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**Office of the Government  
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# **Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2019 – 2022**

**Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

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# 1. Introduction

Domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence continue to be a serious problem in Czech society. This is one of the most common forms of violence, which has fundamental negative impacts on the lives of victims and on society as a whole. International studies and Czech studies of domestic violence show that approximately one in three women and one in fourteen men experience various forms of domestic violence during their lives. Children are present in over half the cases of domestic and partner violence. Approximately 5–10% of Czech women experience rape, and the vast majority of them never seek help or report their incidents to law enforcement. A high degree of disclosure latency also remains in crimes of sexual harassment, stalking or gender-based cyber-violence.<sup>1</sup>

In recent years, the Czech Republic has taken a number of important measures designed to improve prevention and the position of victims of such issues. The possibility of expelling a violent person from a shared household was introduced, a network of intervention centres was constructed, training of the police and courts has improved, and awareness-raising and preventive campaigns have commenced. Challenges remain in the system of victim aid, however, and these challenges require attention and comprehensive action.

The Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2019 – 2022 (hereinafter “the Action Plan”) is the third strategic document of the Czech government devoted to the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence. The objective of which is to empower victims and streamline the mechanisms of prevention.

This Action Plan follows up the Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2015 – 2018 (“the Action Plan for 2015 – 2018”). The task of drawing up the Action Plan was assigned to the member of the Czech government responsible for gender equality by resolution of the Czech government no. 335 of 6 June 2018. The Action Plan also follows up the Government Strategy for Equality between Women and Men in the Czech Republic for 2014 – 2020 (hereinafter the “Strategy for Equality between Women and Men”), approved by Czech government resolution no. 931 of 12 November 2014. The obligation to take steps to prevent and eradicate domestic and gender-based violence also stems from a number of international conventions, declarations and recommendations (see Chapter 1.5 for more).

As in the previous period, in addition to addressing domestic violence, the Action Plan also covers other forms of gender-based violence as commonly defined by the relevant international standards.<sup>2</sup> According to the available statistics, in the context of the Czech Republic, this mainly involves rape, sexual abuse and stalking. Accordingly, the Action Plan pays greater attention to these forms of violence.

Specialist studies have long shown that women are the most frequent targets of domestic and gender-based violence.<sup>3</sup> The Action Plan is based on a gender-specific approach to these forms of violence. Therefore, it recognises the gender-specific needs of men and women, both in the roles of those affected by violence and, conversely, those perpetrating violence. The Action Plan’s goal is to cover all forms of domestic and gender-based violence regardless of the gender of the person affected by these forms of violence. Implementing the measures set out in the Action Plan will thus help improve the position of all victims, regardless of demographic.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see Chapter 2.1 Incidence of domestic and gender-based violence and Chapter 2.1 of the Action Plan 2015.

<sup>2</sup> These include the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Women or the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (or the General Recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).

<sup>3</sup> For more information see Chapter 2.1 Incidence of domestic and gender-based violence and Chapter 2.1 of the Action Plan 2015.

The Action Plan was drawn up by the Gender Equality Unit of the Human Rights Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (hereinafter “the Unit”) in cooperation with the Committee for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (“the Committee”), which is a working body of the Government Council for Equality between Women and Men (“the Council”). The Committee includes a diverse variety of representative experts who offer insight into domestic and gender-based violence through such lenses as public administration, NGOs, social services, academia, law enforcement, and judicial authority. Our Committee’s broad expertise and extensive on-the job experience played a key role in developing the Action Plan. A list of the Committee’s members and other persons involved in drawing up the Action Plan can be found in Chapter 3.

The Action Plan contains a total of 24 measures and is divided into 3 strategic areas:

1. Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence;
2. Protection of and support for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (including children);
3. Providing access to justice for all persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence.

The following table breaks down the measures by relevant ministry. Additionally, numerous measures of the Action Plan come under the authority of more than one ministry.

Table 1: Measures of the Action Plan by ministry

Department	Office of the Government	MoLSA	MoH	MoI	MoEYS	MoJ	MoF	MfRD
Number of measures	4	7	6	11	3	5	4	1

The principal measures of the Action Plan include ensuring specialised services are accessible to persons threatened by domestic and gender-based violence and their children (safe houses, crisis beds, crisis telephone helplines etc.); ensuring availability of programmes for working with perpetrators; establishing specialised services for victims of sexual violence; and educating professionals that most commonly come into contact with vulnerable persons. The prevention of these forms of violence via awareness-raising activities and education in schools is of paramount importance.

In implementing the various measures of the Action Plan, intersectional consideration will be given to the position of persons facing multiple forms of discrimination, most notably persons with a disability, seniors, foreign nationals, the homeless, members of the Roma population, and other vulnerable persons.

