead to the identification of possible victims of human trafficking. The expected goal and result is to enhance the knowledge, skills and expertise of Frontline professionals of all involved services for effective response and handling of issues.

Moreover, under the same Pillar, since workers in agriculture have been long proved as a high risk group for forced labour or work exploitation, control of Private Employment Agencies will continue to take place in the 2023-2026. The Law on Private Employment Agencies which came into force in 2012 and was amended in 2013 regulates the establishment and operation of Private Employment Agencies (PGAs) in Cyprus and aims at the greatest possible protection of persons looking for work through these agencies, including foreigners from third countries, as well as the prevention of human trafficking and labour exploitation. For the purposes of implementing the provisions of the Law, the competent authority carries out annual inspections at PGAs.

Additionally, more awareness campaigns and training seminars are scheduled to take place within the timeframe of the National Action Plan 2023-26, involving other governmental services, local authorities and NGOs.

2. What specific measures are taken to reduce children's vulnerability to THB by creating a protective environment for children? Please provide information in the following areas:
 - a. protecting children's rights from attitudes, customs, behaviour and practices that can have an adverse effect (including child, early and forced marriage, and illegal adoption);

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Republic of Cyprus implements measures on a primary, secondary and tertiary level such as:

- Obligatory school education for all until the age of 15 years and free education until the age of 18 years.
 - The SWS subsidize NGOs for the implementation of after school day care centres for ages 6 - 13 years so that children may participate in healthy activities, have lunch/snacks and be protected.
 - The Interdepartmental Manual for dealing with cases of Family Violence against Children aims to ensure that all Services (i.e. Police, SWS, Ministry of Education, Mental /Health Services, Legal Service) act in coordination and effectively towards the protection of children.
 - The Children's House is a child friendly one stop shop which aims to support children for whom there is suspicion that they are victims of sexual abuse (e.g. forensic interview, psychological support, psychosocial support).
 - Any practice, behavior or custom that might put a child at risk such as early/forced marriage is considered child abuse and is handled according to agreed procedures (Children's House, Interdepartmental Manual for dealing with cases of Family Violence against Children).
- b. developing children's life skills (including media literacy and online safety skills), knowledge and participation;

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND YOUTH

The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (MOESY) invests into the task of promoting children's life skills through the cross-curriculum and extra-curriculum dimensions. Active citizenship education is integrated into all subjects, is reinforced with teacher training and assessed through the work of the School Inspectors. The Health Education Curriculum (HEC) and learning objectives include clearly defined success indicators related to life skills and further strengthen capacity building for human rights, since 2011.

More particularly, the success indicators of HEC include indicators associated with intimidating behavior (such as "perceiving intimidating behavior, recognising and resisting this", "proposing solutions for addressing the phenomenon of bullying in the school") violence (such as "distinguishing the negative consequence arising from any form of exclusion or discrimination", "distinguishing forms of violence, physical, sexual, psychological, socioeconomic") social identities/gender development (such as "recognizing factors that affect the development of social gender"). Additionally, the curriculum includes success indicators relating to respect for diversity (e.g. "To identify and judge the existence of stereotypes in the immediate and wider surroundings", "To engage in acts of respect for diversity", "To highlight the positive effects of diversity in the classroom, in the family and in their community", "critically analyze diversity in sexual orientation"). The success indicators included in HEC relate to human rights and taking action for peaceful coexistence (e.g. "To suggest and to manifest behaviors that show respect for the rights of others at school", "To describe the rights of the child, such as those contained in the Convention on the rights of the child of the UN" and "To propose and implement actions that contribute to defending the rights of the child in school and community", "To recommend and to engage in acts or actions that promote healthy coexistence/symbiosis of people at school and in the community»).

In addition, the Cypriot SIC (Safer Internet Centre), operating under the CyberSafety program, is responsible for promoting a safer, more secure and ethically sound Internet culture among the younger population in Cyprus, through the provision of nationwide, awareness-raising activities, as well as dedicated Helpline and Hotline services. The Cypriot SIC's ultimate aim is to promote media literacy, encourage critical thinking skills, propagate the importance of digital citizenship and equip the younger population with the necessary skills and competencies to thrive in technologically pervasive societies. Specifically, via awareness-raising activities children are further informed about

probable risks and challenges that come along with using digital technologies and the Internet, including THB (Trafficking in Human Beings), and learn about resolve and prevention mechanisms.

In terms of pertinent legislation and national action plans in Cyprus, the overarching aims of the Cypriot SIC, including children's vulnerability to THB, are in tandem with the wider visions of both the Cyprus National Digital Strategy⁴ and the Innovate Cyprus Strategy⁵. Both strategies advocate for lifelong media literacy and cybersecurity skills that will enable the younger population to become resilient, technologically adept digital citizens, fully capable of facing risks and challenges that come along with the use of digital technologies and the Internet. Moreover, the Cypriot SIC fully aligns with the visions and initiatives outlined in the National Cybersecurity Strategy of the Republic of Cyprus⁶, including the operation of an Awareness center, through which the younger population has the opportunity to access content pertaining to Internet safety and cybersecurity. Additionally, the Cyprus SIC is in line with the National Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids⁷, since their joint objective is to provide guidance and support to children in need and further foster a culture of online security.

Furthermore, School Counsellors in Secondary Education implement several projects aiming to develop children's life skills, including participation, media literacy, and online safety. Indicative examples are found below:

1. Media Literacy Workshops: Organize workshops where children learn to critically evaluate media content. Discuss topics like bias, fake news, and the impact of media on society. Encourage them to question what they see online.
 2. Online Safety Seminars: Invite the "police online safety department" to talk to pupils about online safety, privacy, and the potential risks of sharing personal information. Discuss strategies for creating strong passwords and recognizing phishing attempts.
 3. Peer Discussions: Facilitate group discussions where children can share their online experiences and challenges, allowing them to learn from each other's insights.
- Remember to adapt these ideas to the age and maturity level of the children you are working with. Consistent reinforcement of these skills is essential to ensure children become responsible, informed, and safe digital citizens.

Additionally, the syllabus of Computer Science applies to all pupils in the same way without discrimination. During the past few years, the syllabi of all Information Technology (IT) courses taught in Secondary Education have been updated in order to meet European standards and current trends. Teaching of these courses at the Gymnasium and Lyceum aims to engage pupils in meaningful learning using the computer as a problem-solving tool. In all Lyceums, depending on the curriculum needs, there are 130 IT labs for the teaching of all computer science courses. Each lab contains 18 computers and a printer. In all Gymnasiums, depending on the curriculum needs, there are 181 IT labs with 13 computers and a printer per lab. Furthermore, a video projector is installed in all IT labs. The video projector is connected to the instructor's computer. All computers in each IT lab are interconnected to form a local network and are connected to the Internet via an ADSL line. In all Gymnasias, the course of Informatics is compulsory and is taught two periods per week in each of the three classes. Part of the curriculum covers four basic modules of the international standard European

⁴ Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy. (2020). Cyprus National Digital Strategy (2020 -2025). [https://www.dmid.gov.cy/dmid/research.nsf/all/927EA351714F99EDC22587CE0028C090/\\$file/Digital%20Strategy%202020-2025.pdf?openelement](https://www.dmid.gov.cy/dmid/research.nsf/all/927EA351714F99EDC22587CE0028C090/$file/Digital%20Strategy%202020-2025.pdf?openelement)

⁵ Research and Innovation Foundation. (2019). Cyprus Research and Innovation Strategy Framework 2019 -2023 – Innovate Cyprus. <https://www.research.org.cy/wp-content/uploads/InnovateCyprusCYRIStrategyFramework2019-2023NBRIMay2019.pdf>

⁶ National Cybersecurity Strategy of the Republic of Cyprus. <https://www.cyberwiser.eu/sites/default/files/cy%20ncss%20greek.pdf>

⁷ National Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids. <https://cyberalert.cy/Media/Attachments/eggrafo-ethinikis-stratigikis-asfaleia-diadiktio.pdf>

Computer Driving License (ECDL).

- c. putting in place a system for monitoring and reporting cases of abuse;

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Reporting is obligatory by legislation. According to articles 30(1) and 30(2) of the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography Law of 2014, anyone who fails to report a case that comes to his knowledge, where a child is involved, commits an offense and, if convicted, is subject to prison sentence of up to fifteen years or a fine of up to twenty thousand euros, or to both of these penalties.

Also, article 35(a) of the violence in the Family Law 2000, ensures the obligation to report cases of abuse.

The Children's House, which has been operating since 2017, handles cases of sexual abuse and/or exploitation of children. The Children's House provides a multi-disciplinary, child-friendly approach to the management of cases of child sexual abuse. It operates under the supervision of the SWS and in cooperation with the SWS and all competent Services/Organizations. It is fully subsidized by national resources.

- d. providing training to child care professionals, legal guardians, education professionals;

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Welfare Services provide systematic in-house training to their staff. Welfare Officers also participate in trainings organized by other authorities, international organizations or agencies.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND YOUTH

The MOESY continues to implement sexuality education based on World Health Organisation guidelines⁸, through the implementation of the Health Education Curriculum. The topics that are related to sexuality education are mostly included in the thematic unit "*Family Planning, Sexual and Reproductive Health*". The unit includes topics that are related to a holistic understanding of sexual and reproductive health, such as the national and European legal framework, stereotypes, domestic and other forms of violence, risky sexual behavior, homophobia, the role of religion and media etc.

These topics are approached in relation to the role of peer pressure, life values, gender stereotypes, self-confidence, safety, human rights and responsibilities and substance abuse. This unit is not approached independently but is offered to draw links with other Health Education Curriculum thematic units as well as other subjects, to ensure the holistic negotiation of sexual health issues.

Therefore, pupils can understand that sexuality and sexual behaviors are related to their lives in general, the lives of others and the so society as a whole⁹. The Health Education Curriculum does not agree or disagree with the ideas expressed in the media or by religion, as the aim is to enable pupils to critically discuss the potential roles of the media or religion in the way people think or behave. It, therefore, provides a platform through which trafficking of human beings may be identified and prevented.

⁸ WHO-Europe and Federal Centre for Health Education BZgA, (2010). *Standards for sexuality in Europe. A framework for policy makers, educational and health authorities and specialists*. Cologne: WHO Europe and Federal Centre for Health Education BZgA

⁹ Ioannou, Kouta, Constantinidou, Ellina, (2014), Sexuality Education as a Collective Responsibility: Health Education Curriculum in Cyprus, *Sex Education Journal*.

Sexuality education, as included in Health Education, may contribute to the prevention and dealing of social problems such as sexual violence, bullying, unwanted pregnancies in teenagers, homophobia, risky sexual behaviors, HIV/AIDS and other STDs, reproduction of gender stereotypes, violence against women, stigmatization, and discrimination of marginalized groups such as LGBTIQ+ students etc. Based on the methodological approach of Health Education, sexuality education is approached in a way that no students, from any background, will feel insulted, excluded, or uncomfortable during the lesson. On the contrary, each student is empowered through their own cultural and ethical framework to acquire the skills and adopt the attitudes, values and behaviors which enhance their resistance to the early initiation of sexual activities and/or involvement in high-risk sexual behaviors.

The learning objectives of sexuality education in the Health Education Curriculum aim to the promotion of critical analysis of the various perspectives on issues of sexuality and not to a moralistic position in favor of against any choice of sexual behavior. Sexuality education, based on the Health Education Curriculum, does not aim to teach what is 'right' or 'wrong' in relation to family planning and sexual life¹⁰ - always in the context of international, European, and national legal framework and of the International Declaration of Human Rights. The learning objectives are based on the health promotion approach and aim to provide opportunities to students to critically explore the various social factors which determine issues of sexuality, and to understand the ways in which society may influence the attitudes, choices, and behaviors of a person in relation to sexuality issues.

The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (CPI) continues to support teachers with multiple types of teacher training on the Health Education Curriculum every year. The CPI organises more than one hundred seminars, conferences and workshops in collaboration with the other Departments of the Ministry and/or other partners yearly. All teacher professional activities are uploaded on the websites of the MOESY as well as the CPI Facebook page. The CPI offers teacher trainings for the support of teachers in terms of working in a multicultural environment in the context of professional learning (school-based seminars, the yearly two-day teacher training for primary and secondary school teachers one-day trainings, afternoon seminars, professional learning scheme, newly appointed school leaders trainings). Indicative titles are:

- Sexuality education and prevention of abuse incidents;
- Bullying;
- Conflict resolution;
- Cultivating empathy;
- Developing positive home-school relations;
- Empowering new generations: Encouraging and cultivating creativity and critical thinking;
- Human relations and crisis management in the school community: From conflict to respect of diversity;
- Implementing the antiracist policy at our school: Challenges in the management of racist incidents;
- Integration of pupils with migrant biography into the mainstream classroom;
- Management of pupils' problematic behaviors - Preventing and dealing with offensive behavior;
- Overcoming prejudice and racism;
- Promoting gender equality;

¹⁰Ioannou, Kouta, Andreou, (2015), "Cyprus Health Education Curriculum: from 'victim blaming to empowerment'", *Health Education*, Vol. 115 Iss ¾.

- Stereotypes, prejudices, racism: Towards an education on the basis of human rights;
- What if it was you? An approach for human rights and peace education.

In addition, the CPI provided a series of trainings for primary education teachers for the last school years on teaching sexuality education through the implementation of the Health Education curriculum. Each year, around 90 teachers participated in a total of three training seminars based on the sexuality education handbook for primary education "Life journey". They were also informed of the policy regarding the prevention, recognition and dealing of child sexual abuse. The teachers were committed to implement the sexuality education activities in their classrooms and participated in a reflection process during the final meetings.

The CPI also participated in the European project BODI¹¹. BODI aimed to:

1) Contribute to the development of education policies and practices on intercultural education, gender education and inclusion of children / parents of minority cultural backgrounds – through our analysis of existing practices and the assessment of the method we develop.

2) Contribute to the development of teachers' competences through new methods for teacher training and new practical tools ready to adapt, concretely:

- Develop an understanding of cultural differences having an impact on early childhood education, develop tools to solve possible tensions and conflicts

- Develop skills and creative tools to address issues of cultural diversity, gender, and health with the children

- Offer tools to involve parents (of migrant and non-migrant origin) and engage them in dialogue about sensitive issues such as cultural differences, gender, body, health

3) Contribute to the development of school's capacity to address cultural diversity, to ensure that children of different cultural backgrounds and their parents are not excluded and equip children for participation in an intercultural society tolerant towards gender diversity. Offer tools and strategies to address sensitive issues such as gender.

Finally, online safety seminars are offered to students by the "police online safety department", including information about online safety, privacy, the potential risks of sharing personal information, strategies for creating strong passwords and recognizing phishing attempts.

- e. access to education and health care for vulnerable children, including from minority groups, unaccompanied migrant children, and children of migrant workers;

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Vulnerable children, including from minority groups, unaccompanied migrant children, and children of migrant workers have access to full medical care according to the provisions of Cyprus Health System. Children of irregular migrants are accepted to receive healthcare treatment at all state medical centres without any advance payment, in order to ensure that all children have access to any necessary healthcare. Then the patients are directed to present their situation to the Ministry of Health and the resulting charges can be waived based on the Minister's right to approve the provision of free services.

ASYLUM SERVICE

Vulnerable children, including children of migrant workers as well as unaccompanied migrant children have access to public school education. They also have access to health care through the General Hospitals.

¹¹ <http://bodi-project.eu/>

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND YOUTH

The right of education for all children is safeguarded by Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus¹². The equality of all children enrolled in schools is also guaranteed by the legislation. More specifically, the Law for Compulsory Attendance and Provision for Free Education (L. 24(I)/1993) ensures that all children residing in the Republic of Cyprus are entitled to free and compulsory education from the age of 4 years and 8 months up to 15 years. In the law, there are no definitions of school inclusion, segregation and desegregation, since all children, irrespective of ethnic origin, religious beliefs, residential status of their parents etc., are entitled to have access to education and are eligible for additional educational support.

Moreover, the new regulations for the operation of public secondary schools that were issued in February 2017¹³ clearly state that any person or public authority involved in the interpretation or implementation of the regulations is obliged to refrain from "*any discrimination based on race, colour, gender, language, religion, political and other beliefs of the child or his/her parents or guardians, citizenship, ethnic or social origin, economic situation, disability, birth, sexual orientation or any other situation*".

It must be also pointed out that the MoESY, through its three-year strategic plan for the period 2023-2025, is aiming to ensure the provision of learning opportunities to all learners, through the implementation of an educational policy which embodies the values of equality, inclusiveness, creativity and innovation. The basic goal of the Ministry is to increase access to quality education and provide opportunities for all learners to become successful in their learning, through modernizing teaching methods and approaches, designing and implementing modern developmental programmes and creating the infrastructure that can facilitate high quality education that is efficient and inclusive. The Ministry's vision is to form literate citizens with skills, responsibility, democratic ethos, historical identity as well as respect for diversity and among its strategic goals is to support and empower each learner, recognizing diversity. As a result, education is considered as the means for social mobility, inclusion and active participation of all in our society and a basic tool for effectively combating inequalities, various social problems and achieving social cohesion.

The MOESY has developed and implemented an upgraded educational policy pertaining to Intercultural Education, aiming at the smooth integration of pupils/students from diverse ethnic backgrounds into the educational system of Cyprus. The Policy Paper (2016) was prepared by an Interdepartmental Committee and approved by the Minister of Education. The Policy Paper covers key issues related to the reception and integration of students with migrant backgrounds at the macro-, the meso- and the micro-level. According to the taxonomy suggested in a European Commission Report (NESSE, 2008) the macro-level refers to the society and the educational system and thus to the formulation of the educational policy expressed in the policy paper, the meso-level focuses on the school and the interaction between the individual and society in the school context and the micro-level refers to the school classroom and the interaction and relations between teachers, students, and parents. Through the Policy Paper the Ministry declares its commitment to the smooth integration of pupils with a migrant background into the Cyprus educational system. It actually provides a framework for every action and activity which falls within the Cyprus educational system in respect to the issue of the integration of pupils with migrant backgrounds. The policy focuses on five priority areas: (1) learning the Greek language, (2) reception of newly arrived children with migrant background, (3) education and teachers' in-service training, (4) data collection and analysis

¹² Available at

[http://www.law.gov.cy/law/lawoffice.nsf/all/2C728033C2E52985C225742B003229FC/\\$file/Constitution%20of%20the%20Republic%20of%20Cyprus.doc](http://www.law.gov.cy/law/lawoffice.nsf/all/2C728033C2E52985C225742B003229FC/$file/Constitution%20of%20the%20Republic%20of%20Cyprus.doc)

¹³ Available at

http://www.moec.gov.cy/dme/nomothesia/mesi/b_peri_leitourgias_dimosion_scholeion_mesis_ekpaidefsis_kanonism_oi_kdp_60_2017.pdf, Part 2: 3.-(1) (α)

of the needs of pupils/students with a migrant background and (5) intercultural approach in the new curricula. The document also describes the current state of affairs regarding the integration of children with migrant backgrounds in the Cyprus Educational System as well as the teaching of Greek as a second language. Based on the Policy Paper action plans have been developed and implemented covering the different pillars of the policy paper. In addition to that, in cooperation with the European Commission Directorate on Education a peer counseling event took place in March 2019. The [final report](#) submitted in July 2019 consisted of 21 recommendations. The recommendations focus mainly on the reception phase per se, for supporting all significant others in the school role set of migrant students. There were also recommendations for the schools as institutions seeking autonomy and flexibility, the policy-makers and the anti-racist policy.