The preparation of the Action Plan took into account the recommendations for the creation of strategic documents at the level of the Czech government and laid down in the Methodology for the Creation of Public Strategies, which the Czech government noted by its resolution no. 318 of 2 May 2013, and its update approved by Czech government resolution no. 71 of 28 January.

### 1.1 Purpose of the Action Plan

The purpose of the Action Plan is to formulate, implement, and coordinate a comprehensive system of measures at the governmental level for preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence. These measures aim to reduce the incidence of these forms of

violence in Czech society and help both persons threatened by violence and persons committing violence.

The implementation of the measures set out in the Action should primarily improve the current standard of protection afforded to persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (including children living in families affected by domestic and gender-based violence); make the prevention of this violence more effective; develop education in the relevant professions in the area of domestic and gender-based violence; and support work with the perpetrators of violence.

## 1.2 Users of the Action Plan

It follows from the nature of the Action Plan, as a strategic document of the Czech government, that it is primarily intended for the relevant central bodies of state administration. It also imposes tasks on such bodies for the 2019 – 2022 period.

Additionally, the Action Plan is intended for all social services organisations and providers active in the field of preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence. The Action Plan does not impose tasks on these organisations, rather it provides them with information on the Czech government's priorities and planned measures. Similarly, the Action Plan will be of use to regions and municipalities formulating their own strategic documents on social policy.

## 1.3 Basic definitions

The definitions of key terms conform to their consistent usage in the relevant international and national documents (see Chapter 1.5).

***Assisted contact between parents and children*** – A meeting between a child and a parent with whom the child does not live in a shared household and with whom contact has been lost for certain reasons (long-term separation, domestic or other violence, separations or divorces in families). The assisted contact takes place in a safe and specially adapted environment with the assistance of specialised staff. The primary goal of assisted contact is to facilitate a safe meeting with a parent who committed violence in the family so that the child can safely enjoy his/her right to relationships with both parents. During these interventions, the possible risks of these meetings for the child are identified and monitored. Simultaneously, the benefit of such meetings for every child's healthy development is prioritised, taking into account the wishes and needs of the child itself and stressing its best interests. Assisted contact should be temporary, not long-term, and should lead towards the child being able to safely meet the parent by itself. If this is unrealistic, this contact should be terminated, as per the best interest of the child.

***Domestic violence*** – All acts of physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or other forms of violence that take place in a family or in a household or between former or current spouses, partners or kith and kin. Domestic violence is characterised by its repeated, long-term and cyclical nature, gradual escalation, and tendency to take place in nonpublic settings. The roles of the victims and perpetrators are clearly separate.

***Dating violence*** – Violence committed when a partner relationship is being established at a time when the person affected by the violence and the perpetrator of the violence do not share an abode or cannot be regarded as partners. This violence typically occurs among adolescents when looking for a partner, male or female.

**Gender** – Refers to socially and culturally conditioned and constructed differences between women and men, which vary widely by location and historical context. They are neither natural nor immutable characteristics of women and men. Rather, they reflect the current state of social relationships between them. As such, gender is complementary to sex in the sense of biological differences between women and men.

**Gender-based violence** – All acts of physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or other violence targeted specifically at a person on the basis of his/her sex. This definition is based on international legal documents like the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Under this definition, sexual violence, rape, sexual harassment, and stalking are regarded as forms of gender-based violence in addition to domestic and partner violence. Although men are sometimes victimized, women are far more likely to be.<sup>4</sup> The Action Plan focuses on forms of gender-based violence in the knowledge that not all cases of this violence are necessarily gender-based or gender-motivated. The crime of stalking, for example, may be motivated by the victim's sex or gender (e.g. stalking of a former female partner), but need not always be (e.g. stalking on political grounds). Prevention, professional training, and other measures of this Action Plan ultimately help all victims of these forms of violence, regardless of gender affiliation.

**Gender stereotypes** – Simplified and prejudiced ideas about traits, opinions, and roles of women and men in society, at work, and within a family. Generalisation of male and female characteristics can lead to those whose behaviour deviates from the given stereotype being disadvantaged (e.g. pressure on boys and men who are interested in “female” activities). Some gender stereotypes also contribute to domestic and gender-based violence and prevent victims from seeking help (e.g. the assumption that a woman should stay with her partner under all circumstances, even if he is violent towards her; the assumption that a man cannot be a victim of domestic violence; or the opinion that women are in certain cases partly responsible for being raped).

**Innovative approaches to tackling domestic and gender-based violence** – A number of innovative measures, methods, and solutions are emerging in the field of domestic and gender-based violence. These are implemented into existing services for persons facing domestic and gender-based violence and into programmes for work with perpetrators. These measures and approaches may be founded on international good practice, such as the use of the Norwegian educational film “Angry Man”<sup>5</sup>. They can also focus on previously overlooked actors in the prevention system (e.g. educating bar and nightclub staff in how to help victims of sexual violence and abuse) or make use of new methods for sharing information and improving competence (peer-to-peer education on domestic and gender-based violence in schools).

**Cyber-violence** – An umbrella term for various forms of violence in cyberspace. This is specific in that it does not attack a person's physical integrity but, as a rule, the person's dignity or intimate life. Cyber-violence includes online harassment (e.g. harassment by means of unwanted text messages, tracking movements by phone etc.); intimate partner violence (e.g. threats of publishing intimate photographs or videos, known as “revenge porn”); culturally justified violence (spreading sexist jokes, setting up a Facebook group on the topic of rape, sexual violence etc.); sexual assault (using technology to set up a meeting with someone and subsequently causing them physical harm); etc. Cyber-violence tends to be referred to as one of the new forms of gender-based violence.

**Perpetrator of violence** – An individual who commits one or more forms of domestic or gender-based violence.

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<sup>4</sup> For more information see: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/what-is-gender-based-violence>

<sup>5</sup> For more information see: <http://www.zurivec.cz/>.

**Person affected by domestic or gender-based violence** – An individual experiencing one or more forms of this violence, including children living in families where domestic or gender-based violence occurs.

**Secondary victimisation** – A process whereby a person affected by domestic or gender-based violence is needlessly traumatised in connection with an investigation into this violence, the reporting of this violence or the provision of help by various parties.

**Sexual violence** – Any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by coercion, acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person's sexuality<sup>6</sup>. In most cases, sexual violence involves the use of sexuality as a tool of power.

**Specialised social services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence** – Specialised services are characterised by their focus on the provision of help and support tailor-made to each victim's specific needs; they are not intended for the general public. In the Czech context, this includes intervention centres (established pursuant to Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services), safe houses, or specialist social counselling provided exclusively to victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

**Tertiary victimisation** – Needless exposure of a victim of a crime or act of violence that was not classified as a crime to psychological stress in connection with this act in the period following primary and secondary victimisation.

## 1.4 Related international and national documents

The Action Plan follows up a number of documents adopted at European and international level. These include both human rights conventions and strategic documents on equality between women and men and more specific documents containing concrete recommendations for preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence.

The following documents were particularly relevant to the measures formulated in the Action Plan:

- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the General Recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women nos. 12, 19 and 35;
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women in 1995;
- Resolution of the UN General Assembly of 31 January 2001 on the elimination of all forms of violence against women (A/RES/55/68);
- Resolution of the UN General Assembly of 20 December 2004 on the elimination of all forms of violence against women (A/RES/59/167);
- Resolution of the UN General Assembly of 18 December 2007 on the elimination of rape and all other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations (A/RES/62/134);
- Conclusions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women on 15 March 2013 regarding the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;
- Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of women against violence;
- EU Council conclusions on Combating Violence against Women and the Provision of Support Services for Victims of Domestic Violence;

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<sup>6</sup> See the definition of the World Health Organization, World report on violence and health (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2002)

- EU Council conclusions on Preventing and Combating All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls, including Female Genital Mutilation, of 5 and 6 June 2014;
- Conclusions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women regarding the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;
- Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Action Plan also responds to the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed to the Czech Republic. Another international document the Action Plan draws on as a source of inspiration is the Istanbul Convention opened for signature in May 2011. The Istanbul Convention lays down general standards in the prevention of this violence and help for affected persons. The Czech Republic signed the Istanbul Convention on 2 May 2016. Czech government resolution no. 114 of 8 February 2016 tasked the minister of justice with submitting to the government draft legislative measures for implementing the Istanbul Convention and setting a deadline of 30 June 2017 for the submission of these measures. These measures were incorporated into the amendment of the Criminal Code promulgated under Act No. 287/2018 Coll. and effective since 1 February 2019. The Ministry of Justice is currently preparing materials for a draft ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The Action Plan does not anticipate the possible ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the Czech Republic.

The measures set out in the Action Plan follow up the following national documents:

- National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking in the CR 2016 – 2019;
- Social Inclusion Strategy 2014 – 2020;
- Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for 2016 – 2020;
- Roma Integration Strategy up to 2020;
- National Plan for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities for 2015 – 2020;
- Updated Concept for the Integration of Foreign Nationals;
- Concept for Preventing and Tackling Homelessness Issues in the CR up to 2020;
- Action Plan for Implementing the National Strategy for Primary Prevention of Risk Behaviour among Children and Young People for 2019 – 2021;
- National Strategy for the Development of Social Services for 2016 – 2025.

The Action Plan does not conflict with the above materials and does not duplicate tasks or funding allocation claims.