The work that the CPI and the Interdepartmental Committee have done based on the Policy Paper and the Peer Counseling Report can be described shortly as follows:

Supporting teachers and schools dealing with integration of students with migrant backgrounds via:

- Teachers' networks for pre-primary, primary and secondary education (online seminars and communication via the CPI's Moodle platform, seminars etc)
- School-based seminars
- Optional-based seminars in afternoon time
- The [CPI's website](#) on the educational integration of students with migrant backgrounds
- Reception Guides for [primary](#) and [secondary](#) education
- Translation of [school and family communication forms](#) in several first languages of migrant children
- [Unified Curriculum for Greek as a Second Language \(pre-primary, primary, secondary education\)](#)
- [Teaching materials for teaching Greek as a second language in primary education](#)
- [Useful materials](#) (e.g. survival language cards, basic daily classroom instructions in pictures)
- that support schools in their efforts for the reception of students with migrant backgrounds
- Questionnaires for parents to collect useful data for the children (website and reception guides)
- Initial, midterm and final assessment tests for Greek as a second language
- Diagnostic tests in different first languages of students with migrant backgrounds in Maths and Science (Biology, Physics)
- [Guide for parent mediators](#) - Instructions for the cooperation of school and parents - mediators
- [Guide to managing socio-cultural diversity](#)
- Erasmus+ KA3 project "[PASSAGE - Pedagogies of Passing from Reception to Education](#)" (2021 - 2023)

Furthermore, the creation of a sensitization culture against racism and intolerance and the promotion of equality and respect is an integral part of the Curricula of various subjects (e.g. History, Literature, Modern Greek Language, Religious Education). The **antiracist policy «Code of Conduct against Racism & Guide for Managing and Recording Racist Incidents» of the MOESY** is being implemented with the support of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (CPI) since the school year 2014-2015. The antiracist policy was developed based on the Follow-up Report of Cyprus for Recommendation No 20 and a recommendation by the Anti-Discrimination Body. The development and implementation of the policy responds to the European Commission's against Racism and Intolerance guideline No 10 and is also in line with various international and European conventions that Cyprus has ratified, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec(2010) of the Committee of Ministers to member states, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women, and the European Social Charter.

The policy conceptualizes racism in a broad manner, including all sorts of discrimination. It includes definitions of basic concepts which form the theoretical background (e.g. racism, racist incident, discrimination, stereotypes, diversity, etc.), outlines the responsibilities and commitments, expected by each member of the school community, and provides the steps to be followed by schools for dealing with racist incidents in a practical rubric. It provides schools and teachers with a detailed plan on how to deal with and prevent racist incidents. As the antiracist views diversity as a multidimensional phenomenon, involving various aspects of people's identities, it is expected to contribute to the decrease of bullying and discrimination based on any form of diversity in schools, including religion, beliefs, ethnicity, language, appearance, disability, gender, sexual orientation, etc.

Since 2018, the CPI continues to organize and facilitate a "School Network for the Support of Antiracist Policy Implementation", which supports teachers from schools of all levels wishing to participate in the network while their school implements the MOESY antiracist policy. Each school year, the network consists of around 30 schools of all levels. Several face to face and online meetings are conducted each year, aiming to empower and train these teachers in relation to the theoretical and practical aspects of the antiracist policy. Specifically, in relation to the conceptualization of racism in a broad manner, including all sorts of discrimination on a local and global level, the definitions of basic concepts which form the theoretical background (e.g. racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, antigypsyism, racist incident, discrimination, stereotypes, diversity, etc.), the responsibilities and commitments, expected by each member of the school community, and the steps to be followed by schools for dealing with racist incidents. The theoretical concept of intersectionality permeates all trainings conducted, as the antiracist policy views diversity as a multidimensional phenomenon, involving various aspects of people's identities and contributes to the decrease of discrimination based on any form of diversity in schools, including religion, beliefs, ethnicity, language, appearance, disability, gender, sexual orientation, etc. In addition to the trainings, every year, the CPI offers support to the Network schools in the following ways:

- Continuous update of website (presentations, FAQs, supportive material etc)
- Support helpline (phone and email)
- Parents information leaflet about the policy in 7 languages (Greek, English, Arabic, Turkish, Russian, Romanian, Bulgarian)
- Focused training opportunities (school based seminars, optional afternoon seminars, network meetings, conferences in collaboration with relevant NGOs and Bodies, e.g. UNHCR, Commissioner for Children's Rights etc).

Overall, the Network, employing an intersectional approach, identifies and aims to empower teachers and schools in dealing with challenges that relate to the implementation of antiracist policies not only in Cyprus but across the world: the under-reporting of racist incidents, the need for accountability on behalf of organizations and individuals, the development of contextually appropriate pedagogical interventions based on the racisms operating in each context and, the constant awareness of the continually changing and evolving racisms across the globe.

In addition, the MOESY has designed and developed the **National Strategy for Preventing and addressing School Violence**, which has a four-year timeframe of implementation (2018 -2022). According to its role and responsibilities, and based on the aforementioned Strategy, the Cyprus Observatory on School Violence (COSV) of the CPI has developed and implemented actions that aim to prevent and address bullying and violence in schools. COSV provides support to school units for the implementation of actions and programs aimed at improving the school climate, with the ultimate aim of reducing violence in schools. These programs, which are school-based and they have a two-year duration, are the "Conflict Resolution - School Mediation" and the "Recognition and Management of School Bullying". The COSV supports schools in the implementation of anti-bullying programmes, which deal with recognizing, preventing and combating bullying. With the "Conflict Resolution - School

Mediation” schools are encouraged to find effective way of resolving student conflicts as well as alternative way of managing conflict situations at school. During the school year 2019-2020, 64 schools (3 nursery schools, 52 primary schools and 9 secondary schools) received such training and support. Guidelines on how to handle conflicts or bullying were produced and disseminated at the training courses. Also, educational material to assist teachers on how to undertake activities with children to enhance their competences needed for prevention and management of school violence was produced and disseminated. The curriculum of this material includes activities to enhance anger management, team-building, empathy, emotional intelligence, social and communicative skills, tolerance, acceptance of diversity, mediation skills, anti-bullying skills, conflict management etc. It must also be noted that, the MOESY in the framework of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Management of School Violence, in June 2018, announced an Open Tender for services by a researcher to conduct a long-term research on the phenomenon of school violence. The responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Convention was assigned to the Observatory for Violence at School (COSV), within the terms of its mandate. The project is part of the first section of this National Strategy, which provides for the creation of mechanisms for data collection, coding and analysis and reporting of key outcomes around the phenomenon, extent and forms of violence at school. The Ministry of Culture, through the creation of these mechanisms, seeks to monitor the phenomenon of violence at school, identify needs and evaluate the effectiveness of existing interventions / programs in order to make research-based decisions and, in general, to formulate effective policy. This research is the first step in the effort to reduce violence in the Cypriot population and is the first to be addressed to all schools in Cyprus. It will be completed in four (4) school years, from the date of signing the Contract and includes data collection for three (3) consecutive years (2020-2023) from all Public and Private schools in Cyprus, of all levels (Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary General, Secondary technical and Vocational. Moreover, the COSV collects data concerning good practices for the prevention of violence in schools, it evaluates these practices and it organizes an annual conference where the best practices are awarded, thus receiving visibility and outreach. Finally, COSV collaborates with other stakeholders involved in preventing and responding to school violence. In addition, COSV participates as a partner in the following European projects:

- Erasmus+ KA3 project entitled “SeBI: Securing the Best Interest of the Child in Educational School Administration” (November 2019 – November 2022). The SEBI project, aims at providing valuable advice and suggestions which can be adopted across Europe regarding the assuring of the best interest of the child in Educational School Administration. It particularly aims to safeguard the best interests of children with migrant background.
- Erasmus+ KA3 project entitled “SAFER: Social competences and Fundamental Rights for preventing bullying (including on-line bullying)” (1/12/20 – 30/11/23). This project aims to experiment the innovative method of “Whole School & Community Approach” in preventing and combating bullying.
- Erasmus+ KA2 project entitled “CICADA: Children’s life quality: participation, recreation and play” (October 2019 – October 2021). This project aims to map children’s and young people’s quality of life and to inform policy about existing and emerging good practices, challenges and opportunities across the partner countries.

f. birth registration for all children born in the country.

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

According to the Civil Registry Law (articles 8-19), every birth in Cyprus must be registered by the Registrar of the Province where it took place or in any other Province whose Prefect/Registrar will act on behalf of the Prefect/Registrar of the Province where the birth took place for final registration in provincial birth registry. The details to be recorded will be provided within fifteen days of the day of birth to the Registrar with the birth registration form and will include details of the child and its parents, the name, address and signature of a competent informant and a doctor’s or midwife’s certification.

In relation to the birth, competent informant to provide the Registrar with the necessary information relating to the child and his parents is either the mother or father of the child, any person present at the birth process, any person having responsibility for the child, the doctor or midwife, or the owner or manager of an Institution or home where the child was born.

Furthermore, every competent informant must provide, if requested, to the best of his knowledge and belief, to the Head of the Institution where the child was born or to the doctor or midwife who performed the birth of the child or to the District Registrar, the necessary information referring to the child and his parents and to sign the birth registration form.

Every time a birth takes place at an Institution, the owner or person in charge, must fill in and record on the birth registration form the information and details regarding the child and his parents, the name, the address, and after being signed by the competent informant and certified by the doctor or midwife, sends this form to the Registrar within fifteen working days from the day of birth. A copy of the above form is given to the child's parents.

Whenever any birth takes place at home or anywhere outside the Institution, the doctor who performed the delivery or the midwife must complete the birth registration form and record the information regarding the child and its parents, name, address and after being signed by the competent informant and certified by the doctor or midwife, this form is sent to the Registrar within fifteen working days from the day of birth. In the absence of a doctor or midwife, the birth registration form should be completed and signed by the child's parents or by any other authorized person who happened to be present during the birth.

Once the Registrar receives the necessary information from the competent informant for the registration of the birth, he/she issues a birth certificate, if he/she is convinced that the facts are correct, upon payment of the specified fee and appropriately informs the entitled person of the receipt of the certificate, and for the newborn's personal number. This number is indicated on the birth certificate issued:

Provided that, if it is known to the Registrar that the child has died, or it is a case of stillbirth, no personal number is granted:

It is further understood that, in the case of a fetus aged 22 weeks or more, a personal number is granted even if the child subsequently dies.

The Registrar may use any means at his disposal to be informed about the births that take place in his Province and to ensure that the details regarding these births are sent to the Registry Office for registration. At any time after the expiry of the specified period, the Registrar may, if no information concerning the birth has yet been sent to him, request in writing from a competent informant that he provide within fifteen days of receiving the request the necessary information for the registration of the birth of birth.

The owner of an Institution where births take place keeps records of the births and every doctor or midwife who performs births outside the Institutions is responsible for keeping records of these births. The data will include the details specified in the Law and which will be provided to the Registrar when he checks and inspects this information.

At any time before the lapse of three months from the date of the birth, the birth may be registered by the Registrar at the same time as the details are provided to him by the competent informant and with the certification of the doctor or midwife who carried out the birth as well as the payment of the additional fee.

After the lapse of three months from the date of birth, the birth shall be registered only with the approval of the Registrar, after having previously provided such testimony as he wished to designate and upon payment of the specified additional fee which shall be twice the fee. It is noted that all

registrations of births, after the lapse of three months from the date of birth, must be accompanied by a summary of the testimony provided on which the Registrar's approval was based:

In the case of a child born out of wedlock of his parents, whose father is unknown, the name of the father as well as other details concerning him are not entered in the register and the child is given the paternal surname of his mother as a surname:

It is understood that this does not apply in case which the parents of this child were married but their marriage was dissolved within the ten months immediately preceding the birth:

It is further provided that details relating to the father will be entered at any time after the registration of the birth if the written consent of both parents is brought to the Registry, as provided for in the Parent-Child Relations Act or a Court Order establishing paternity.

In regards to Registration of exposed infant data, the law states that any person who finds and assumes responsibility for an exposed infant must, within seven days since the discovery, notify this fact to the Registrar of the District where the infant was found and the Registrar shall proceed with the corresponding entry in any manner the Registrar General may wish to designate. The registration made in accordance with this article shall be canceled if at any later time the identity of the exposed infant is to be ascertained and if the actual facts have been or can be registered.

Competent authorities register all children born in the country unconditionally, whether parents have entered the Republic illegally and/or the children are stateless, or born in the areas that are not under the effective control of the government and issue the birth certificate.

In cases of foreigners residing in Cyprus, the Civil Registry and Migration Department upon notification of a child birth, grants approval for registration of the child as dependent visitor.

Cyprus has strengthened existing civil registration system by making birth registration universally accessible, through improving access by bringing services closer to the people (operating citizen's service centers throughout Cyprus in central and rural points), and through digitalization of the Civil Registry System.

3. What measures are taken in your country to address vulnerabilities related to the gender dimension of human trafficking?

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

According to the previous report, Law 60(I)/2014 entered into force in 2014 in order to comply with Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on the prevention and combat of human trafficking. In accordance with Article 4(1):

"The implementation of this Law by any service involved and non-governmental organization and, in particular, the enjoyment of measures to protect and promote the rights of victims shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status."

Additionally, Article 47 of the Law 60(I)/2014 provides for the following measures to assist and support victims, as well as to protect their privacy:

"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.

A residence permit is also available to all identified victims of trafficking free of charge. The Civil Registry and Migration Department grants residence permits to victims of trafficking recognized by the Police upon identification. All recognized victims receive a work permit in addition to a residence permit and have the opportunity to apply for the Minimum Guaranteed Income.

Interviews and statements from victims (potential) are generally conducted by police officers of the same gender or in accordance with their willing. The same procedure is followed for children who are victims of human trafficking, and every interview is conducted in the presence of the child's legal guardian. The victims are interviewed by clinical psychologists prior to contacting the police, assessing their special needs, which are properly considered throughout the entire process. Furthermore, the government shelter is exclusively available to female (potential) victims of sexual exploitation.

In this regard, trainings of police officers are considered an important tool for promoting issues of vulnerability regarding gender-based human trafficking. Trainings of police officers are of particular importance to this purpose. By providing as much information as possible to officials, all partners involved in this procedure. Training, education, and awareness are aimed to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation. Also, in accordance with the National Referral Mechanism, potential victims should be referred.

Furthermore, the members of the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OoCTHB) have continued to receive systematic training on issues related to handling vulnerable victims and victims of trafficking, as well as conducting investigations of THB cases, including financial investigations. It's worth mentioning that, the OoCTHB is a partner at OSCE project, named *"Follow the money"*.

A number of training courses covering human trafficking have also continued to be offered to members of the Immigration Department of the Police and members of Community Policing, as well as courses offered by the Crime Investigation Department. Furthermore, several training programs covering a wide range of the crime of human trafficking were conducted, as well as lectures given to schools and universities students.

During the reporting period, the OoCTHB organized a seminar for translators, on how to handle victims of THB.

Moreover, the OoCTHB works closely with the Commissioner of Gender Equality in order to provide effective assistance to victims based on Gender. The Commissioner provides guidance and advice to ensure that the best service possible is provided. As part of OoCTHB's mission to create a positive environment, initiatives that promote gender equality and respect for all genders are actively

supported. On 18/10/2023, the Commissioner of Gender Equality had an official visit at the office which served as an opportunity to reinforce both stakeholders' commitment to support victims, regardless of their gender.

4. What specific measures are taken to reduce the vulnerability to trafficking of persons from disadvantaged minorities? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:
- a. research;
 - b. information, awareness-raising and education campaigns;
 - c. socio-economic initiatives targeting underlying and structural causes;
 - d. education, vocational training and job placement programmes.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND YOUTH ΥΠΑΝ (questions a, b, c & d)

The MOESY has developed and implemented an upgraded educational policy aiming at the smooth integration of pupils with migrant background into the educational system of Cyprus. The policy document was approved by the Minister and the departments of the Ministry developed an action plan with a variety of targeted actions, through the prism of an intercultural approach, anti-racist education and the methodology of teaching Greek as a second language. The policy focuses on five priority areas: (1) learning the Greek language, (2) reception of newly arrived children with a migrant background, (3) education and teachers' in-service training, (4) data collection and analysis of the needs of pupils with a migrant background and (5) intercultural approach in the new curricula.

The MOESY's policy regarding the education of pupils with migrant background aims at their smooth integration into the Cyprus Educational System. In response to the demands of contemporary society and the changing social environment, the Ministry is promoting the implementation of differentiated educational measures and policies to assist in the smooth and effective integration of groups with different cultural and linguistic identities. The Department of Primary Education makes provisions to evenly distribute pupils with migrant background in the various districts, so that teachers can support their unique educational needs in a more effective way.

Multicultural education is currently being practiced through various support measures. These measures can be categorised as measures for language support, which refer to the learning of Greek as a second language and measures to facilitate the smooth integration of groups with multicultural and multilingual identities. The model that is currently being used is the mainstreaming programme in which pupils with migrant background participate in classes along with the native Greek-speaking pupils. There is also a flexible system of intervention within the regular school timetable. This involves placing pupils with migrant background in different classes for a specific number of teaching periods per week. These classes focus on the intensive learning of Greek and offer specialised assistance according to the pupils' specific needs.