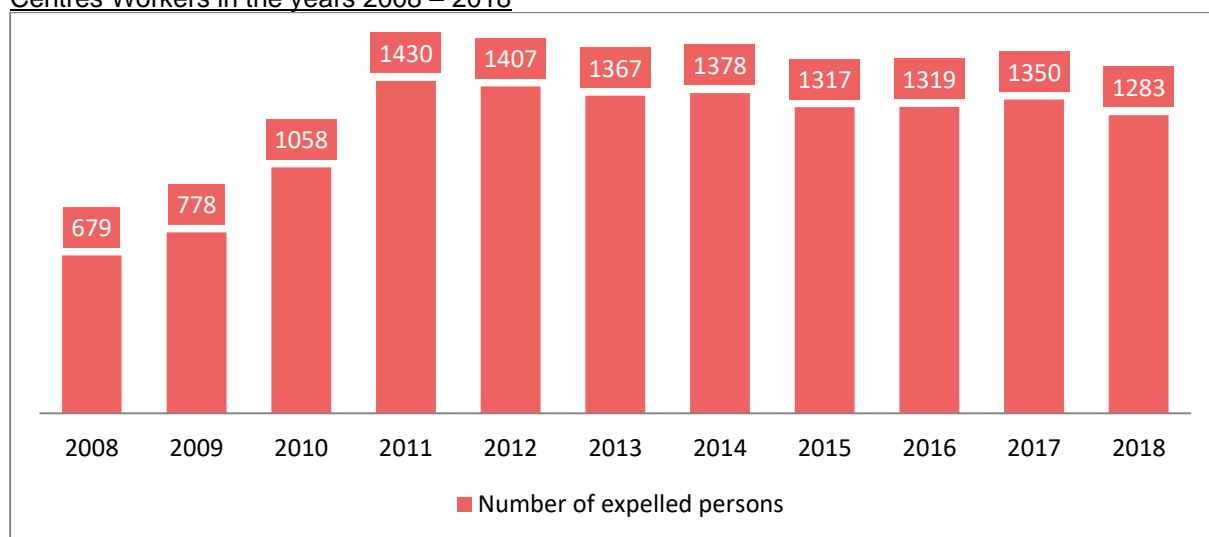
## 2. Current Research on Domestic and Gender-based Violence

### 2.1 Occurrence of domestic and gender-based violence

In most cases, domestic violence is repeated, long-term, and cyclical. In some cases it can gradually escalate. As a rule, the roles of victim and perpetrator are clearly separate. One specific feature of domestic violence is that it is not public. Domestic violence is perpetrated against the perpetrator's kith and kin (e.g. wife/husband, partner, parent, grandparent or sibling). It takes on various forms – it can be physical, psychological, sexual, economic or another form of violence, or some combination.<sup>7</sup> The physical and psychological violence also takes on various forms, with studies showing that the consequences of all their forms can be very serious. The results of the latest research and analysis in this field are presented below.

A detailed summary of the occurrences and pan-societal impacts of domestic and gender-based violence was presented in the Action Plan 2015 – 2018.<sup>8</sup> According to the available statistics, approximately 600 cases of rape are reported to the police every year in the Czech Republic. The police deal with on average two cases of abuse of a person living in a shared household per day. The socio-legal protection of children authorities register approx. 2,500 cases per year of domestic violence in families with children. Finally, over 1,300 perpetrators of violence are expelled from their home on the grounds of violence every year.<sup>9</sup> An overview of expulsions according to data from intervention centres and overviews of statistics gathered in the context of crime statistics yearbooks is presented below.

Chart 1: Number of expelled persons according to data from the Association of Czech Intervention Centres Workers in the years 2008 – 2018<sup>10</sup>



<sup>7</sup> For more information see the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women for 2011 – 2014. Accessible at: <https://www.vlada.cz/assets/media-centrum/aktualne/Narodni-akcni-plan-prevence-domaciho-nasili-na-leta-2011-2014.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> For more information see the Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2015 – 2018. Accessible at: <https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Akcni-plan-prevence-domaciho-a-genderove-podmineneho-nasili.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> In the context of the total number of expulsions in 2018, the police designated 2,149 persons as in danger, 153 of whom were men, 1,285 women and 711 minors. Statistical data provided by the Association of Intervention Centre Workers of the Czech Republic. For more information see [http://www.domaci-nasili.cz/?page\\_id=255](http://www.domaci-nasili.cz/?page_id=255)

<sup>10</sup> Statistical outputs are drawn from data from intervention centres in the Czech Republic (Section 60a), Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services. Statistical data provided by the Association of Intervention Centre Workers of the CR. For more information see [http://www.domaci-nasili.cz/?page\\_id=255](http://www.domaci-nasili.cz/?page_id=255).