The Department of Primary Education has implemented several measures to promote multicultural education. It provides all schools with educational materials, including books for the teaching of Greek, activity and exercise books, as well as teachers' books with methodological instructions and a variety of suggestions for mainly communicative activities. It also organises, in cooperation with the Pedagogical Institute, in-service training seminars and conferences for teachers who teach pupils with migrant background, so as to offer teachers the opportunity to further develop their learning and teaching approaches.

The Department of Primary Education continued the implementation of measures to ensure access to education for Roma pupils. More specifically, during the school year 2022-2023, the following were implemented:

- a) Teaching the Gurbetchian language as the dialect of Roma origin. The teaching activities were implemented during the afternoon programme of the school.
- b) Special support teaching, through the European programme "*School and Social Inclusion Actions+*", with assistant class teacher, promoting the learning process.
- c) Upgrading and enrichment of Turkish language and Turkish language teaching for Roma children.
- d) Implementation of a special project which focused on working with Roma families. The seminars were designed to convince parents to enroll their children in school.
- e) The Ministry has also implemented an in-service programme for the school staff which concerned training on how to embrace diversity and promote tolerance in their school.

The department of Secondary Education is implementing various measures to ensure access to education for Roma students. More specifically, the following are implemented in a secondary school where a number of Roma pupils is enrolled:

- 1) Employment of a Turkish Cypriot teacher who taught Turkish language 6 periods per week, History, Muslim religion and other social issues.
- 2) Employment of a bilingual teacher in order to overcome the linguistic barrier arising from the low proficiency in the Greek language. Turkish Cypriot/Roma children attended Greek language lessons 6 periods per week. It is important to stress that Greek was taught as a second language and following the different level of attainment in Greek (Ellinomatheia) a differentiated instruction was employed during the lessons. The teacher also helped students improve academic achievement in other lessons of the curriculum.
- 3) Special support teaching, through the European co-funded programme "School and Social Inclusion Actions+", with the provision for an assistant class teacher, promoting the learning process.
- 4) Active participation of Turkish Cypriot/Roma pupils in various school events (anti-racist events, school conferences, extra curriculum activities).
- 5) Cooking, graffiti, athletic events and other activities, both in morning and afternoon hours, in the framework of the implementation of the programme "School and Social Inclusion Actions".
- 6) Regular Visits to the mosque of the region.
- 7) Provision of access to a computer/ a tablet and internet at home, where storages in personal equipment and internet at home is reported.
- 8) Provision of teaching of Greek as a second language, free of charge, in state institute for further education to Parents and Guardians of Roma Children, in order to encourage participation of Cyprus Roma parents and guardians to education.
- 9) Provision of homeschool program to Turkish-Cypriot/ Roma students at a high risk for school failure.
- 10) Participation in the National Platform for Roma, coordinated by the Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance. As far as the promotion of respect and openness towards diversity is concerned, the creation of a sensitization culture against racism and intolerance and the promotion of equality and respect is an integral part of the Curricula of various subjects (e.g. History, Literature, Modern Greek Language, Religious Education).
- 11) The MoESY continued to provide breakfast during the school year 2020 - 2021 to Roma pupils. The aim of this Programme is to secure those children from disadvantaged families a nutritious breakfast to minimize the possibility of detrimental consequences from possible malnutrition, which can affect not only the pupils' school performance but also their overall physical and mental health and can potentially lead to social exclusion and increase the risk of early school leaving. The programme, which was co-funded, by European and National Social Funds is implemented from the very first school day of each new school year. It must be noted that despite the special conditions that prevailed, during the school year 2020 – 2021, due to COVID-19, the MoESY, in partnership with the canteen administrators, the schools' principals and staff, implemented the above programme successfully, so that pupils in need would receive their daily breakfast with the highest possible level of discretion, confidentiality and respect to their dignity.

Moreover, the Law for Compulsory Attendance and Provision for Free Education (L. 24(I)/1993) ensures that all children residing in the Republic of Cyprus are entitled to free and compulsory education from the age of 4 years and 8 months up to 15 years: http://archeia.moec.gov.cy/mc/368/kanonismoι_1993_2004_anepisimi_enopoiisi.pdf

School Counsellors, following the Career Counselling and Educational Services (CCES) guidelines and in accordance with the legislation for compulsory schooling take action to reduce the dropout of children from disadvantaged groups. To be more specific, the School Counsellor in collaboration with the Education Team, the Head of Department, the Assistant Head and the parents addresses the risk and intervenes through the indicated Counselling Procedure:

- Recommends referral to the School's Educational Psychologist with whom a multidisciplinary group is put together to support the student systemically. In some occasions, the Social Welfare Services are involved.
- If appropriate/needed recommends the student's transfer to **Preparatory Apprenticeship**
- In cooperation with Career Counsellors and with the help of Psychologists, students are offered the chance to discover their talents and abilities which will also empower their self-confidence. They will be better equipped to choose the relevant specialisation suited for them if they decide to continue to the Core Apprenticeship. If appropriate/needed recommends involvement of the Immediate Intervention Team. The role of the Team is to provide direct cooperation and support in schools, for management of extreme delinquency phenomena. The purpose of this specific Team is to deal with and suppress escalation of extreme behavior in the area within the school unit. It intervenes after a written request on behalf of the school and works for the strengthening the school unit, in the development, promotion and implementation of a specific Plan of Action for each student individually. This, includes educational and administrative actions, aimed both at part, as well as in holistic support for students in need.

MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES

All national minorities that legally reside in Cyprus have free or limited access, depending on their residence status, to the labour market. The Public Employment Services (PES) of the Department of Labour offer all job seekers, without discrimination, free of charge assistance in finding employment, through registration, job search services and placement services, which include vocational guidance, counselling and referrals to training programmes and job vacancies. Furthermore, all national minorities that legally reside in Cyprus, can participate in the Employment Subsidization Schemes that are promoted by the Department of Labour.

In the period 2018-2023, the Department of Labour hired 30 new temporary Employment Counsellors – placed in PES Offices throughout the Republic of Cyprus – for the provision of individualized services to the unemployed, mainly people belonging to vulnerable groups, in order to improve the services offered by the PES. A new call for the recruitment of 30 new Employment Counsellors for the period 2024-2029 has been published.

5. What specific measures are taken to reduce the vulnerability to THB of persons with disabilities? Please provide information in the following areas:
 - a. deinstitutionalisation, including community and family-based services for children and support for independent living;

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Cyprus General Health System offers rehabilitation and home care services in order to support persons with temporary or permanent disabilities.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

High priority is given to vulnerable people and families with children at risk, including arrangements for housing and accommodation. With a Decision dated 7/10/2020, the Council of Ministers approved to cover the living expenses of families of Applicants for International Protection with minor children (regardless of vulnerability) and vulnerable persons, as defined in article 9KG of the Refugee Laws 2000-2022 (e.g. pregnant women, people with disabilities, former children in the care of the Director of SWS, victims of THB, victims of sexual abuse, etc), in temporary accommodation (hotels and / or other accommodation) for a period of (1) one to (3) three months, in order to help them, as soon as possible, to find a permanent place of residence in the community. Additionally, Social Welfare Officers advise and support vulnerable people and families with children, in locating and securing housing, cooperate with housing officers, provide interpretation services or even make specific housing allocation.

The government also provides a rent subsidy and a monthly allowance to all victims of trafficking who are living outside the shelter (including female sex trafficking victims who choose not to stay at the shelter, female labour trafficking victims and male victims). In addition, victims of trafficking have the right to apply for Guaranteed Minimum Income which includes rent allowance and allowance for disable people. SWS also provide emergency financial assistance to cover basic needs and accommodation if needed.

The SWS provide community based support services to families so that parents may respond efficiently to their parental role. The removal of a child from his/her family is a measure of last record if all other measures have failed to protect a child. At the same time, once a child has been removed from his/her family support services continue so that the child may return home once the family is safe for the child. Family support measures include day care services, family counselling services, reference to psychological services, multidisciplinary services for sexual abused children (Children's house, etc). Most of those services are provided by NGOs that are supervised and subsidised by the SWS.

- b. monitoring institutions and foster families accommodating persons with disabilities;

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Persons with disabilities are monitored individually through a personal care plan and after an evaluation is carried out, accommodation in private Homes for persons with disabilities can be arranged. The SWS are responsible for monitoring the Homes and the services provided to all victims with disabilities. Also, the SWS cover the accommodation costs at the Private Homes for persons with disabilities who have no other financial resources.

Two NGO's are funded by the government for housing programs, through which persons with disabilities victims of trafficking can be accommodated.

Children victims of trafficking are placed into child protection shelters or into foster family, according to the child's best interest.

- c. procedure for the selection and appointment of legal guardians and monitoring of their work;

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Legal Guardians are appointed only in case a child is an unaccompanied minor. The Director of Social Welfare Services is appointed as a representative of the minor within the framework of the criminal investigation and procedure, in cooperation with the Commissioner for Children`s Rights. According to articles 4(1)(f) and (g) of the Commissioner for Children's Rights Law of 2007-2014, the

Commissioner for Children’s Rights can be appointed by Court as a representative in the court proceedings, when there is a conflict of interest between the child and the parents/guardians.

- d. access to adequate accommodation, education and work;

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The SWS of the DMSW ensure that safe and suitable accommodation is provided to all victims of trafficking. High priority is given to vulnerable people and families with children at risk, including arrangements for housing and accommodation.

With a Decision dated 7/10/2020, the Council of Ministers approved to cover the living expenses of families of Applicants for International Protection with minor children (regardless of vulnerability) and vulnerable persons, as defined in article 9KG of the Refugee Laws 2000-2022 (e.g. pregnant women, people with disabilities, former children in the care of the Director of SWS, victims of THB, victims of sexual abuse, etc), in temporary accommodation (hotels and / or other accommodation) for a period of (1) one to (3) three months, in order to help them, as soon as possible, to find a permanent place of residence in the community.

Accommodation is also 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. 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.

The government provides a rent subsidy and a monthly allowance to all victims of trafficking who are living outside the shelter (including female sex trafficking victims who choose not to stay at the shelter, female labour trafficking victims and male victims). In addition, victims of trafficking have the right to apply for Guaranteed Minimum Income which includes rent allowance and allowance for persons with disabilities. SWS also provide emergency financial assistance to cover basic needs and accommodation if needed.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

(*Please see answer provided in Q4d – applicable also to persons with disabilities.)

Additionally, the Department of Labour currently promotes a Subsidy Scheme Providing Incentives for the Employment of People with Disabilities as also a Subsidy Scheme Providing Incentives for the Employment of People with Chronic Diseases.

- e. access to information and reporting/complaints mechanisms which are accessible to persons with disabilities.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Health System Commissioner accepts all kind of complaints regarding the services offered by the health system which are investigated and taken into consideration.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Victims receive services and benefits as specified in the anti-trafficking law. Immediate information is provided as a standard procedure to all presumed victims of trafficking referred by NGOs or other competent authorities according to Article 44 of Law 60(I)/2014 about the types of support available, the identification process, the conditions and procedure for applying protection measures, the conditions for obtaining legal advice, the international protection application process, and the procedure to claim compensation and immediately notify the Police anti-trafficking unit (Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings - OoCTHB) according to Article 45 of Law 60(I)/2014.

In order to safeguard and respect the rights of victims of trafficking the Social Welfare Services of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare focuses on providing support and protection services to victims. All victims receive immediate support and assistance, including accommodation. Furthermore, victims are entitled to financial, psychological, and social support, which they receive from the government, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

Translation and interpretation services are provided to all victims of trafficking at the stages of protection and social support, during the period of their stay at the state shelter. Any interaction of the victim with the social welfare officers takes place in the presence and services of an interpreter qualified in the language needed.

Further to the above, a subgroup of the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group was formed, comprising the representatives of the National Coordinator, Civil Registry and Migration Department, Social Welfare Services, Asylum Service, Anti-trafficking Police Office, Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and an NGO. The subgroup has drafted a Guide, which includes information on the referral and identification procedure, the rights of the victim and contact details of the public services, NGOs and Embassies and Consulates in Cyprus.

The Guide is compact yet thorough and inclusive, written in simple language. It is planned to use illustrations, so as to make the text easily comprehensible. It will be translated in several languages. Currently the text of the Guide is under final review.

Since 2021, the Police operates a four-digit hotline (1497), which receives anonymous information for human trafficking matters. At the same time, information is given through the citizen's hotline (1460) for trafficking matters.

6. How do you ensure in practice that an assessment of the vulnerability and special needs of asylum seekers is carried out at an early stage? What procedures are followed when vulnerability to THB is detected? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

- a. provision of comprehensive and accessible information, in a range of relevant languages, on the rights of asylum seekers, indicators of THB, rights of victims of THB, and contacts of relevant organisations;

ASYLUM SERVICE

Concerning Asylum Service procedures in regards to the identification of asylum seekers that are potential trafficking victims, all asylum seekers undergo through vulnerability assessment done by expert officers, immediately after the lodge of their application in Pournara Reception Center.

If during the vulnerability assessment, the vulnerability expert identifies indications of trafficking, he/she informs the applicant that his/her statements indicate potential trafficking, and inform them that they have the right to file a report to the police, that the competent police department will call them later on, and that the asylum procedure is not affected by the report to the police, and that Asylum Service is obliged by the principle of confidentiality.

Furthermore, they complete the referral report with the consent of the applicant. In additions, asylum seekers are given leaflets by the police and the telephone number where they can call free of charge to report anything related to trafficking. The leaflet is currently available in English and French however, recent information by the police says that they are preparing leaflets in more languages.

*(please also see below, 6.c)

b. access to legal assistance and representation;

Potential victims of trafficking and recognized victims of trafficking are provided legal assistance and representation by the government. The Office of the General Attorney of the Government is representing the said persons to court proceedings against related to their trafficking.

*(please also see below, 6.c)

c. access to decent accommodation, health (including psychological) care, work and education.

(*Joint Answer to all three questions)

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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 SWS. 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 SWS 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, including screening of vulnerable asylum seekers from Pournara Centre.

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.

In order to safeguard and respect the rights of victims of trafficking the SWS of the DMSW focuses on providing support and protection services to victims. All victims receive immediate support and assistance, including accommodation. Furthermore, victims are entitled to financial, psychological, and social support, which they receive from the government, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

ASYLUM SERVICE

Potential victims of trafficking are referred by the Asylum Service to the Social Welfare Services which is responsible for providing further assistance to the applicants, including decent accommodation to specific incognito places, health and psychological care, access to work in the specific areas that asylum seekers are allowed to work, and also access to education in public schools for them if they are minors or for their children.

Furthermore, there is a safe zone space that accommodates vulnerable single women and women with children within Pournara. The specific safe zone accommodates mostly women who are potential victims of trafficking, with carers, social workers and 24/7 women security guards.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Asylum seekers have access to the labour market one month after the date of their application for international protection submission in certain sectors and occupations. Employment can start immediately with the submission of a declaration of temporary employment by the employer provided that a regular application, with all the necessary documentation including a Contract of Employment duly stamped by the Department of Labour and signed by both the employee and the employer, is submitted within the predefined time frame of seven days.

Additionally, it is important to note that the Labour Officers who provide services to asylum seekers have been trained on trafficking issues and on how to prevent and manage such incidents.

Moreover, due to the increasing flows of asylum seekers the Department of Labour is in the process of hiring 10 temporary Labour Officers in order to increase the PES capacity in providing employment services to asylum seekers and to employers who wish to employ non-EU nationals. They will offer assistance to asylum seekers in finding employment through registration, job search services and placement services, including vocational guidance, counseling and referrals to training programmes and job vacancies. The Officers' contract will be for 24 months with the possibility of biannual renewal until the end of 2030.

(*Please also see answer provided in Q4d- applicable also to asylum seekers.)

7. What specific measures are taken to reduce the vulnerability to THB of migrant workers (including seasonal workers, seconded/posted workers, domestic workers, diplomatic household employees)? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

- a. provision of comprehensive and accessible information, in a range of relevant languages, on migration and labour laws, worker protection and contacts of relevant organisations;

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

The Department of Labour, as the competent public authority for the migrant workers' contracts, provides relevant information in Greek and English through the websites of the Department of Labour and the Department of Labour Relations.

- b. provision of clear employment contracts;

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

A Contract of Employment written both in Greek and English, should be signed by the employer and the employee. The Contract of Employment includes the terms and conditions of employment, for instance the emoluments, working hours, overtime work, annual leave, sick-leave, national holidays etc. It also covers the rights and obligations of both sides (employees and employers). A template of the Contract of Employment can be found on the Department of Labour website.

- c. access to decent work and housing, health care, social services and education;

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES

The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance's existing policy for the employment of third country nationals, provides for the equal treatment between local and foreign workers.

The Public Employment Services (PES) of the Department of Labour offer all job seekers who have access to the labour market, without discrimination, assistance in finding employment, through registration, job search services and placement services, which include vocational guidance, counselling and referrals to training programmes and job vacancies.

EU citizens have free access to employment. Recognized refugees, persons with complementary protection status and persons with temporary protection status, as well as all victims of trafficking and/or sexual exploitation, also have free access to employment and the services provided by the Public Employment Service. Asylum seekers have access to specific sectors of employment regulated by a ministerial order. Other non-EU citizens that legally reside in Cyprus and have a work permit have access to employment equal to Cypriots. It is worth noting that recently the Department of Labour is promoting the simplification of the processes regarding the employment of third country nationals and asylum seekers.

- d. possibility to change employers;

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

According to the current policy, the right to change employer is granted to every third-country national employee after being granted a release document. Selection of new employer though is restricted to one offering same occupation and same economic activity. The main requisition though, is approval granted to the employer from the Department of Labour allowing the employment of third country nationals. This is not the case though for domestic workers.

- e. access to confidential complaints mechanisms;

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

The procedure for submitting complaints has been specified by the Council of Ministers on 15th November 2019. The employee must refer to the Immigration Unit and in the case the complaint indicates labour dispute, it will be forwarded to the Department of Labour Relations for further actions. In the case of other kind of disputes, i.e. sexual abuse, these are forwarded to the police.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES

In the event of violations of terms and conditions of employment, third country nationals have the right to submit a complaint against their employers, to the Competent Authority of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, which is the Department of Labour Relations.