Table 2: Number of stalking crimes 2010 – 2018<sup>11</sup>

Stalking	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
identified cases	537	535	485	520	490	487	395	337	363
resolved cases	390	410	349	380	373	355	288	238	259
prosecutions	314	380	321	328	318	282	309	268	272
prosecuted women	35	27	38	27	29	29	27	26	25

Chart 2: Number of crimes of abuse of a person living in a shared household 2009 – 2018<sup>12</sup>

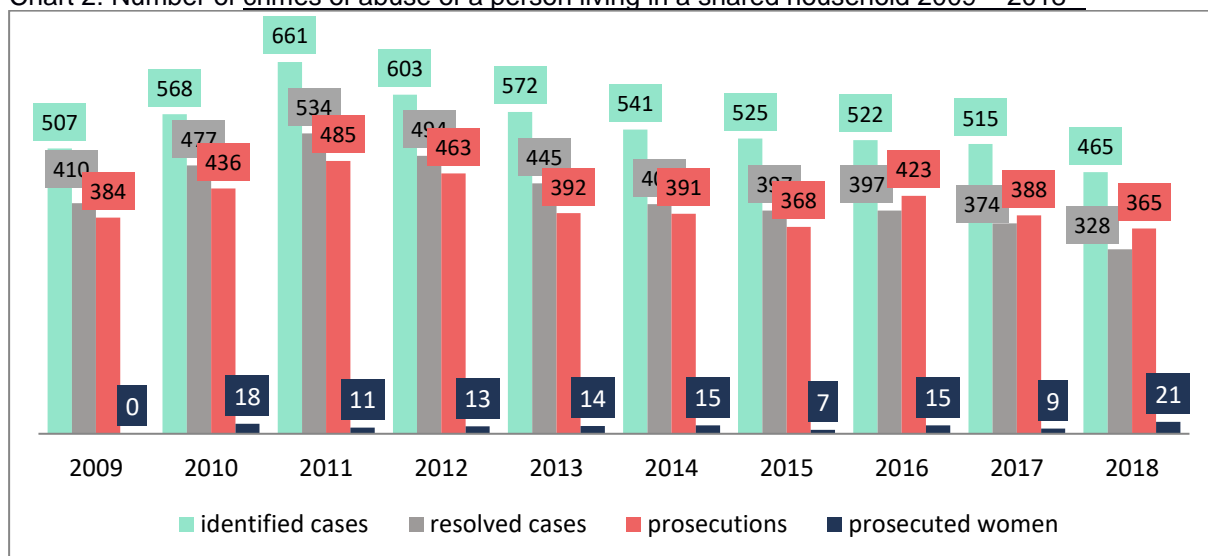
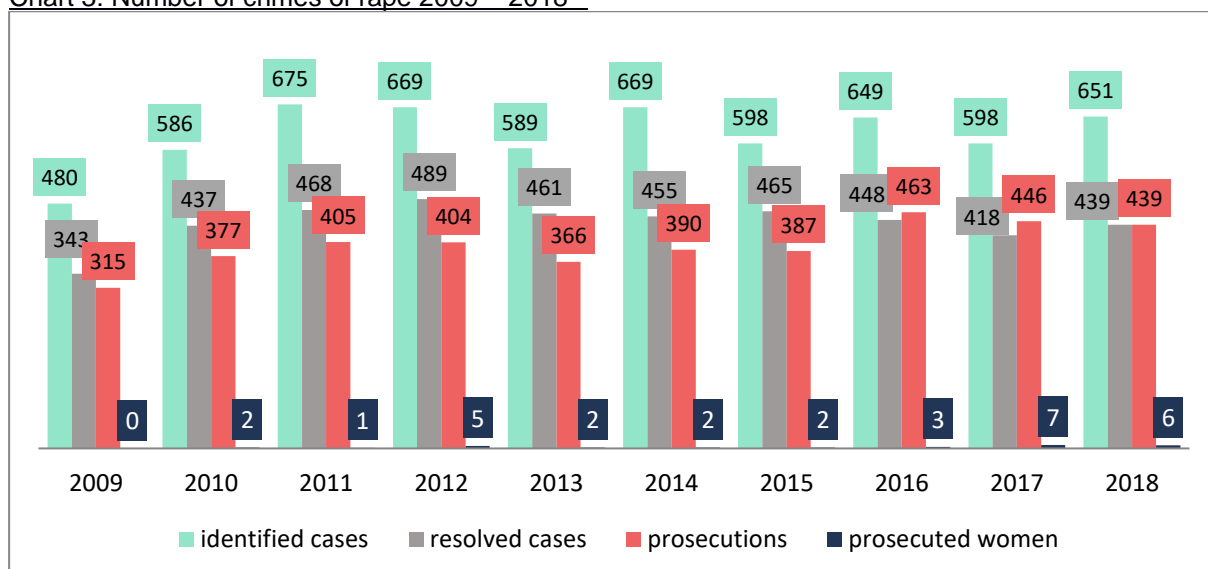


Chart 3: Number of crimes of rape 2009 – 2018<sup>13</sup>



<sup>11</sup> Source: Police of the Czech Republic: <http://www.policie.cz/clanek/statisticke-prehledy-kriminality-za-rok-2018.aspx>.

<sup>12</sup> Statistical overviews of crime are accessible online at: <http://www.policie.cz/clanek/statisticke-prehledy-kriminality-za-rok-2018.aspx>.

<sup>13</sup> Statistical overviews of crime are accessible online at: <http://www.policie.cz/clanek/statisticke-prehledy-kriminality-za-rok-2018.aspx>.

Table 3: Number of crimes of murder motivated by personal relationships 2008 – 2018<sup>14</sup>

Murders motivated by personal relationships	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
identified cases	94	87	100	108	104	103	78	86	74	80	65
resolved cases	92	83	96	98	102	100	71	78	69	77	62
prosecutions	96	90	103	101	111	109	71	85	75	82	64
prosecuted women <sup>15</sup>	-	-	24	11	13	16	12	20	10	19	8

These data represent a mere fragment of the actual incidence of these forms of violence. However, as most cases go unreported (it is estimated that in the case of rape, for example, just 5–10% of actual cases are reported<sup>16</sup>). According to the results of both international and Czech research, almost every third woman in the Czech Republic experiences domestic violence from their partner. According to a 2016 survey by the Association of Intervention Centre Workers of the Czech Republic, more than one fifth of women identify themselves as victims of domestic violence. The share of men was much lower (7%). Children were present in over half the cases of domestic (56.4%) and intimate partner violence cases (57.9%).<sup>17</sup>

Regarding domestic violence committed against men, the expert literature concurs that men are also affected by domestic violence, which can be committed by either men or women.<sup>18</sup> Although the occurrence of domestic violence against men is less frequent, it is characterised by certain circumstances that make prevention and aid more challenging. Namely, domestic violence against men is less visible because the physical consequences usually tend to be less serious. Additionally, men are more likely to deny being the victim of domestic violence as a consequence of gender stereotypes.<sup>19</sup> As a result, men are generally more hesitant to confide in anyone or seek help.

Important findings concerning the occurrence of sexual violence in the Czech Republic were provided by a 2017 sociological survey performed by the agency, Focus, for the organisation, Persefona. The study indicates, for example, that every 11<sup>th</sup> person in Czechia has experienced rape. However, only 5% of victims report their experiences. Two thirds of rapes take place at home and are perpetrated by an intimate partner. Another alarming fact is that 64% of victims of childhood sexual violence have further experiences during adulthood. Women aged 18–34 are the group most affected by sexual violence.<sup>20</sup>

## 2.2 Public attitudes towards domestic and gender-based violence

<sup>14</sup> Source: Police of the the Czech Republic: <http://www.policie.cz/clanek/statisticke-prehledy-kriminality-za-rok-2018.aspx>.

<sup>15</sup> Data for 2008 and 2009 are not available.

<sup>16</sup> For more information see e.g. Home Office Research Study: A Gap or A Chasm? Attrition in Reported Rape Cases. 2005. Dostupné:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110314171826/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors293.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> Topinka, D. 2016. Domáci násilí z perspektivy aplikovaného výzkumu. Základní fakta a výsledky. Accessible at: <http://www.domaci-nasilii.cz/wp-content/uploads/Dom%C3%A1c%C3%AD-n%C3%A1sil%C3%AD-z-perspektivyaplikovan%C3%A9ho-v%C3%BDzkumu.-SocioFactor-2016..pdf>

<sup>18</sup> For more information see Social Studies Faculty: Muži a domácí násilí, sborník z konference. 2011. Accessible at: <http://www.nasilinamuzich.cz/wp-content/uploads/muzi.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> For more information see Čírtková, L.: Men as victims of domestic violence. Law and family, no. 7/2010 or Stockl H., Devrines K., Rotstein A., Abrahams N., Campbell J., Watts Ch., Moreno C.G. The global prevalence of intimate partner homicide: a systematic review. Lancet 20 June 2013.

<sup>20</sup> For more information see: <http://www.persefona.cz/sexualni-nasilii-nebo-obtezovali-zazilo-39-cechu>.