Also, any person that might be facing sexual discrimination including sexual harassment can submit a complaint to the Equality Inspectors who under "The Equal Treatment for Men and Women in Employment and Vocational Training Law" (N. 205(I) /2002) not only secure the enforcement of the applicable legal provisions but also facilitate a settlement between the parties.

According to section 27 of the Law, the procedure of investigating a complaint by the Gender Equality Inspectors of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance is set. More specifically the gender equality inspector will proceed with mediation between the complainer and the employer in order to resolve the issue. If an agreement is reached the inspector will write a report to be signed by both parties, otherwise a report will be drafted and it can be presented before the Court.

It is noted that from the first stage of submitting a sexual harassment complaint at work, the Inspectors give strict instructions /recommendations for non co-existence of victim and perpetrator until at least

the investigation of the complaint. Recommendations are also given to employers both through brochures and online (Department of Labour website) in order to help minimize or avoid such incidents. Victims are also advised to file a complaint at the police.

- f. right to join trade unions and to engage in collective bargaining;

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES

Third Country National workers have the right to join a Union of their own choice.

- g. legal avenues for regularising their stay in the country.

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

A TCN to arrive in Cyprus and work, needs to acquire an entry permit for employment purposes. When the TCN arrives in the areas under the effective control of the government, the TCN is granted a residence permit, which can be renewed depending on the needs of the employer. In case a migrant worker wants to change employer, this need to be examined by the Labour Department and subsequently by the CRMD and approve the change of the employer. The Aliens and Migration Law provides for different types of residence permits, and should a TCN wants to prolong his/her stay in Cyprus, he/she applies to the CRMD and each case is examined on its own merits.

Any migrant arriving in Cyprus irregularly and then proceeds to file an asylum application, goes through a screening process for any vulnerability indicators, and in case of any signs of victimization, he/she subsequently enters the Referral Mechanism for THB.

8. Do labour inspectorates and other authorities checking workplace conditions possess a comprehensive mandate, and adequate human, financial and technical resources, to conduct regular, proactive workplace inspections in all economic sectors, with a particular emphasis on high-risk sectors prone to exploitation? How do labour inspectors co-operate with other authorities and trade unions? Is there a separation between labour inspection and immigration control functions?

MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES

An additional budget has been approved in order for the Labour Inspectorate to proceed with the recruitment, for a temporary period of 24 months, of 30 new co-inspectors in the Labour Inspectorate. With this the Inspectorate will be in a position to increase inspections since it will have the enhanced capacity to set more teams of inspectors and co-inspectors on a district level.

9. How are employment and recruitment agencies regulated and monitored? Are all stages of the recruitment process, including advertisements, selection, transport, and placement, subject to regulation? Are recruitment fees and related costs prohibited from being borne by workers or jobseekers?

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The operation of employment and recruitment agencies in Cyprus is regulated by the Private Employment Agencies Laws (L. 126(I)/2012 & L. 150(I)/2013) and Regulations (R. 280/2012 & R. 417/2013). According to the Law the Private Employment Agencies (PrEAs) are required to secure a license in order to offer their services legally. PrEAs are expected to operate from fully fledged offices, keep proper records and provide quality services.

The Law sets the conditions and qualifications that need to be fulfilled in relation to natural or legal persons operating such agencies. The academic qualifications and the criminal record of the persons responsible for the operation of such agencies are examined, in order to safeguard that the persons

involved, are trustworthy and are able to provide quality services. In case the person responsible for the operation of an existing agency has been convicted for a serious offense (i.e. sexual exploitation, trafficking, or any other serious criminal offence) the license of the specific agency is revoked. Moreover, the said Law prohibits PrEAs from providing wrong information regarding the terms and conditions of employment and the qualifications of the applicants, provide for control mechanisms which may lead to withdrawal of an agency's operating license and the imposition of administrative and penal sanctions for the infringement of the Law.

Furthermore, according to article 17 of the Law, PrEAs should provide the following quality services:

- Evaluate the skills & qualifications of the jobseekers,
- Evaluate the vacancy and inform the prospective employee accurately about the scope of the work, the qualifications needed as well as the terms of employment offered,
- Provide any information to the prospective employee as regards job vacancies taking into account their specialization and working experience,
- Fully and accurately inform the potential employer about the qualifications, skills and work experience of the prospective employee.

According to article 18 of the Law any advertisements posted by PrEAs may not contain elements that directly or indirectly refer to any form of discrimination.

The said Law prohibits PrEAs from imposing any direct or indirect charge/fee on employees for the purpose of job search, placement and maintenance of employment. More precisely, according to article 21 of the Law a PrEA is not allowed to receive the remuneration of the employee on his behalf, even if the employee gives such consent. Any violation of this provision constitutes a criminal offence.

In order to enforce the provisions of the abovementioned Law, the Department of Labour of the Ministry of labour and Social Insurance, inspects the private employment agencies at least once a year. During 2022, 183 PrEAs were inspected and the license of eighteen (18) agencies was revoked mainly because they didn't comply with the provisions of the Law (failure to provide the required documents). Finally, the Competent Authority has imposed an administrative fine on one agency which was involved in fraudulent practices.

10. How do you prevent and sanction abuses of legal constructions such as self-employment, letter-box companies, sub-contracting, and posting of workers, which may be used to commit THB?

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES

According to the current policy and the provisions of the Aliens and Immigration Law, for the category of workers who are third country nationals with a temporary work permit, asylum seekers or students, a contract is always signed between the employer and the worker which is ratified by the Department of Labour in order to ensure the basic rights of the third country nationals based on the employment laws and the collective agreements (where they exist). The employers in agriculture, as well as in other sectors of the economy, are obliged to properly implement the contract of employment which is designed to safeguard equal treatment of third country national with local workers.

Where there is evidence that an employer violates the working conditions regulations, reported by either the Labour Inspection Service, the Police, or the employee, appropriate measures are taken against the employer including cancellation of the (employer) permit.

11. How do your country's migration legislation and policies seek to prevent THB by enabling lawful migration and legal employment opportunities accompanied by decent work conditions?

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

For a TCN to enter Cyprus for employment purposes, an entry permit has to be granted, which always starts with an application submitted to the Civil Registry and Migration Department by the employer, who is further assessed as an employer that can employ TCN, based on certain criteria.

MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES

According to the provisions of the Aliens and Immigration law and the current policy, for the category of workers with a temporary work permit, a contract is always signed between the employer and the worker which is verified and stamped by the Department of Labour in order to protect the working rights of third country nationals based on the labour laws and the collective agreements (in sectors where they exist). Where there is evidence that an employer violates the contract or the working conditions regulations, reported by either the Labour Inspections Service or the Police, appropriate measures are taken against the employer including cancellation of the employer approval to employ third country nationals.

Further to that, regular inspections by the Labour Inspectorate, sometimes together with members of the Anti-trafficking Police Office, are carried out in areas with a higher risk to vulnerability as proved through practice.

The Department of Labour Relations strives, through its complaint resolution procedures, to protect the rights of all workers that are employed in Cyprus, which can either be Cypriots, EU nationals as well as migrant workers that originate from third countries. For migrant workers, a special mechanism for resolving complaints is established at each District Labour Relations Office, where complaints regarding violations of their employment contract are examined within 3 weeks from the date they are received.

It should be emphasised that, at each District Labour Relations Office, officers strive to provide further awareness to migrant workers, regarding their employment rights, in an effort to combat forced labour.

It should be noted that this procedure is additional to the legal right 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.

12. How do your country's law and policies to discourage demand that leads to THB address particular vulnerabilities and groups at risk of THB?

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

On January 2022, the Ministry of Justice & Public Order and the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Police and the SWS for the referral, handling, protection and briefing of potential and recognized victims of trafficking, supporting and strengthening their efforts to effectively and jointly combat trafficking.

ASYLUM SERVICE

In regards to asylum seekers, the Decree no. 413/2021 of the Minister of Labor, provides that asylum seekers have access to several work sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fishing, animal shelters and hotels, and other six sectors.

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

On 27 July 2019, Law 117(I)/2019 amending the Anti-trafficking law [60(I)/2014] was enacted.

This Law aims to strengthen the prevention and prosecution framework of the Law. To this end, it increases the penalties of the offences provided in the Law as follows:

Article 6 - **Human trafficking**: penalty raised from 10 years to up to 25 years imprisonment

Article 7 (1) - **Human trafficking for organ removal**: penalty raised from 25 years to life imprisonment

Article 7 (2) – **Human trafficking for organ removal**: penalty raised from 30 years to life imprisonment in the event where the life of the victim is in danger.

Article 8 – **Human trafficking for labour exploitation**: penalty raised from 6 years to up to 15 years and in the event where the victim is a child, the penalty is raised from 10 years to life imprisonment.

Article 9 – **Human trafficking for sexual exploitation**: penalty raised from 10 years to up to 25 years.

Article 10 – **Child trafficking**: penalty raised from 25 years to life imprisonment.

Article 11 – **Child trafficking for sexual exploitation**: penalty raised from 20 years to life imprisonment.

Article 17 – **Criminalization of the use of services (client)**: the penalty is raised from 3 years, to up to 10 years or 50,000 euro, or both. In the event where the victim is a child, the penalty is raised from 10 years or 80,000 euro, or both to life imprisonment or 100,000 euro or both.

Article 17A – new article concerning the **criminalization exclusively of the use of sexual services**. This article stipulates that any person who demands or receives or uses the services of a victim of sexual exploitation, is guilty of this offence. It therefore removes, for the case of sexual exploitation, the "reasonable suspicion" condition. Penalties are the same as in article 17.

Article 2 – **terms**: Introduction of the term "demand" (see below)

Article 19 - **Exclusion of certain defences**: Introduction of two new paragraphs (see below)

Elaboration on the amendment of Article 17:

The original provision provided:

"17. Any person who can reasonably assume that the labour he uses or any of the victim services are the object of the offenses provided for in this Part, shall be guilty of an offense and, on conviction, shall be liable to a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding three (3) years or to a fine not exceeding fifteen thousand euro (€15,000) or to both such penalties; Provided that in case where the victim is a child, a person who is sentenced for an offense by virtue of this section, shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) years or to a fine not exceeding eighty thousand euro (€80,000) or to both such penalties."

Since it was practically impossible to prove that the user could reasonably assume that the person was a victim of trafficking, this provision has never been substantially implemented. Due to the inability to implement this provision, an amending proposal was introduced so that proof of knowledge would not be needed. The main purpose of the amendment was to make it possible to criminalize the conduct of clients who request or receive or use victim services and were essentially protected by the provision of law as it was, which provided for the "reasonable assumption", with the result that it was not easy to establish the offense involved.

The amended Article 17 reads as follows:

Criminalization of use of victim services

"17. Any person who can reasonably assume that the labour he uses or any of the victim services are the object of the offenses provided for in this Part, shall be guilty of an offense and, on conviction, shall be liable to a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) years or to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euro (€50,000) or to both such penalties;

Provided that in case where the victim is a child, a person who is sentenced for an offense by virtue of this section, shall be liable to life imprisonment or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand euro (€100,000), or to both such penalties:

Provided further that, for all offenses of Part II relating to victim services which are the object of sexual exploitation the provisions of Section 17A of this Law shall solely apply”.

New Article 17A reads as follows:

Criminalization of demand, receipt or use of services of sexual exploitation

“17A. Subject to the provisions of this Law, anyone who demands or receives or uses labour or any services of victims which are the object of sexual exploitation, within the meaning of section 2 of this Law, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) years or to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euro (€50,000) or to both such penalties;

Provided that in case the victim is a child, any person who is sentenced for an offense by virtue of the provisions of this section, shall be subject to life imprisonment or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand euro (€100,000) or to both such penalties.”

Term “demand” is also introduced in the law (Article 2), stipulating that it includes:

- a) the client, who seeks and purchases services of human trafficking;
- b) the victim’s trafficker, who recruits, involves in prostitution or otherwise exploits the victims;
- c) the employer, who hires the services that victims are forced to provide;
- d) the owner of a center or other place of entertainment and recreation where victims are exploited, and
- e) any other person involved in any way in the trafficking chain.

In addition, the fact that a person (the customer/user) may claim that he was not aware that the person from whom he received the service was a victim indeed, does not constitute a defence. To this end, Article 19 now reads as follows:

Exclusion of certain defences

“19. It shall not be a defence for the accused in relation to the offenses provided for in this Law, any of the following circumstances –

- (a) The fact that the accused was not aware of or that the person from whom he demanded or received, or used services of sexual nature was a person who has suffered trafficking and/or exploitation;*
- (b) the fact that the accused was not aware of the age of the victim trafficking and/or exploitation from whom he demanded or received, or used services of sexual nature;*
- (c) The fact that the accused was not aware or did not believe that the victim of the offence was a child or of a particularly vulnerable situation; or*
- (d) The fact that the act for which the accused was charged shall not constitute an offence or shall not be prohibited in whole or in part within the state where it has taken place.”*

13. How do your country’s legislation and practice ensure that there is an individual assessment of protection needs at the borders prior to any refusals of entry or expulsions?

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

The National Referral Mechanism provides for the 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 provisions Mechanism for a more effective outcome. The NRM provides formalized procedures for identifying victims of human trafficking and that all potential victims are referred to the Police which are the competent authority for the identification of victims.

Apart from the National Referral Mechanism, Cyprus Police applies the Manual for the Identification of VOTs. The identification Manual includes guidelines for children, victims of human trafficking and it is being used by all Police Officers, especially front-line officers.

In addition, the identification of victims is based on a **Specific Victim Assessment** Form, which was approved by the Chief of Police and is based on international identification indicators. More specifically, since July 2020, the OoCTHB has adopted the Special Assessment Form for presume victims of trafficking. The completion of this form allows transparency concerning the recognition of the victims. The form is evaluated before a final decision is made on whether a person is a victim of trafficking or not. This special assessment form is based on recognizing key indicators for each form of exploitation, in identifying potential victims.

According to the articles 32 of the Law 60(I)/2014, the Police are responsible to provide the victim with all necessary information, in the language he/she understands, regarding the protection of his/her interests, including all legal information and advice needed. This practice is followed by the Police during personal contacts with the victims, before, during and after the criminal proceeding, and during risk assessments procedures of all victims. All information is given in the native language of the victim, by using the services of interpreters.

In addition, our office has organized training for first-line officers, including immigration officers who work at airports and ports.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Victims of THB including children, are identified either at the point of entry to the Republic of Cyprus (as part of interagency screening for vulnerable/high risk persons) or at a later stage while in the Republic of Cyprus through the process of interviews or due to a referral.

Furthermore, all persons applying for international protection, including unaccompanied children, follow the process of vulnerability assessment by the Asylum Service at the Pournara centre, as a standard operating procedure. In cases of unaccompanied minors, the guardian is present during the vulnerability assessment.

14. What measures are taken to prevent THB in sports? What sectors and categories/groups of people have been identified as being at risk?

CYPRUS SPORTS ORGANISATION

The Cyprus Sports Organisation does not implement any measures which specifically and/or specifically relate to the thematic section Trafficking in Human Beings.

15. Have you identified online practices that may increase the risk of becoming a victim of THB for different forms of exploitation? What mechanisms have been developed to prevent the misuse of information and communication technology for THB purposes? What is the practical effect of their implementation?

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

Technology is identified to have a significant impact on human trafficking, especially during the recruitment and exploitation phases of the trafficking process. Specifically, the increase in

advertisements, sites/applications, or apps creates opportunities for THB offenders to exploit existing vulnerabilities due to the increase in these activities. Moreover, the increase in online socialization and personal interactions, along with the online job search, provide THB offenders with an easy way to recruit and exploit victims through online socialization. As a result, a number of mechanisms have been developed to prevent misuse of information and communication technologies. Thus, manually searching the online advertisements for sexual services, aiming to enter close groups in order to identify encrypted communication between traffickers and victims, collaborating with specialized units within the police with investigators with advanced computer skills, and utilizing OSINT (open-source intelligence). By implementing the above, it is possible to identify the victim through online ads, or through the nicknames used by those offering sexual activities. Furthermore, the police use a court order to obtain telephone communications data, between the victims and the traffickers within all the apps possible in order to gain an in-depth understanding of how victims are recruited and exploited online.

Furthermore, an open-source intelligence presentation was included in police training.

16. What measures are taken to raise awareness of the risks of technology-facilitated THB, including among children, parents, teachers, child care professionals and social workers? What technology-based initiatives exist in your country to disseminate information to groups/communities at risk of THB?

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

Cyprus Police contribute to the raising of awareness and training of police officers and other stakeholders either governmental or non-governmental for trafficking in human beings' issues.

Training, education and raise awareness, aim to provide as much information as possible to the officials, to all partners involved as well as to the public, in order to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation. Moreover, they contribute to the referral of presume victims, according to the National Referral Mechanism.

Moreover, the OoCTHB promoted the 24/7 hotline established by the Office in which anyone can make a complaint or provide any information regarding human trafficking. Complaints can be made anonymously. As part of the awareness campaign, small gifts and awareness materials are distributed. In September 2022, the THB platform went live for reporting human trafficking online. This platform is linked to the Cyprus Police website and is monitored daily by members of the OoCTHB.

In addition, members of the OoCTHB participated in the Cyprus Police Week, where awareness materials were distributed and information was provided to citizens.

Also, lectures were given to students at several high schools and Universities.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND YOUTH

The Social Services Officers and Institutional Officers participate in trainings implemented by other agencies including the Police that is the competent authority for ICT facilitated child abuse.

As described in response 2b as well, the Cypriot SIC (Safer Internet Centre), operating under the CyberSafety program, is responsible for promoting a safer, more secure and ethically sound Internet culture among the younger population in Cyprus, through the provision of nationwide, awareness-raising activities, as well as dedicated Helpline and Hotline services. The awareness-raising activities are offered to children, adolescents, teachers, parents and other professionals working with children and promote a safer Internet culture by cultivating digital skills and media literacy, identifying possible risks and challenges that come along with using digital technologies and the Internet including THB, and providing ways to tackle such risks and challenges.