Domestic and gender-based violence continues to be dogged by a whole series of stereotypes in society. In 2018, Amnesty International Czech Republic repeated a representative public opinion survey regarding violence against women (originally conducted in 2015).<sup>21</sup> The latest survey shows that, according to the estimates of the Czech adult population, as many as 10,000 women on average will become victims of rape in the Czech Republic, which is five times the estimate from three years ago. Almost half the respondents estimated that at most 40% of these cases are reported to the police (a fall of 3 percentage points from 2015). Just under half (45%) of the respondents hold the opinion that the culprit is convicted in at most 30% of rape cases (a fall of 2 percentage points from 2015). A relatively significant percentage of the respondents think rape is most commonly committed by an unknown stranger (44%). The survey also confirmed other stereotypes about rape. More than half the adult population (58%) continues to think that a woman is at least partly responsible for being raped in certain cases or situations: if the woman acted flirtatiously (as many as 42%; fall of 3 percentage points); or was drunk (37%; down by 6 percentage points); or did not clearly say “no” (32%; down 5 percentage points); or was wearing sexy or provocative clothing (30%; down by 7 percentage points). Even though a large proportion of the public still attributes part of the blame on the rape victim in some cases, the prevalence of these opinions is decreasing. The survey also revealed that over 70% of the respondents think that the current situation with violence against women in the Czech Republic is a problem. The perception of the need to improve prevention is even stronger – 84% of all respondents call for a greater focus on preventing violence against women in the Czech Republic.

This is confirmed by the representative surveys by Persefona that took place in 2016 and 2017. In addition to public opinion on violence, these surveys looked at its prevalence, including the repeated victimisation of persons who experienced violence before the age of 15. The research revealed that rape within marriage causes serious harm according to 85% of respondents, while 91% of respondents regard rape outside marriage as a cause of serious harm.<sup>22</sup>

Persisting dangerous stereotypes about domestic violence in Czech society were previously described by research by the Association of Intervention Centre Workers of the Czech Republic from 2016. According to that research, a large percentage of the Czech public (43%) is convinced that some women have a tendency to choose aggressors as partners and are therefore partly responsible for their plight. The conviction that victims are to blame for not standing up for themselves is relatively common (36%). This widespread opinion on the “weakness” of affected persons remaining in pathological relationships contributes to their stigmatisation. However, the research also confirmed positive developments concerning the public’s stereotypical ideas about domestic violence, the characteristics of its protagonists and its manifestations. For example, 91% of respondents expressed the opinion that they do not approve of men beating their wives. Similarly, 85% of respondents, male and female, did not agree with the idea that aggression equates to masculinity. The positive evolution in this area can be attributed to awareness-raising activities in the field of domestic violence and gender stereotypes, the gradual destigmatizing of this topic, and the adoption of relevant legislative changes and other measures in this area.<sup>23</sup>

A representative survey of public attitudes towards corporal punishment of children, conducted by the League of Open Men in 2018, brought some interesting findings in relation to the protection of children from violence. This survey revealed that 63% of the Czech Republic would use physical punishments at least in exceptional cases. The view that corporal punishment is the best solution in certain situations is held by 68% of the public. A comparison

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<sup>21</sup> Amnesty International. 2018. Violence on women from the view of Czech public. For more information see: [https://www.amnesty.cz/data/file/4254-vvm\\_problematika-nasili-na-zenach-optikou-ceske-populace.pptx?version=1541109702](https://www.amnesty.cz/data/file/4254-vvm_problematika-nasili-na-zenach-optikou-ceske-populace.pptx?version=1541109702).

<sup>22</sup> For more information see: <http://www.zlabyrintunasili.cz/>

<sup>23</sup> Topinka, D. 2016. Domestic violence from the view of applied research. Accessible at: <http://www.domaci-nasili.cz/wp-content/uploads/Dom%C3%A1c%C3%AD-n%C3%A1sil%C3%AD-z-perspektivyaplikovan%C3%A9ho-v%C3%BDzkumu.-SocioFactor-2016..pdf>

with equivalent research from 2013 showed that the Czech population's attitude to corporal punishment of children has essentially remained unchanged.<sup>24</sup> That is despite the fact that studies from recent years more and more frequently draw attention to the fact that using corporal punishment on children does not work and has harmful consequences.

## 2.3 Economic impacts of domestic and gender-based violence

Research into the economic impacts of domestic violence in the the Czech Republic was undertaken by the NGO proFem in 2012. The study showed that dealing with domestic violence costs the Czech Republic's state budget over CZK 1.3 billion every year. This is a conservative estimate, as indirect costs linked to domestic violence were not included in the calculation. Negative economic impacts were examined in the following areas: work by the police, public prosecutors and courts, infraction proceedings, social services, unemployment support, healthcare, disability pensions, and sickness insurance.<sup>25</sup>