The Cypriot SIC's activities directed towards adults and minors alike, are further delineated as follows:

1. The "Together for a Better Internet" annual video competition is directed towards primary and secondary students and organized by the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute. The contest aims at developing students' media literacy skills, helping them gain knowledge and shape their attitudes regarding the safer use of the Internet. Through the learning process, students engage in activities related to the production of films, such as researching, writing the story, organizing the production, rehearsing the scenes, directing the camera, performing, recording sound, editing and more. Through this activity, children cultivate transferrable skills such as creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking and delve deeper into matters pertaining to Internet safety in general, which includes issues relating to THB. A committee that consists of education and film professionals evaluates the films during the second phase of the contest, where students-creators present their work, followed by a Q&A. Six films are awarded every year. All films are edited at a later stage into 30 TV spots and are broadcast on local stations during the month of February, celebrating Safer Internet Day. The films are, also hosted on the YouTube channel of the Department of Educational Technology: <https://www.youtube.com/@user-vt4vt5ky5f>
More information at: <https://internetsafety.pi.ac.cy/competitions/>, <https://medialiteracy.pi.ac.cy/contests/>
2. A diverse array of school-based lectures/seminars and workshops on the safer use of the Internet. Aiming to educate and raise awareness regarding the responsible and safe use of the Internet, the Cypriot SIC, in collaboration with its partners (Cyprus University of Technology, University of Cyprus, Digital Security Authority, Cyprus Telecommunication Authority, Pancyprian School of Parents and Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth) offers presentations, lectures and workshops for students, adolescents, teachers, parents and other professionals working with children. Through these seminars, participants learn about probable risks and challenges that come along with using digital technologies and the Internet, including THB, and master resolve and prevention mechanisms. For the School Year 2022 – 2023 (October 2022 – May 2023) 114 actions were carried out, in which 4538 students, 348 teachers and 270 parents participated in the available actions.
More information at: <http://internetsafety.pi.ac.cy/educational-workshops/school-seminars-2022-2023/>
3. The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute organises a Biennial Conference on Media Literacy. The event is directed towards teachers, university students, researchers, and anyone interested in understanding issues related to the impact of modern technological advances in education, and the formation of media literate citizens. The next conference will take place on November 8th, 2023.
4. The Student Web Radio Programme: A school-based programme offered by Cyprus Pedagogical Institute to primary and secondary school teachers and students. The aim of the programme is to involve teachers and students in the production of a web radio show/podcast (10-180') that will be broadcast through the European School Radio web platform. The theme of a radio show may vary between any school curricula to extracurricular subjects, including issues of diversity, acceptance, human rights issues and using the Internet in a safe and responsible manner. Teachers are being trained and supported throughout the duration of the programme (usually a school year) on researching, audio recording, editing, and disseminating the radio show so that they can support and guide their students through research and production. Audio equipment is allocated to schools to produce the radio show. Depending on the theme of a radio show, each school may choose to collaborate with local community professionals (e.g., journalists, musicians, human rights activists), NGOs, the Public Sector, and others. More information at: <http://europeanschoolradio.eu>
5. The "Young Coaches for the Internet" is a programme that runs every year aiming at training and educating students on the creative and safe use of the Internet. The programme involves

students who are trained as coaches to support their school and the wider community, with the guidance of teacher-mentors. Young coaches are expected to design and implement an action plan, and develop educational material, if necessary. At the end of the project, students are expected to reflect on their work and share their actions and outputs (products, diaries, etc.) at the final conference of the Department of Educational Technology of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute. Successful schools and students are certified at the end of the school year. More information at: <https://youngcoaches.pi.ac.cy/>

6. The "eSafe Schools" is a national yearly educational program for schools, teachers, and students. The "eSafe Schools" program aims to train teachers such that they promote a culture in the school unit and the wider community, pertaining to the creative, safe, and responsible use of the Internet. Schools develop and implement their own action plan, based on a self-assessment of their current status. At the end of the program, schools reflect on their work and share their actions at the final conference of the Educational Technology Department of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute. More information at: <https://esafeschools.pi.ac.cy/>
7. The CyberSafety Youth Panel of Cyprus, which operates as part of the European project 'Cyprus Safer Internet Centre - CYberSafety – Better Internet for Kids', aims to advance knowledge and enable experience sharing among participants, regarding the creative and safe use of digital technologies and the Internet. Apart from participating in seminars and workshops, the student members of the Youth Panel plan and implement various types of actions in their schools and local communities throughout the year. More information at: <https://cybersafety.cy/activities/youth-panel/>
8. An important part of the Cypriot SIC is the Helpline and Hotline services it offers to the public. Through the Helpline and Hotline services, it's warranted that all users can receive quality guidance and support from qualified operators, in real-time, on topics related to the safe, responsible and ethical use of digital technologies and the Internet, including THB. More information at: <https://internetsafety.pi.ac.cy/1480>, <https://www.cybersafety.cy/helpline>, <https://www.cybersafety.cy/hotline>

17. How do you cooperate with ICT companies and Internet service providers, including content hosts and social media, in preventing THB?

CYPRUS POLICE – CYBERCRIME UNIT

The Cyprus Police cooperate with Internet service providers for the prevention of THB. During analysis of information and in the framework of police investigations, cooperation with Internet Service providers is of great importance, in order to prevent THB, identify victims of THB and for the investigation of THB cases. In order to secure data from such companies, a Court Order is issued and companies are obliged to provide any relevance data.

18. How are policies and practices aimed at preventing THB informed by the experiences of victims and at-risk individuals?

NATIONAL COORDINATOR (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR)

This has not yet been established formally, but will be taken into consideration. In practice however, based on the interviews conducted by the Anti-trafficking Police Unit with the presumed victims, all the information regarding their experience of victimization, is recorded in order to monitor trends and take measures to prevent and shape practices of prevention.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Memorandum signed by the Ministry of Justice & Public Order and the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare is particularly important because it supports the government's efforts to effectively combat

trafficking and to protect the victims. By signing the Memorandum, they are simultaneously sending the clear and strong message of zero tolerance to a serious form of crime such as human trafficking. Both sides have intensified and systematized the efforts made, resulting in an increase in convictions based on strict legislation on combating trafficking. This development is not only positive but also very encouraging because the imposition of severe penalties based on the current strict legislation on combating trafficking, acts also as a deterrent to the commission of similar offences in the future.

However, in addition to preventing and combating trafficking, it is necessary to address the equally important issue of supporting and protecting victims and the implementation of this memorandum is making a major contribution in this direction.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS (Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16)

19. Among the victims of THB identified, were any subjected to exploitation on the basis of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (LGBTI+: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex), especially teenagers and young adults? If yes, did any of them report on police misconduct?

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

No case related to the above was reported during the reporting period.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

There have been victims of THB identified on the basis of their sexual orientation, however there have been no reports on police misconduct.

20. What specific measures are taken to ensure that trafficked persons who are migrant workers, including in an irregular situation, are identified as victims of THB and have access to the rights provided for in the Convention? Is there cooperation with specialised NGOs, trade unions, and employers to enhance the identification and protection of potential victims within these at-risk groups?

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

All victims of THB, including migrant workers receive services and benefits as specified in the anti-trafficking law. Victims are entitled to financial, psychological, and social support, which they receive from the government, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

OFFICE OF THE COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

There are basic guidelines provided in the National Referral Mechanisms' Handbook, which includes the initial indicators of victimization, as well as a special reference explaining the trafficking of minors. Upon referral of a human trafficking victim or a presume victim, the National Referral Mechanism describes the steps and procedures that must be followed by every government department/service or non-governmental organization. All organizations involved in the NRM are concerned with the safety, protection, and welfare of the potential victims.

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, members of the OoCTHB participate in Europol Action Days in order to identify potential VOTs within the framework of EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) as part of the EU Policy Cycle against organized crime. Various forms of human trafficking are targeted, including labour and sexual exploitation, as well as child trafficking.

At the Cyprus Police Academy, members of the Aliens and Immigration Service are regularly trained on potential victims of human trafficking identification and victimization indicators, so that potential victims can be identified and referred to appropriate authorities proactively. It is estimated that approximately seven programs are attended annually by first line officers, most of whom serve at the Mennoya Detention Centre, the Aliens and Immigration Service, the Community Police, and the Crime Investigation Departments. As a result, approximately 250 officers were trained each year on human trafficking issues. Furthermore, training on human trafficking is targeted at newly recruited Police Officers. Before receiving a license from the Ministry of Labour, members of private employment agencies are required to undergo a series of training sessions covering trafficking in human beings and victimization indicators. To help first line police officers identify potential victims, the Victim Identification Manual is distributed during every training session.

The members serving at the OoCTHB, are trained and experienced in handling and interviewing victims. Their primary concern is to build a personal and trusting relationship with the victim, so that they may feel safe and protected. A psychological evaluation and support referral to the Mental Health Services is also provided by the OoCTHB, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Services.

Specifically, it is mentioned that the cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations has been strengthened and developed with the goal of protecting the victims and enhancing their interests. The Cyprus Police signed two Memorandums of Cooperation in January 2022 and 2023 establishing all procedures for identifying victims, conducting operations, and training in order to accomplish this objective.

As part of the training, the Police and European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) organized a vice versa session for all stakeholders working in detention centers or places hosting asylum seekers. This training was focused on providing a better understanding of the rights of asylum seekers, as well as providing a platform for all stakeholders to share their experiences and best practices.

Police also cooperate with NGO's in the area of training and support for THB victims.

21. What measures are in place to encourage victims of THB to report their situation to the authorities and/or civil society organisations?

SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

An analytical Guide which has been drafted by a subgroup of the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group against THB which includes information on the referral and identification procedure, the rights of the victim and contact details of public services, NGOs and Embassies and Consulates in Cyprus, the awareness campaigns organized by the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group, the two four-digit hotline (1497) and (1460) for trafficking matters, are measures that can help and encourage victims of THB to report their case.

22. What specific measures are taken in your country to detect/identify and refer to assistance possible victims of THB at the borders? What measures are taken in your country to identify victims of THB during the examination of asylum applications and prior to the return of persons whose applications are rejected?

ASYLUM SERVICE

Concerning asylum service procedures in regards to the identification of asylum seekers that are potential trafficking victims, all asylum seekers undergo through vulnerability assessment done by expert officers, immediately after the lodge of their application in Pournara Reception Center. If the vulnerability assessors identify indications of possible trafficking, they refer the potential victims of trafficking to the competent authority, that is Social Welfare Services. The Social Welfare Services are then responsible to refer the cases to the police and provide further assistance to the applicants – potential victims of trafficking.

The vulnerability assessment form is signed by the competent officer and the applicant and is part of the applicant's file – that is, the case worker responsible for the examination of the asylum claim has access to that information.

In case that case officers find indications of potential trafficking during the interview for international protection, Asylum Service refer the case to the competent authority, that is Social Welfare Services which will further refer the case to the Police.

The Refugee Law of 2000 acknowledges that asylum seekers who are victims or potential victims of human trafficking need special procedural guarantees, are considered vulnerable persons, and according to the law – and in practice - the examination of their asylum application is prioritized and are handled by expertized officers.

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

The above-mentioned issues are included in the training courses of the Aliens and Immigration Department. Amongst the participants of these courses, are members of the Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Cyprus Police that are placed at Larnaca and Paphos airports, members working at cross-points. It should be noted that, special trainings on THB issues are offered to the members of Mennoyia Detention Centre and to first line officers (ie CID, Police Stations, Immigration, etc.). The trainings include general THB issues, indicators for victims' identification, as well as guidelines for the referral and handling of VOTs.

It should also be noted that, during the examination of asylum applications by the Asylum Service, cases of potential victims of human trafficking are referred to the Welfare Services, according to the National Referral Mechanism and then to the Police for identification. In some cases, asylum seekers were identified as victims of human trafficking.

23. What measures are taken in your country to identify victims of THB in immigration detection centres and prisons?

See answers 20 and 22 above.

24. What services are available in your country to provide specific assistance to particularly vulnerable victims, such as:

- a. persons with disabilities;
- b. LGBTI+ persons;
- c. victims with children;
- d. victims with severe mental and physical trauma;
- e. homeless persons;
- f. other.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Victims of trafficking receive services based on their needs and in case of trafficking victims with disabilities or any other vulnerability, all the necessary arrangements are made to meet their special requirements, such as sign language, interpretation, accommodation, healthcare, psychological and social support, etc. Also, victims of trafficking and particularly vulnerable victims are monitored individually through a personal care plan prepared by the SWS with the contribution of other competent Services. The evaluation and the progress of the cases are discussed within the context of multidisciplinary meetings between the relevant Services.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Vulnerable victims with no access to healthcare, can apply for free healthcare services based on the Minister's right to approve the provision of such services. The specific characteristics of each case are taken into account. Special attention is given to persons with particular problems like physical or mental disabilities, general socioeconomical problems, etc.

25. How do you support the (re)integration of victims of THB? What processes are in place in your country to provide assistance to victims of THB exploited abroad after their return?

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Special emphasis is given to the integration measures for victims of trafficking in human beings. Thus the SWS, on May 2023 employed two dedicated professionals (psychologist and social worker) who provide social rehabilitation services to female victims of trafficking of the state shelter, based on an assessment of the individual needs of the victim, including a person-centered supporting program through education and training (e. g. Greek lessons, social skills, access to work), assistance in finding permanent residence, support for repatriation, procedures for reconnection with their family and their social environment and counselling guidance/support to these victims for a period of 3-6 months after their exit from the shelter.

The actions to be taken by the competent professionals for their identification, specialized evaluation, strengthening and support, in conditions of security and trust, both during the process of identification of victims and during the trial of a trafficking case, are systematically recorded, until the return of the victims to their countries of origin, as a permanent measure of their social integration.

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

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

As per Article 56(3) of the Anti-trafficking Law 60(I)/2014, subject to the provisions of both the Aliens and Immigration Law and the Right of Union Citizens and their Family Members to Move and Live Freely in the Republic Law of 2007, as amended or replaced from time to time, the Minister may grant a victim who is a national of a third country or a European citizen, even if the conditions of this Law are not met, a temporary residence permit or, as the case may be, a certificate of registration of limited validity, if it judges, after the submission of relevant individual assessments regarding the victim's situation by any involved agency, that it is in the victim's interest and protection to grant a residence permit or registration certificate of limited validity in the Republic for humanitarian or any other reasons.

This is indeed being applied, at the time when the criminal proceedings are completed and the person is evaluated in order to be repatriated or not. In many cases, to the best interest of the victim, a residence permit is granted to allow this person to stay in Cyprus and work.

27. What measures are in place to ensure that the identity, or details allowing the identification, of a child victim of trafficking are not made publicly known?

OFFICE OF THE COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The identities of children and adults who have been victims of human trafficking are kept confidential in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act as well as the police procedures governing such cases.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data and for Free Movement of Such Data Law (125(I)/2018), applies.

28. What measures are in place aimed at encouraging the media to protect the private life and identity of victims?

CYPRUS RADIOTELEVISION AUTHORITY

Cyprus's RadioTelevision Authority (CRTA) has taken both legislative and other measures to ensure that the media protect the private life and identity of victims.

In regards to Legislative Measures, the following are in force:

Article 26(1) of the Radio and Television Broadcasters Law 7(I)/1998 (as amended) states that:

"The broadcasts of each licensed television or radio broadcaster shall be governed by the principles of –

(e) respect to the personality, repute and private life of the individual;

(f) respect to the ideals of democracy and human rights;"

Additionally, according to Regulation 21(3) of the Radio and Television stations Regulations 2000 (10/2000):

"Broadcasters must ensure throughout their broadcasting (including advertising), respect for each individual's personality, integrity, reputation and privacy as well as their professional, scientific, social, artistic, political or other related activity, should they broadcast, report on, or render identifiable on screen, their image or name. This obligation extends to any person or any person's image as an individual or as a member of a group".

Cyprus Radiotelevision Authority is the national regulator of audiovisual media service providers and has the power to impose administrative sanctions for violations of the Law and Regulations, such as Recommendation, Warning and Administrative Monetary Fines.

Similar provisions exist in the Law on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of 2021, Law 115(I)/2021. The obligation may fall on the Police and the Attorney General of the Republic according to article 24, but it must also be respected by the media. Similar provisions also exist in the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation and Child Pornography of 2014, Law 91(I).2014 and on the Establishment of Minimum Provisions regarding the Rights and the Protection of Victims of Crime Law of 2016, Law 51(I)/2016.

Other measures

In 2021 CRTA has developed Guidelines on gender equality and portrayal in order to promote balanced, non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the broadcasting media, whilst fostering accurate, responsible, sensitive and ethical reporting of violence against women and girls. Media service providers, Union of Cyprus Journalists and the Cyprus Media Complaints Commission (media self-regulatory body) have already approved the above mentioned Guidelines. Provision 4 of the Guidelines concerns the protection of the private life and identity of victims:

(1) "Keep confidential personal information that might help identify the victim. Don't broadcast the woman who has experienced violence, especially if she's not in a mental state to consent to being on screen or on the radio".

(2) "Safeguard the victims, if broadcasting them is unavoidable. In the event that a woman who has survived violence wishes to speak up, take all available safeguarding measures. For example, avoid "live" broadcasting, to allow her the option to leave at any stage of the process. Make sure she's fully informed in advance about the topics that will be raised in the interview and the way in which they will be reported. Women reserve the right to refuse to answer any questions they do not feel

comfortable responding to. Make sure to provide psychological support, if needed. Seek guidance on how to present and approach survivors from experienced actors who have direct contact with and support victims of violence.

29. Have there been cases of diplomatic households (of your country's diplomats abroad and of foreign diplomats in your country) employing domestic staff in conditions which could be forced labour or human trafficking? If yes, how was the issue of diplomatic immunity addressed? How were the victims identified, assisted and protected?

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No cases have been reported of households of Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Cyprus nor of foreign Diplomatic Missions in the Republic of Cyprus employing domestic staff in conditions which could potentially be identified as forced labour or human trafficking.

30. What specific steps are taken in your country to identify victims of THB amongst persons recruited and exploited by terrorist/armed groups?

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

As mentioned above, the training is focused on all indicators regarding THB victims. As of yet, no case has been investigated in this regard.

31. Are there requirements in your country's legal framework for the detection and removal of THB-related Internet content, and what are the sanctions for non-compliance? Is there a code of conduct for providers? If a person is detected as a presumed victim of THB in the process, how is this person referred to assistance

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

There are no dedicated provisions in our legal framework for the detection and removal of THB-related Internet content. However, the provisions of the Law 91(I)/2014, article 11, can be used when the THB victim is related to Child Sexual Material. In this case the ISPs are obliged on the basis of the law to block and/or remove such material. If they fail to do so, they are considered committing a criminal offence.

III. INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, SANCTIONS AND MEASURES (Articles 4, 18, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 30)

32. Is the abuse of a position of vulnerability part of the human trafficking offence in your country's law? How are the concepts of "vulnerability" and "abuse of a position of vulnerability" defined in law? Have they been subject to judicial interpretation? If yes, please provide relevant case-law.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

The abuse of a vulnerable position, according to Cypriot legislation, is one of the components of the offense of adult trafficking. Specifically, this is one of the recognized legislative "instruments" with which the offense of trafficking in an adult can be committed.

For the offense of child (minor) trafficking, no evidence of any means is required, and therefore neither is proof of the abuse of the child's vulnerable position (which is taken for granted).

That is why article 12 of the law of Human Trafficking (N.60(I)/2014) states:

"12(1). The consent of the child victim in any way of offenses provided for in articles 7, 8, 10 and 11, does not constitute defense even in cases where no threat or violence or other form of coercion has been used, abduction, deceit, deception, abuse of power or exploitation of the vulnerable position of the child victim or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to secure the consent of the child victim."

The interpretation of vulnerability/abuse of a vulnerable position is determined by Article 2 of the said law as follows:

"abuse of a vulnerable position" means the situation in which the victim has no real or acceptable choice but to suffer or submit to that abuse;

The above concepts have been judicially interpreted with reference to recognized international manuals. For example:

1. Criminal Case 20869/21 (Court Decision dated 28.6.23):

In addition to the Court's reference to the legislative meaning of the definition, reference was made to the manual United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC (2013), Abuse of a position of vulnerability and other "means" within the definition of trafficking in persons: Issue Paper, where the following are mentioned:

"vulnerability" is typically used to refer to those inherent, environmental or contextual factors that increase the susceptibility of an individual or group to being trafficked. These factors are generally agreed to include human rights violations such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and gender-based violence – all of which contribute to creating economic deprivation and social conditions that limit individual choice and make it easier for traffickers and exploiters to operate. More specific factors that are commonly cited as relevant to individual vulnerability to trafficking (and occasionally extrapolated as potential indicators of trafficking), include gender, membership of a minority group, and lack of legal status.

It is further agreed that factors shaping vulnerability to trafficking tend to impact differently and disproportionately on groups that already lack power and status in society, including women, children, migrants, refugees and the internally displaced. Such conclusions have been generally borne out in studies of trafficking patterns and victim profiles. However, vulnerability to trafficking is certainly not fixed, predetermined or even fully "known". A multitude of factors operate to shape the context within which trafficking takes place and the capacity of the individual to respond. A genuine understanding of vulnerability will thereby almost always require situation-specific analysis. A definition of vulnerability that captures many of these points was provided in the outcome document of a judicial summit dealing with access to justice that was held in Brazil in 2008: Vulnerable people are defined as those who, due to reasons of age, gender, physical or mental state, or due to social, economic, ethnic and/or cultural circumstances, find it especially difficult to fully exercise their rights before the justice system as recognised to them by law. The following may constitute causes of vulnerability: age, disability, belonging to indigenous communities or minorities, victimisation, migration and internal displacement, poverty, gender and deprivation of liberty. The specific definition of vulnerable people in each country will depend on their specific characteristics, and even on their level of social or economic development.»

2. Criminal Appeal 60/22 (Court Decision dated 23.11.22)

Reference was made to the manual "Trafficking in Human Beings, Case Law on Trafficking in Human Beings 2009-2012, An analysis", where the term "abuse of a vulnerable position" is given a broad interpretation, and to the manual "Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases, Case Digest, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime" Vienna, 2017" in relation to the existence of a "vulnerable position"

Further reference was made to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC & UN. GIFT) (2008) An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action, Background paper, where 'vulnerability' has been characterized as:

«"vulnerability" refers to "a condition resulting from how individuals negatively experience the complex interaction of social, cultural, economic, political and environmental factors that create the context for their communities". As such, vulnerability is not a static, absolute state, but one that changes according to context as well as to the capacity for individual response».

33. Is the special vulnerability of the victim considered as an aggravating factor for the offender's sentence?

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Yes, in fact, in accordance with article 13 of the law (N.60(I)/2014), which is entitled "Aggravating Circumstances", which are taken into account when imposing the penalty.

One of these aggravating circumstances, as defined by that article, is when the victim is particularly vulnerable.

Subsection (b) of said article states as an aggravating circumstance if:

(b) the offense was committed against a particularly vulnerable victim, such as for example mentally or physically disabled, in a state of dependency or in a state of physical or mental incapacity, including a child victim of a particularly vulnerable situation;

34. According to national case-law, what forms of vulnerability are mostly abused by offenders in human trafficking cases? Please provide specific examples that show how the concept of "abuse of a position of vulnerability" is used in practice. What are the challenges in its application? Is it sufficient to prove the existence of a position of vulnerability of the victim, or must it also be proven that the defendant knew or should have known of the victim's vulnerability, and intentionally manipulated the victim on this basis?

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

As it can be seen from the Cypriot case law, most of the time the perpetrators of human trafficking abuse the vulnerability of the victim in terms of his financial hardship.

According to the Cypriot law, it is not only sufficient to prove the vulnerability of the victim but also that the accused knew or should have known about her, and therefore she is the one who has been abused. But proof of knowledge on his part that his victim was in a particularly vulnerable position is not required. Under section 19 of the Trafficking Act (60(I)/2014), it is not a defense that the defendant did not know or believe that the victim of the offense was in a particularly vulnerable position.

35. Is the concept of "abuse of a position of vulnerability" addressed in criminal justice training? Is there any specific guidance on applying this concept? Please provide copies of guidance and/or training materials that shed light on how this concept should be applied in practice.

JUDICIAL SERVICE

In March 2020, a training seminar on “Human Trafficking”, was organised by the Cyprus Judicial Training School of the Supreme Court, upon the initiative and in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and with the support of the Embassy of the United States of America in Cyprus. The seminar was attended by District and Family Court Judges as well as Legal Officers of the Supreme Court. In an interactive and practical manner, the expert trainers presented and analysed the topic in light of European and International Conventions and legal instruments, as well as case law case of the European Court of Human Rights. Moreover, they analysed the issue of trauma, they discussed judicial challenges and presented good practices, focusing on the protection of victims of human trafficking.

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE

The abuse of the vulnerable position of the victim of trafficking, most of the time, is a necessary element to prove the crime of trafficking. Therefore, its legal interpretation as determined both by Cypriot jurisprudence and the relevant manuals and Conventions, is always a guide for how it is applied in practice.

There is always a constant update of the jurisprudence to the public prosecutors handling such cases.

36. What procedures and measures exist in your country to take into account the specific needs of vulnerable victims at the different stages of criminal proceedings?

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

During the different stages of the case, (from the stage of referral through the final resolution), the Police conduct individual risk assessments of all VOTs in order to identify special needs and to provide appropriate assistance.

The Police provide protection to all presume or identified VOTs. The type of protection depends on the individual risk assessment for each VOT and also on the individual's personal circumstances. A number of protection measures are available, including changing contact information, housing, and police patrolling at the VOT's location. When necessary, the Office communicates with the authorities of the countries that originate the VOT.

A police officer of the same gender or according to the victim's wishes will conduct interviews and statements with the victims (potential). The same procedure applies to children victimized by human trafficking, and any interview or statement is conducted in the presence of the child's legal guardian. The victims are interviewed by clinical psychologists prior to contacting the police, assessing their special needs, which are taken into account throughout the entire process. The government shelter is also exclusively available to female (potential) trafficking victims.

As mentioned above, the Police inform victims of their right to access and request legal assistance regardless of their decision to cooperate with criminal proceedings. In addition to the information provided to victims, the government departments and/or organizations that will ensure access to these rights include information about the right to apply for temporary, long-term or permanent residence in Cyprus, civil suits, international protection, and asylum. To ensure that children's rights and interests are protected and guaranteed during the procedures, it is specified, in the legislation mentioned above, that the legal guardian or the Ombudsman, or legal representative as appropriate, is present throughout all interactions with children during the procedure.

All identified victims are provided with information relating to the type of services or organizations they can apply for support regarding legal or other advice, and the type of support that they can

obtain criminal proceedings. They are also provided with information on the procedure following their report to the police and their role as a victim in the framework of criminal proceedings, as well as their right to seek compensation. In addition, the Police inform the VOTs of the outcome of their investigation, the stage of criminal proceedings against the accused, and the decision of the court.

Further, the legislation provides that victims are entitled to receive any necessary information, to participate in an interview, and to provide statements in a language they understand. Any interaction between a victim and the police takes place in the presence and services of an interpreter qualified in the necessary language unless the victim indicates that he/she speaks, reads and writes English or Greek. In order to be able to call upon necessity, the police have established a record of registered interpreters divided by language.

Upon completion of criminal proceedings, the OoCTHB conducts a risk assessment to determine if repatriation or remaining in the country is safe for victims, based on their personal circumstances. In addition, the personal circumstances of each victim are taken into account, as has already been discussed. If the victim is enrolled in a program or receives special treatment (for medical reasons), it continues to receive treatment even after the criminal proceedings have been completed. Once the assistance program has been terminated, NGOs with the assistance of the Social Welfare Services will repatriate the victim. According to the law, if the victim wishes to claim compensation after the completion of the criminal proceedings, he or she can remain in the country for a reasonable period of time.

The Law on the Protection of Data is fully implemented throughout the entire criminal proceedings.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

As far as the stage of the criminal proceedings is concerned, during the trial of the case, all victims of trafficking are first of all considered to be vulnerable and because of this status, by extension, witnesses in need of protection.

Therefore, depending on the specific needs of each victim, the public prosecutor will act accordingly during the trial of the case. In view of the fact that they are considered witnesses in need of protection, there is the possibility of using (depending on the case of course) the measures specified both in the law of trafficking itself (Law 60(I)/2014) and also in the Witness Protection Law (Law .95(I)/2001). Such as, for example, the trial being held in camera to protect both the victim's own identity and privacy, the use of closed circuit for the victim to testify in Court in the Accused's absence so as not to cause further distress, or fear in the victim himself. It is also noted that the victim-witness may be included in the Witness Protection Program in cases where, at the discretion of the Attorney General of the Republic, it is possible that the person in question may be put in danger. In these cases, special protection measures are decided both for the victim-witness himself, depending on the risk he runs, and for the rest of his family members where deemed necessary.

JUDICIAL SERVICE

According to the national anti-trafficking legislation *Prevention and Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of persons and the Protection of victims Law (L 60/14)*, **Article 30 (1)** provides that:

“The services involved as well as the non-governmental organizations will treat the victims with due respect for their dignity and recognize the rights and legal interests thereof, especially, in the context of the criminal proceedings and ensure that the most vulnerable victims may receive special treatment that responds to the best way in their situation.”

Furthermore, **Article 34** lists the measures for the protection of victims within the framework of the criminal proceedings:

“(1) A victim who wishes to cooperate with the prosecuting authorities within the framework of the criminal proceedings shall be considered a witness who needs protection within the meaning of the Protection of Witnesses Law, 2001, as from time to time amended or substituted, and shall be included in the Protection of Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice Scheme.

(2) Subject to the provisions of section 17 of the Protection of Victims Law, 2001, the Attorney-General, at the time of elaboration of the Protection of Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice Scheme, shall also ensure that- (a) appropriate measures are taken to ensure adequate level of protection for the victim, and, where appropriate, for his family or persons treated as members of his family; (b) such protection shall last even after the termination of the criminal proceedings.

(3) A victim who wishes to cooperate with the prosecuting authorities, within the context of the criminal proceedings shall be protected from unnecessary repetition of interviews during the investigation, prosecution and trial.

(4) Subject to the provisions of the Protection of Witnesses Law, 2001 and without prejudice to the rights of defence, the Court shall, after assessing the personal status of the victim individually, ensure that the victim receives special treatment to prevent further victimization, i.e. with unnecessary questions about his private life.

(5) Provided that under the circumstances it is deemed necessary that the prosecuting authorities shall ensure the provision of effective and adequate protection from a possible revenge or intimidation, in particular, during and after the investigation and persecution of the perpetrators, to the following persons: (a) any person other than the victim reporting the commission of a criminal offence provided for in this Law, or cooperating with the prosecuting authorities in any other way; (b) any witness other than the victim who testifies in relation to the commission of a criminal offence provided for in this Law; (c) where necessary, to members of the victim’s family and persons prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection;

(6) The prosecuting authorities shall take all the necessary measures for the provision of appropriate protection from possible revenge or intimidation, in particular, during and after the investigation and persecution of the perpetrators of the offences provided for in this Law, for members of organizations, foundations, associations, or non-governmental organizations engaged in activities or providing assistance to the victims in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

(7) In case the victim is a child, the prosecuting authorities shall: (a) ensure that the investigation or criminal prosecution do not depend on the filing of a lawsuit or complaint by the victim or his representative and that criminal proceedings may be continued even if that person withdraws his other statement, (b) continue the prosecution after the victim has reached the age of majority.

Article 38 sets out the Special provisions for the protection of child victims of trafficking within the framework of criminal investigation and proceedings.

38.-(1) Subject to the provisions of sections 30 to 37 of this Law, in case of a child victim of the offences provided for in this Law or where, by the Laws of the Republic, the parents or holders of parental responsibility are precluded from representing the child as a result of a conflict of interest between them and the child victim, the Director of the Social Welfare Services shall be appointed as a representative of the child, for the representation of the child within the framework of the proceedings, in cooperation with the Commissioner for the Protection of Children’s Rights.

(2) Without prejudice to the rights of the defence of the accused, the prosecuting authorities shall ensure that in criminal proceedings for the offences provided for in section 7,8,10 and 11 of this Law: (a) interviews with the child victim take place without unjustified delay after the facts have been reported to the prosecuting authorities;

- (b) interviews with the child victim take place, where necessary, in premises designed or adapted for that purpose;*
- (c) interviews with the child victim are carried out, if necessary, by or through professionals trained for that purpose, or with their assistance and by people of the same sex;*
- (d) the same persons, if possible, conduct all the interviews with the child victim;*
- (e) the number of interviews with the child victim is as limited as possible and interviews are carried out only where it is strictly necessary for the purposes of criminal investigations and proceedings;*
- (f) the child victim may be accompanied by his representative or, where appropriate, an adult of the child's choice, unless a reasoned decision has been made to the contrary in respect of that person.*

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Social Welfare Services in close cooperation with the Anti-Trafficking Police Unit and the Attorney General Office are closely monitoring, supporting and protecting victims of trafficking, before, during and after the court procedure, covering all their basic and special needs (travelling expenses, accommodation, personal and other expenses, etc.). Also, victims of trafficking are monitored individually through a personal care plan prepared by the SWS with the contribution of other Services. The evaluation and the progress of the cases are discussed within the context of multidisciplinary meetings between the competent Services.

37. If you have criminalised the use of services of a victim of THB, how is this provision applied in practice? Please provide any relevant case-law.

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

The provision of Article 17A was applied during the reporting period in two cases following the answer provided in question 12. Currently, the first case is awaiting trial, while regarding the second case, one defendant has been sentenced to three years in prison for using services of sexual exploitation and rape as criminalized.

It is considered to be an important decision, not only on a local level but also on a European level, as it is the first time in history that a Cypriot Court has sentenced a "client" in accordance with Article 17 of Law 60(I)/2014 regarding the use of sexual services provided by a victim of human trafficking. In 2021, the Cyprus Police Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OoCTHB) in cooperation with the Crime Investigation Department investigated the case. Specifically, an 18-year-old female reported to the Police that she was sexually exploited by two Romanian nationals and raped by another Romanian national. Offences were committed between September and October 2021.

The OoCTHB, in coordination with Social Welfare Services, transferred the VOT to the governmental shelter to ensure her safety and to meet her needs.

The young woman, who was pregnant at the time, was identified as a THB victim and the three suspects were arrested and prosecuted, accused of rape, human trafficking for sexual exploitation, conspiracy to commit a felony, withholding of personal documents, pimping, using the services of a victim, etc.

During the trial of the case, the Court ordered two of the three defendants to remain in custody.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Since the enactment of the existing law on trafficking (L.60(I)/2014) there has been a criminalization of the use of the services of victims of trafficking.

Section 17 of the said Act criminalizes the use of such services by a person who may reasonably believe that the work or any other victim services used by him are the subject of the offenses specified in the said Act. Since 2019, there has been an increase in the penalties for this particular offence.

Specifically, from 2019, the crime in question is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, while in cases involving a child victim, up to life in prison.

It is noted that from 2019, the services of a trafficking victim that are the object of sexual exploitation are criminalized in a separate article. Specifically, Article 17A of the aforementioned law criminalizes the demand, collection, or use of victim services, which are the object of sexual exploitation. The penalties of article 17A are the same as those of article 17, as recorded above.

Further, under section 19 of the said Act, it is no defense to an accused person if he:

- (a) did not know that the person from whom he requested or received or used services of a sexual nature was the person who suffered the process of trafficking or exploitation, and
- (b) did not know the age of the victim of trafficking and/or exploitation from whom he solicited or received or used services of a sexual nature.

Therefore, if during the investigation of any trafficking case it becomes clear that person/persons made such uses of services of victims of trafficking, they are prosecuted.

We cite as an example Criminal Case 20869/21 (court decision dated 28.6.23), in which an accused person was convicted for the crime of receiving services from a trafficking victim, which were the object of sexual exploitation, on the basis of Article 17A of the Trafficking Law. It was a finding of the Court, that the said accused received oral sex services from the victim for a fee, and that these services were the object of sexual exploitation after the complainant/victim was forced (in the manner analyzed in the said decision) to prostitute herself.

38. What technology-based tools and initiatives exist in your country to support investigations and enhance prosecution of THB cases? What training is provided to law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges on THB facilitated by information and communication technology?

FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT

(*Please refer to answer 41 and PDF attachment at end of Document)

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

According to Cypriot law, it is possible to use video conferencing if the required conditions are met. Therefore, even if the victim leaves the Republic of Cyprus, under conditions, he or she may give his or her testimony via video conference.

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

The Digital Forensic Laboratory which is under the administration of the Cybercrime Unit has the responsibility to effectively forensically examine all the digital evidence in relation to all the under-investigation cases of the Cyprus Police. The DFL uses the same tools and software as all the European

Countries for the effective examination of digital evidence (eg, FTK, XRY, UFED, Magnet Axiom and much more).

Members of the Directorate of Cybercrime presented open-source intelligence (OSINT) and cryptocurrency during the training of law enforcement officers.

39. In what ways, if any, does your country utilise provisions from the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention (Budapest Convention) to fight THB? If not, why is that the case?

POLICE CYBERCRIME UNIT

The Republic of Cyprus ratified the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime with the National Law 22(iii)/2004. We used this Law during the investigation of cybercrimes or for the collection and preservation of digital evidence in relation to cybercrime.

Part II – Country-specific follow-up questions

40. Please provide information on measures taken in your country in respect to the following recommendations made in GRETA's previous reports:

- ensure that victims of THB have access to specialised legal assistance and free legal aid as soon as there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person is a victim of human trafficking;

NATIONAL COORDINATOR (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR)

This is still under consideration.

- adopt measures to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of THB;

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

All identified victims are provided with information relating to the type of services or organizations they can apply for support concerning to legal or other advice, the type of support that they can obtain criminal proceedings. They are also informed about the procedures following their report to the police and their role as a victim in the framework of criminal proceedings, the right to file for compensation, etc. Furthermore, the Police inform the VOTs of the outcome of their report, the stage of criminal proceedings in relation to the accused person and the Court decision.

Nine victims of THB have submitted a claim to the court, through a lawyer appointed by the government, for compensation after the completion of their trials.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

The right/access of trafficking victims to compensation is guaranteed by the trafficking law itself (L.60(I)/2014).

Also, according to article 35 of the said law, regardless of any other legal means, the victim of trafficking has an institutional right to damages against anyone responsible for the offenses committed against him and for violations of his human rights.

- amend the legislation to ensure that a recovery and reflection period is granted when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person is a victim of human trafficking, and ensure that this period is systematically offered to all presumed victims of trafficking.

NATIONAL Co-ORDINATOR (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR)

The Ministry of Interior, as the National Coordinator/Rapporteur, has drafted the amending legislation to meet GRETA's recommendation included in the previous (third) round of Cyprus's evaluation regarding the granting of a recovery and reflection period when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person is a victim of human trafficking, and ensure that this period is systematically offered to all presumed victims of trafficking. Although this recommendation is already put into practice, the draft legislation is still pending before the Attorney General.

41. Please provide information on developments in your country since GRETA's third evaluation report concerning:

- emerging trends of trafficking in human beings;

OFFICE OF THE COMBATING OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

The majority of human trafficking occurs for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, and forced criminality. Other forms of human trafficking, such as illegal adoption, have also been recognized.

A majority of victims/potential victims originate in Europe (Romania, Bulgaria Cyprus), Asia (Nepal), Africa (Egypt, Cameroon) and Russia. Traffickers recruit victims in these countries. Furthermore, two minor victims were identified as VOTs for the purpose of forced criminality (drug trafficking).

- the legislation and regulations relevant to action against THB;

N/A

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

FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT

In 2023, the Cyprus FIU, in cooperation with OSCE, has published its first strategic analysis report on Financial intelligence information for Combating Trafficking In Human Beings.

The Strategic Analysis Report which is an Operational Alert, outlines red flag indicators and typologies to support financial investigators, obliged entities and all stakeholders involved, in identifying potential instances of trafficking in human beings so that the related activity can be reported to the FIU via Suspicious Transaction/Activity Reports (STRs and SARs).

The report provides, guidance to reporting entities, human trafficking related typologies, financial indicators to help the detection of possible trafficking in human beings cases and assistance in order to improve suspicious transaction reporting related to trafficking in human beings.

Since, one of the most effective ways to disrupt the illicit flows is by following the financial trail, STRs / SARs constitute one of the main weapons in the fight against financial crimes, including trafficking in human beings as they generate the initiation of analysis by the FIU

and the dissemination of information to Law Enforcement Authorities for investigation and criminal proceedings

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

NATIONAL COORDINATOR (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR)

The newly drafted Strategy and Action Plan document has been prepared after submission of proposed actions by the members that make up the Multi-Thematic Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, whose establishment is provided for in article 64 of Law 60(I)/2014.

Within the above framework, the National Strategy Plan and Action Plan for the three-year period 2023-2026 was drawn up. It is divided into four pillars of actions as derived from the responsibilities and tasks of the Multi-Thematic and Coordination Group and referred to in the legislation, and which are:

I. Strengthening the prevention and reduction of risks for victimization.

II. Suppression of crime.

III. Protection, support and reintegration of victims.

IV. Cooperation and Coordination.

The total number of actions of the individual objectives of each pillar amounts to 38, with several new actions, as well as actions that started in the period covered by the previous National Action Plan (2019-2022) and whose implementation continues in this one as well the three years.

The enactment and implementation of the measures and actions decided in the context of the multi-thematic coordination group and the National Action Plan are monitored and coordinated by the National Coordinator (Minister of the Interior) who is customarily represented by the Permanent Secretary and chairs the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group meetings.

The National Action Plan is submitted by the National Coordinator to the Council of Ministers, as well as the annual report of the multi-thematic coordination group for discussion and decision-making.

The current New Strategy and Action Plan 2023-26 is pending approval by the Council of Ministers. Upon ratification, it shall be forwarded to GRETA.

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

As an example, we mention:

1. Criminal Case 20869/21: Conviction Decision on 28.6.23, which involved, inter alia, trafficking of an adult and a minor (same person) related to sexual exploitation. An appeal is pending.

2. Criminal Appeal 60/22: Final decision by the Supreme Court, which upheld the conviction of the Accused/Appellant for the offense of trafficking in an adult related to sexual exploitation.

Part III - Statistics on THB

42. Please provide the following statistics, per year starting with 2019, 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).

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

The competent Authority for the identification of victims of THB is the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Cyprus Police.

Statistical data regarding potential victims and identified victims for the years 2019-2022 are attached as **ANNEX I**.

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

OFFICE OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

Although in 2019, 10 of the identified victims were asylum seekers, in 2020, 3 of the identified victims were asylum seekers, in 2021, 2 victims were asylum seekers and in 2022, 2 victims were asylum seekers.

ASYLUM SERVICE

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

For 2019 and 2020 we cannot provide statistic information as Asylum Service did not record statistics.

2021: Total of potential THB victims' cases identified: 73

- 29 females
- 44 males
- Nationality: 31 Bangladesh, 9 Cameroon, 17 Congo, 1 Guinea, 7 Nigeria, 6 Pakistan, 2 Sierra Leone
- Purpose cannot be specified (in numbers) the majority is for the purpose of labor exploitation.

2022: Total of potential THB victims identified: 153

- 142 females
- 11 males
- Nationality: 4 Bangladesh, 19 Cameroon, 19 Congo, 1 Ghana, 1 Guinea, 1 Ivory Coast, 1 Namibia, 101 Nigeria, 2 Sierra Leone, 2 Somalia, 2 Syria
- Purpose cannot be specified (in numbers) the majority is for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or force prostitution.

2023 (from January until 20/9/2023): Total of potential THB victims identified: 106

- 99 females

- 7 males

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

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Approximately 240 cases of victims of THB received assistance per year (2019 to 2022). More information is provided in the table below. (***Please refer to Table 1**)

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

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

2 children victims of THB were appointed legal guardians

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

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

As regards to the residence permits granted for reflection purposes, please note that the number, which might be zero sometimes, does not represent the reflection periods granted by the Police. This is due to the fact that when the Police grants reflection period to a presumed victim, the time lapse between granting the reflection period by the Police and the Migration Department to make the procedures to issue the said permit, the Police has already identified (or not) the victim, therefore the Migration Department grants a regular annual residence permit instead.

- Number of victims of THB granted a residence permit, with an indication of the type of the permit (for the purpose of co-operation in the investigation/proceedings, on personal grounds, other) and its duration (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Residence permits granted to THB victims as per the Anti-trafficking Law, are issued for the purpose of cooperation in the investigations and participation as witnesses during the court proceedings. Upon completion of the criminal and court proceedings, each case is evaluated on its own merits, with a risk assessment by the Police and a report from the Social Welfare Services. It is then decided whether the victim is safe to be repatriated or it is to his/her own benefit to be granted a residence permit in Cyprus based on the Aliens and Migration Law.

It is noted that residence permits to THB victims, based on the Anti-trafficking Law, have a yearly duration, which is renewable as long as the criminal proceedings last.

The data supplied by the Civil Registry and Migration Department, contain the age/sex/nationality of the victims, refer only to TCNs and represent a total of the residence permits issued and valid per year, either new ones or renewed. The permits do not indicate the form of exploitation. This can only be extracted by the Police data, on the yearly identifications of victims.

(*Please refer to Table 2)

- 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).

ASYLUM SERVICE

For 2019 and 2020 we cannot provide statistic information as Asylum Service did not record statistics. For 2021 – 2023 we have some statistics gathered by caseworkers who dealt with cases of trafficking:

2021: 7

2022: 9

2023: 4 (until 20/9/2023)

- 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).

OFFICE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

So far, nine victims claimed for compensation via legal assistance from the Government. And in two cases the perpetrator provided compensation for three THB victims.

The Government has provided legal assistance to nine victims for compensation. In two cases, the perpetrators have provided compensation to three THB victims.

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

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

***Table 1**

YEAR	Stay at the Shelter	Referrals	Women	Men	Financial Support (emergency financial assistance to cover basic needs and accommodation if needed-article 11 of GMI)	Number of persons who received emergency financial assistance (article 11 of the GMI)	Sex trafficking	Forced labor	other
2019	69	199	150	49	€30.000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	52	174	120	54	€30.000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	28	106	65	41	€45.000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	20	147	134	13	€30,141	54	115	15	4

A total of 109 victims of THB have received Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI), of which 20 cases continue to be supported by GMI. It is noted that the Welfare Benefits Administration Service has a special procedure for these cases who are examined on a priority basis and they start receiving GMI immediately on a pre-approval basis, before the full examination of their application is completed.

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

No available data.

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

CIVIL REGISTRY AND MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

The Minister of Interior has issued 56 decisions of safe repatriation to victims of trafficking for the years 2018-2023 (present).

Though the decisions were issued and the victims were notified accordingly, upon check of the governmental Entry/Exit System, not all were repatriated and some still reside in the country.

(*Please refer to Table 3)

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

OFFICE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

Refer to ANNEX II for statistical data.

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

OFFICE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

Refer to ANNEX III for statistical data.

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

OFFICE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

Refer to ANNEX IV for statistical data.

- 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.

OFFICE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

Refer to ANNEX V for statistical data.

- Number of judgments in THB cases resulting in the confiscation of assets
N/A
- Number of convictions of legal entities for THB.

OFFICE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICE UNIT)

There were no convictions of legal entities for THB during the years 2019 – 2022.

TABLE 2

Number of victims of THB granted a residence permit, with an indication of the type of the permit (for the purpose of co-operation in the investigation/proceedings, on personal grounds, other) and its duration (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation)

i.

2018				
TYPE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT	COUNTRY	M/F	AGE	NUMBER
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	26	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	32	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	33	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	35	2
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	36	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	39	1
TE	CAMEROON	FEMALE	23	1
TE	CAMEROON	FEMALE	27	3
TE	CAMEROON	FEMALE	30	2
TE	CAMEROON	FEMALE	33	1
TE	CAMEROON	FEMALE	35	1
TE	CHINA	FEMALE	30	1
TE	CHINA	FEMALE	45	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	29	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	32	2
TE	ETHIOPIA	FEMALE	40	2
TE	GAMBIA	MALE	24	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	29	2
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	31	2
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	35	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	39	3
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	46	2
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	47	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	57	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	30	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	33	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	34	3
TE	INDIA	MALE	35	4
TE	INDIA	MALE	37	3
TE	INDIA	MALE	39	4
TE	INDIA	MALE	41	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	43	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	44	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	47	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	50	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	51	1

TE	INDIA	MALE	55	3
TE	INDIA	MALE	64	1
TE	MOLDOVA	FEMALE	32	1
TE	MOLDOVA	FEMALE	33	1
TE	NIGERIA	FEMALE	28	1
TE	PAKISTAN	MALE	42	1
TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	49	1
TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	53	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	29	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	31	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	28	3
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	29	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	30	2
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	31	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	35	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	36	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	53	1
TE	UZBEKISTAN	FEMALE	43	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	42	2
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	48	3
TE	VIETNAM	MALE	41	1

ii.

2019				
TYPE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT	COUNTRY	M/F	AGE	NUMBER
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	26	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	32	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	33	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	35	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	36	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	39	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	29	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	32	1
TE	ETHIOPIA	FEMALE	40	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	28	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	29	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	31	2
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	36	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	39	2
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	47	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	30	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	31	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	33	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	34	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	35	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	37	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	39	3
TE	INDIA	MALE	43	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	44	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	51	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	55	2
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	33	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	35	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	38	1
TE	PAKISTAN	MALE	42	1
TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	49	1
TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	53	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	31	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	28	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	29	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	41	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	45	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	48	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	53	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	38	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	39	1

TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	42	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	48	2

iii.

2020				
TYPE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT	COUNTRY	M/F	AGE	NUMBER
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	26	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	32	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	33	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	35	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	36	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	39	1
TE	CAMEROON	FEMALE	32	1
TE	CAMEROON	FEMALE	35	1
TE	CHINA	FEMALE	30	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	29	4
TE	EGYPT	MALE	30	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	31	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	35	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	36	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	39	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	42	1
TE	ETHIOPIA	FEMALE	40	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	28	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	31	2
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	36	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	39	2
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	47	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	24	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	30	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	33	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	34	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	35	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	37	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	39	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	41	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	43	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	44	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	47	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	51	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	55	1
TE	MOLDOVA	FEMALE	32	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	33	1
TE	NEPAL	MALE	23	1
TE	NEPAL	MALE	25	1
TE	NIGERIA	FEMALE	28	1
TE	PAKISTAN	MALE	42	1

TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	34	1
TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	49	1
TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	53	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	31	1
TE	SRI LANKA	FEMALE	57	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	28	2
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	29	2
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	53	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	42	2

iv.

2021				
TYPE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT	COUNTRY	M/F	AGE	NUMBER
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	26	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	32	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	33	1
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	36	1
TE	CHINA	FEMALE	30	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	24	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	25	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	27	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	29	3
TE	EGYPT	MALE	30	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	31	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	33	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	35	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	36	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	38	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	39	1
TE	ETHIOPIA	FEMALE	40	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	36	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	24	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	33	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	34	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	35	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	39	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	44	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	47	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	55	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	33	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	35	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	38	2
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	45	1
TE	NEPAL	MALE	23	1
TE	NEPAL	MALE	25	1
TE	NIGERIA	FEMALE	28	1
TE	PAKISTAN	MALE	42	1
TE	PHILIPPINES	FEMALE	53	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	31	1
TE	SRI LANKA	FEMALE	57	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	28	3
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	29	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	53	2
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	38	1

TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	39	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	42	2
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	48	1

V.

2022				
TYPE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT	COUNTRY	M/F	AGE	NUMBER
TE	BANGLADESH	MALE	36	1
TE	CHINA	FEMALE	30	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	24	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	25	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	26	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	27	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	28	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	29	5
TE	EGYPT	MALE	30	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	31	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	33	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	35	3
TE	EGYPT	MALE	36	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	38	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	39	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	41	1
TE	ETHIOPIA	FEMALE	40	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	24	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	33	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	34	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	35	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	47	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	34	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	38	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	45	1
TE	NIGERIA	FEMALE	28	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	31	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	32	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	36	1
TE	SRI LANKA	FEMALE	57	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	28	1
TE	UKRAINE	FEMALE	29	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	38	2
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	39	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	42	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	48	1

vi.

2023				
TYPE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT	COUNTRY	M/F	AGE	NUMBER
TE	ALBANIA	MALE	32	1
TE	CHINA	FEMALE	30	1
TE	EGYPT	FEMALE	30	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	22	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	23	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	24	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	25	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	26	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	27	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	28	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	29	3
TE	EGYPT	MALE	30	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	31	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	33	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	35	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	36	2
TE	EGYPT	MALE	38	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	39	1
TE	EGYPT	MALE	41	1
TE	ETHIOPIA	FEMALE	40	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	2	1
TE	INDIA	FEMALE	27	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	24	4
TE	INDIA	MALE	25	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	26	2
TE	INDIA	MALE	27	3
TE	INDIA	MALE	28	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	29	3
TE	INDIA	MALE	33	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	34	1
TE	INDIA	MALE	35	1
TE	KAZAKHSTAN	FEMALE	37	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	25	1
TE	NEPAL	FEMALE	34	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	34	1
TE	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FEMALE	50	1
TE	SRI LANKA	FEMALE	57	1
TE	VIETNAM	FEMALE	48	1

TABLE 3 - Number of victims of THB who were returned or repatriated to/from your country (disaggregated by sex, age, country of destination, form of exploitation).

2018						
S/N	FILE NUMBER	GENDER	AGE	REPATRIATION COUNTRY	EXPLOITATION TYPE	DEPARTURE DATE
1	F08-00898	F	43	GEORGIA	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
2	A14-02873	M	31	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
3	B12-03055	M	36	SRI LANKA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	

2019						
S/N	FILE NUMBER	GENDER	AGE	REPATRIATION COUNTRY	EXPLOITATION TYPE	DEPARTURE DATE
1	D09-00009	F	38	MAROCCO	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	7/3/2012
2	A14-06381	M	37	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
3	A18-05168	M	28	UKRAINE	ΜΕΛΟΣ ΟΙΚ. ΘΥΜΑΤΟΣ	12/9/2021
4	A06-06875	M	48	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
5	B10-06956	F	35	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	2/2/2022
6	A14-01072	M	43	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
7	A14-02028	M	38	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
8	A13-05579	M	40	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
9	B10-02237	F	53	BIETNAM		
10	E08-06935	M	36	BANGLADESH	ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΤΗΣ ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑΣ	
11	A13-04605	M	39	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
12	F18-00015	F	23	CAMEROON	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	

2020						
A/A	ΑΡ. ΦΑΚΕΛΟΥ	ΦΥΛΟ	ΗΛΙΚΙΑ	ΧΩΡΑ ΕΠΑΝΑΠΑΤΡΙΣΜΟΥ	ΜΟΡΦΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗΣ	ΑΝΑΧΩΡΙΣΗ
1	D09-00264	M	28	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	30/7/2022
2	A13-05580	M	34	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	7/4/2021
3	B14-02375	M	41	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
4	B14-02480	M	33	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
5	A19-06172	M	31	EGYPT	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
6	A14-05786NJ	M	34	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	NCL 26/3/2017
7	B17-02717	M	30	INDOS	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
8	B19-01770	M	25	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
9	D10-00053	F	35	PHILIPPINES	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	19/8/2020
10	A14-05787	M	31	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	30/7/2022
11	B12-02790	M	41	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	17/11/2021

2021						
S/N	FILE NO.	GENDER	AGE	REPATRIATION COUNTRY	EXPLOITATION TYPE	DEPARTURE DATE
1	A18-07760	F	42	RUSSIA	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
2	B09-06539	F	46	VIETNAM		
3	D09-00264	F	48	PHILIPPINES	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
4	D10-00051	F	39	PHILIPPINES	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
5	B17-02849	M	42	PAKISTAN	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	

2022						
S/N	FILE NO.	GENDER	AGE	REPATRIATION COUNTRY	EXPLOITATION TYPE	DEPARTURE DATE
1	A06-03386	F	46	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
2	A10-02734	M	44	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
3	B09-06432	F	49	PHILIPPINES	ΠΑΡΑΝΟΜΗ ΥΙΟΘΕΣΙΑ	
4	B18-04211	F	28	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
5	B18-04471	M	33	INDIA		
6	A06-06875	M	45	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
7	A15-06775	M	32	EGYPT	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
8	B10-00413	F	53	VIETNAM	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
9	B12-02790	M	41	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	17/11/2021
10	B10-06956	F	35	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	2/2/2022
11	A12-06082	F	37	DOMINIC REPUBLIC	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
12	A19-06172	M	31	EGYPT	ΜΑΡΤΥΡΑΣ ΚΑΤΗΓ. ΘΥΜΑ Ο ΑΔΕΛΦΟΣ	
13	F17-00877	M	26	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
14	A09-04808	M	51	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
15	A09-04806	F	47	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
16	A07-05060	M	37	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	9/10/2022
17	A09-05514	F	39	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
18	A09-05516	M	39	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
19	A08-07292/5636919	M	43	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
20	A08-07292/5636920	F	39	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
21	A10-00891	M	39	BANGLADESH	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	

2023						
A/A	ΑΡ. ΦΑΚΕΛΟΥ	ΦΥΛΟ	ΗΛΙΚΙΑ	ΧΩΡΑ ΕΠΑΝΑΠΑΤΡΙΣΜΟΥ	ΜΟΡΦΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗΣ	ΑΝΑΧΩΡΙΣΗ
1	E19-00988	F	25	NEPAL	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	
2	A17-09028	F	36	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ&ΣΕΞΟΥΑΛΙΚΗ ΕΚΜ.	
3	A18-02551	F	53	UKRAINE	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
4	A06-06875	M	48	INDIA	ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗ	

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MOKAS
CYPRUS FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS REPORT
Financial intelligence information for
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
December 2022



This Operational Alert is developed in co-operation with the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

ANNEX I

Identified victims for the year 2019					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation	---	---	---	12	12
Human trafficking for labor exploitation	---	1	---	2	3
Human trafficking for sham marriage	---	---	---	6	6
Human trafficking for adoption	---	---	1	---	1
Human trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation	---	---	---	11	11
Human trafficking for begging	---	---	1	---	1
Human trafficking to commit criminal offences (BENEFIT FRAUD)	---	---	---	2	2
TOTAL	---	1	2	33	36

Identified victims for the year 2019					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULTS	MINOR	ADULTS	
CYPRUS	---	---	1	3	4
VIETNAM	---	---	---	2	2
BULGARIA	---	---	---	4	4
CAMEROON	---	---	---	5	5
NIGERIA	---	---	---	2	2
CHINA	---	---	---	1	1
INDIA	---	1	---	2	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	---	---	---	2	2
SRI LANKA	---	---	---	1	1
ROMANIA	---	---	---	6	6
UKRAINE	---	---	---	1	1
GREECE	---	---	1	1	2
NEPAL	---	---	---	3	3
TOTAL	---	1	2	33	36

30 (thirty) victims concerned transnational trafficking while 6 (six) internal trafficking

Presumed victims for the year 2019					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
CAMEROON	1	9	---	62	72
UKRAINE	---	---	---	9	9
MOLDOVA	---	---	---	1	1
CYPRUS	---	5	---	3	8
BANGLADESH	---	3	---	1	4
RUSSIA	---	---	---	8	8
CZECH REP.	---	---	---	1	1
BULGARIA	---	---	---	5	5
NIGERIA	---	2	---	2	4
GUINEA	---	---	---	1	1
GAMBIA	---	---	---	1	1
INDIA	---	9	---	4	13
VIETNAM	---	3	---	1	4
ROMANIA	---	2	---	3	5
EGYPT	---	5	---	---	5
SRI LANKA	---	1	---	---	1
SOMALIA	---	---	---	1	1
KIRGISTAN	---	---	---	1	1
SYRIA	---	1	2	1	4
PPOLAND	---	---	---	1	1
NEPAL	---	---	---	1	1
PAKISTAN	---	2	---	---	2
LATVIA	---	---	---	2	2
GREECE	---	---	---	1	1
PHILIPPINES	---	---	---	2	2
KAZAKSTAN	---	---	---	1	1
YEMEN	---	1	---	---	1
COLOMBIA	---	3	---	---	3
TOTAL	1	46	2	113	162

Presumed victims for the year 2019					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation			2	94	96
Human trafficking for labor exploitation		27		8	35
Human trafficking for committing other criminal offences	1	19		11	31
TOTAL	1	46	2	113	162

Identified victims for the year 2020		
Type of sexploitation	GENDER	TOTAL

	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation	-	-	-	5	5
Human trafficking for labor exploitation	-	12	-	1	13
Human trafficking for sham marriage	-	-	-	2	2
Human trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation	-	2	-	2	4
Human trafficking for begging	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	-	14	-	11	25

Identified victims for the year 2020					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
INDIA	-	1	-	-	1
NEPAL	-	2	-	-	2
ROMANIA	-	-	-	3	3
PHILIPPINES	-	-	-	1	1
EGYPT	-	10	-	-	10
CAMEROON	-	1	-	2	3
CYPRUS	-	-	-	1	1
BULGARIA	-	-	-	4	4
TOTAL	-	14	-	11	25

24 (twenty four) victims concerned transnational trafficking while 1 (one) internal trafficking

Presumed victims for the year 2020					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				PRESUMMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
CAMEROON	1	4	-	24	29
ROMANIA	-	-	-	20	20
VIETNAM	-	-	-	2	2
CONGO	-	6	3	5	14
NIGERIA	-	3	-	5	8
NEPAL	-	15	-	6	21
BANGLADESH	-	2	-	-	2
EGYPT	-	16	-	-	16
GREECE	-	2	1	-	3
SYRIA	-	-	-	1	1
PAKISTAN	-	5	-	-	5
BELARUS	-	-	-	3	3
RUSSIA	-	-	-	6	6
MAROCO	-	-	-	1	1
INDIA	-	28	-	-	28
CYPRUS	-	-	-	1	1
BULFARIA	-	-	-	5	5
UKRAINE	-	-	-	4	4
FILIPPINES	-	-	-	1	1
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	1	81	4	85	171

Presumed victims for the year 2020					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation				63	63
Human trafficking for labor exploitation		75		7	85
Human trafficking for committing other criminal offences	1	6	3	14	24
Human trafficking for begging			1	1	2
TOTAL	1	81	4	85	171

Identified victims for the year 2021					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
CYPRUS	2	1	1	5	9
ROMANIA	-	-	-	3	3
EGYPT	-	5	-	-	5
NIGERIA	-	-	-	1	1
CONGO	-	-	1	-	1
NEPAL	-	-	-	1	1
SYRIA	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	3	6	2	10	21

Identified victims for the year 2021					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation	2	-	2	7	11
Human trafficking for labor exploitation	1	5	-	1	7
Human trafficking for committing other criminal offences (Securing registration by false pretenses)	-	1	-	2	3
TOTAL	3	6	2	10	21

11 (eleven) victims concerned transnational trafficking while 10 (ten) internal trafficking

Presumed victims for the year 2021					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
CYPRUS	---	5	---	14	19
UKRAINE	---	---	---	6	6
EGYPT	---	7	---	---	7
IVORY COST	---	---	---	1	1
CONGO	---	4	2	7	13
CAMEROON	1	1	---	20	22
BANGLADESH	---	7	---	---	7
SYRIA	2	2	---	---	4
GAMBIA	---	---	---	1	1
NIGERIA	---	---	---	3	3
NEPAL	---	2	---	6	8
BULGARIA	---	---	---	2	2
SRI LANKA	---	28	---	1	29
ROMANIA	---	---	---	6	6
VIETNAM	---	2	---	1	3
INDIA	---	14	---	---	14
SIERRA LEONE	---	---	1	---	1
GREECE	---	---	---	4	4
ARMENIA	---	---	---	1	1
GUNEA	---	---	---	1	1
LEBANON	---	---	---	1	1
RUSSIA	---	---	---	16	16
TOTAL	3	72	3	91	169

Presumed victims for the year 2021					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation	---	4	---	75	79
Human trafficking for labor exploitation	---	66	---	10	76
Human trafficking for committing other criminal offences	3	---	3	3	9
Human trafficking for performing adoptions	---	2	---	2	4
Human trafficking for organ removal	---	---	---	1	1
TOTAL	3	72	3	91	169

Identified victims for the year 2022					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				IDENTIFIED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
CYPRUS	---	---	2	---	2
ROMANIA	---	---	---	6	6
EGYPT	---	3	---	---	3
RUSSIA	---	---	---	1	1
BULGARIA	---	---	---	2	2
NEPAL	---	---	---	1	1
CAMEROON	---	---	---	1	1
TOTAL	---	3	2	11	16

Identified victims for the year 2022					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	ADULTS	MINORS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation	---	---	5		5
Human trafficking for labor exploitation	---	3	---	---	3
Human trafficking for the commitment of other criminal offences	---	---	5	2	7
Human trafficking for adoption	---	---	---	1	1
TOTAL	---	3	10	3	16

14 (fourteen) victims concerned transnational trafficking while 2 (two) internal trafficking

Presumed victims for the year 2022					
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				PRESUMED VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
CYPRUS	---	2	---	7	9
UKRAINE	---	---	---	27	27
BELARUS	---	---	---	3	3
CAMEROON	---	5	---	25	30
NIGERIA	---	1	---	31	32
BULGARIA	---	1	---	5	6
ROMANIA	---	---	---	17	17
INDIA	---	21	---	---	21
EGYPT	---	8	---	---	8
CHINA	---	12	---	7	19
VIETNAM	---	1	---	3	4
LATVIA	---	1	---	2	3
LITHOUANIA	---	---	---	2	2
ALBANIA	---	1	---	---	1
POLAND	---	---	---	2	2
SOMALIA	---	3	---	1	4
SRI LANKA	---	2	---	1	3
BANGLADESH	---	5	---	---	5
PAKISTAN	---	1	---	---	1
SIERRA LEONE	---	---	---	3	3
CONGO	---	1	---	8	9
NEW GIUNEA	---	1	---	---	1
MOLDOVA	---	1	---	3	4
GREECE	---	3	---	3	6
NEPAL	---	4	---	4	8
GEORGIA	---	1	---	---	1
SLOVAKIA	---	1	---	---	1
RUSSIA	---	---	---	5	5
TOGO	---	---	---	1	1
TOTAL	---	76	---	160	236

Presumed victims for the year 2022					
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINORS	ADULTS	MINORS	ADULTS	
Human trafficking for sexual exploitation	---	2	---	133	135
Human trafficking for labor exploitation	---	74	---	25	99
Human trafficking for committing other criminal offences	---	---	---	2	2
TOTAL	---	76	---	160	236

ANNEX II

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES INVESTIGATED IN 2019	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	3	3
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	2	2
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL AND LABOR EXPLOITATION	2	9
TRAFFICKING OF A MINOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEGGING	1	1
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	5	8
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION	1	1
TOTAL	14	24

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES INVESTIGATED IN 2020	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	3	7
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	4	13
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	1	1
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEGGING	1	1
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	2	3
TOTAL	11	25

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES INVESTIGATED IN 2021	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	5	6
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	2	6
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	4	6
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	2	2
TOTAL	13	20

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES INVESTIGATED IN 2022	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	3	3
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	3	3
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	1	2
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	2	2
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION	1	1
TRAFFICKING OF A MINOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	1	1
TOTAL	11	12

ANNEX III

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES PROSECUTED IN 2019	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	3	3
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	2	2
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL AND LABOR EXPLOITATION	2	9
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	5	8
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION	1	1
TOTAL	13	23

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES PROSECUTED IN 2020	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	3	7
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	4	13
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	1	1
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEGGING	1	1
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	1	2
TOTAL	10	24

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES PROSECUTED IN 2021	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	5	6
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	2	6
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	4	6
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	1	1
TOTAL	12	19

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF CASES PROSECUTED IN 2022	CASES	NUMBER OF VICTIMS INVOLVED
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	2	2
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION	3	3
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	1	2
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES	1	1
TRAFFICKING OF A MINOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	1	1
TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION	1	1
TOTAL	9	10

ANNEX IV**CONVICTIONS 2019**

TYPE OF CASE INVESTIGATED	NUMBER OF PERSONS CONVICTED	PENALTIES	OFFENCES	VICTIMS
				ADULTS / MONORS
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	2	5 months imprisonment	Money laundering, maintaining a brothel, living on the earnings of prostitution, illegal staying on the RoC	---
		5 months imprisonment	Money laundering, maintaining a brothel, living on the earnings of prostitution	
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	3 months imprisonment	Living on the earnings of prostitution	---
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of committing criminal offences	1	3 months imprisonment and €17913 fine	Failure to pay import duty, avoid payment of consumption taxes, illegal possession of duty-free products, fraudulent avoidance of payment of value added tax, possession of goods for which the payment of value added tax has been avoided, illegal possession of goods, fraudulent avoidance of duty payment, illegal possession of goods for which the payment of duty has been avoided	1 (minor) 1 (adult)
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of adoption	1	6 years imprisonment	Child trafficking, perjury, circulation of a forged document, causing execution of a document by false pretenses, forgery, securing registration by false pretenses	1 (minor)
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	€500 fine	Street prostitution	---

CONVICTIONS 2020

TYPE OF CASE INVESTIGATED	NUMBER OF PERSONS CONVICTED	PENALTIES	OFFENCES	VICTIMS
				ADULTS / MONORS
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	€800 fine	Securing registration by false pretenses, giving false information to the Police	---

CONVICTIONS 2021				
TYPE OF CASE INVESTIGATED	NUMBER OF PERSONS CONVICTED	PENALTIES	OFFENCES	VICTIMS
				ADULTS / MONORS
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	2 years imprisonment	Illegal possession of drugs	2 (adults)
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of committing criminal offences	1	4 months imprisonment	Assaulting causing actual bodily harm	2 (adults)
Trafficking for the purpose of begging	3	20 months imprisonment	Human trafficking, exploitation of persons for begging	1 (adult)
		2 years imprisonment	Human trafficking, exploitation of persons for begging	
		20 months imprisonment	Human trafficking, exploitation of persons for begging	
Trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation	4	4 years imprisonment	Participation in criminal organized group, human trafficking, labor exploitation	3 (adults)
		2 years imprisonment with 3 years suspension	Labor exploitation, securing registration with false pretenses	
		1 year imprisonment with suspension	Labor exploitation, circulation of forged documents	
		€1000 fine	Securing registration by false pretenses	
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	2	2 years imprisonment	Human trafficking, sexual exploitation, pimping, attempted pimping, living on the earnings of prostitution, maintaining a brothel, unlawful detention of a woman, money laundering, illegal employment	7 (adults)
		€14.950 fine	Human trafficking, sexual exploitation, pimping, attempted pimping, living on the earnings of prostitution, maintaining a brothel, unlawful detention of a woman, money laundering, illegal employment	
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	2 years imprisonment with 3 years suspension	Human trafficking, sexual exploitation	1 (minor)

CONVICTIONS 2022				
TYPE OF CASE INVESTIGATED	NUMBER OF PERSONS CONVICTED	PENALTIES	OFFENCES	VICTIMS
				ADULTS / MONORS
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	8 years imprisonment	Human trafficking, conspiracy to commit a felony, conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor, pimping, maintaining a brothel, sexual exploitation, money laundering	3 (adults)
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	3 years imprisonment	Human trafficking	2 (adults)
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual and labor exploitation	1	10 years imprisonment	Human trafficking, sexual and labor exploitation, rape, illegal employment, sexual assault	2 (adults)
Trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation	2	3 years imprisonment	Human trafficking, labor exploitation, illegal employment	2 (adults)
		20 months imprisonment	Human trafficking, labor exploitation, illegal employment	

ANNEX V

CONVICTED PERPETRATORS 2019				
TYPE OF CASE INVESTIGATED	NUMBER OF PERSONS CONVICTED	GENDER OF PERSON CONVICTED	AGE OF PERSON CONVICTED	NATIONALITY OF PERSON CONVICTED
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	2	Female	47	Russia
		Female	45	Belarus
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	Female	26	Poland
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of committing criminal offences	1	Male	38	Syria
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of adoption	1	Female	48	Philippines
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	Female	56	China
CONVICTED PERPETRATORS 2020				
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	Male	44	Bulgaria
CONVICTED PERPETRATORS 2021				
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	Male	41	Nigeria
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of committing criminal offences	1	Male	20	Romania
Trafficking for the purpose of begging	3	Male	40	Bulgaria
		Female	45	Bulgaria
		Male	37	Bulgaria
Trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation	4	Male	39	Pakistan
		Female	34	India
		Male	77	Cyprus
		Male	71	Cyprus
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	2	Male	41	Greece
		Female	38	China
Trafficking of a minor for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	Male	37	Cyprus
CONVICTED PERPETRATORS 2022				
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	Male	53	Greece
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	1	Male	35	Romania
Trafficking for the purpose of sexual and labor exploitation	1	Male	71	Cyprus
Trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation	2	Male	57	Greece
		Male	33	Egypt