An analysis by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic in 2017 supports this research. The Office of the Government put the annual economic impacts of this violence on the Czech Republic at CZK 14.5 billion. The lion's share of this cost is taken by the loss of productivity in consequence of incapacity for work due to injuries caused by a domestic violence incident, which came to over CZK 8 billion. The second highest cost of domestic violence comes under healthcare. An estimated annual amount of almost CZK 5 billion is spent on treating injuries caused by violence in partner relationships, with a further CZK 250 million going on treating the psychological consequences of domestic violence. Police and judiciary costs for dealing with criminal and civil cases involving violence between partners amount to CZK 86 million. The cost of providing crisis help, specialist social counselling, sheltered housing, intervention centres, and other social services is put at CZK 487 million. The total costs do not include expenditure of the actual victims of domestic violence and their psychological harm, so the economic impacts of domestic violence are underestimated.<sup>26</sup>

## 2.4 Current problems in the field of domestic and gender-based violence

The analyses by proFem (2017) and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (2018) draw attention to the issue of court rulings in rape cases. The analysis of court rulings in rape cases published by proFem in 2017 reveals that convictions with unconditional sentences of imprisonment and with suspended sentences are split 50:50.<sup>27</sup> This ratio is confirmed by statistics of the Ministry of Justice: of 205 convictions in 2017, 97 perpetrators received unconditional sentences of imprisonment, while the sentence was suspended in 106 cases. Protective measures were imposed in just 46 cases of suspended sentences, with a proportionate restriction or obligation in just 18 cases. An overview of suitable decision-making practice by courts in rape cases also draws attention to the lack of uniformity in court rulings in comparable cases and in the imposition of further protective measures.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Open men league. 2018. Physical punishments. For more information see: [http://www.ilom.cz/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018\\_10\\_LOM\\_Fyzicke\\_tresty.pdf](http://www.ilom.cz/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018_10_LOM_Fyzicke_tresty.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> For more information see K. Kunc, and team: Economical impacts of domestic violence in the Czech Republic. 2012. Accessible at: [http://www.profem.cz/shared/clanky/103/profem-studie2b-web\\_1.pdf](http://www.profem.cz/shared/clanky/103/profem-studie2b-web_1.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. 2017. Economical impacts of domestic violence. Accessible at: <https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Analyza-ekonomickych-dopadu-DN.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> ProFem. 2017. Only yes is yes. Rape offense in the light of the Istanbul Convention. Accessible at: [http://www.profem.cz/shared/clanky/550/A5-JenAnoJeAno\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.profem.cz/shared/clanky/550/A5-JenAnoJeAno_WEB.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. 2018. An overview of appropriate court decision-making practice in rape cases. Accessible at: [http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/Projekt\\_OPZ/Vystupy\\_projektu/prehled\\_vhodne\\_rozhodovaci\\_praxe\\_soudu\\_znasilneni.pdf](http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/Projekt_OPZ/Vystupy_projektu/prehled_vhodne_rozhodovaci_praxe_soudu_znasilneni.pdf)

Another growing issue in this area is intimate partner violence between young people and adolescents. Research done by proFem in 2019 focused on this issue and its impacts on young people's lives.<sup>29</sup> Intimate partner violence by young people (13–26 years of age) usually displays different characteristics and different dynamics from domestic violence. Here, cyber-violence plays a much bigger role, i.e. overwhelming someone with messages, checking a partner's phone without their consent, coercive sending of erotic photographs or revenge porn after the end of a relationship (threatening to post erotic photographs or videos of the partner on social media, or actually doing so), etc. The consequences of intimate partner violence can be very serious. The research showed that 43% of young people who have experienced or are currently experiencing violence in a relationship suffer from a long-term inability to concentrate in school or in their studies. Other figures are even more serious: every fourth girl (or boy) experiencing violence in a relationship consequently suffers from anorexia or marked weight loss; 18% of young people experiencing intimate partner violence are afraid for their life; and a full 16% of victims consider suicide. The research also featured a comparative analysis of the incidence of this violence in other countries. In Georgia, Spain, Croatia, and Austria 23–33% of young people have experienced violence in intimate partner relationships. The research results flag up the seriousness and global nature of the phenomenon of intimate partner violence among young people.

Research done by Centrum LOCIKA in cooperation with the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs in 2018 drew attention to the enduring problem of the insufficient availability of services for children affected by violence in the family.<sup>30</sup> These analyses revealed that in areas where there is no specialised service in the vicinity, it can take years for the children to get specialist help. The results of these analyses draw attention to the fact that these services are provided for just 10–15% of the registered cases of domestic violence, according to data from the MoLSA. This is despite the fact that 14% of Czech children experience violence in the family, according to UNICEF research.<sup>31</sup>

### **3. Procedure of creating the Action Plan**

Preparation of the Action Plan was begun in December 2017, when the Committee set up a working group for preparing the Action Plan (hereinafter “the Working Group”) and set a timetable. The Working Group's first meeting was held on 14 June 2018. Subsequent meetings took place until the end of November 2018, with the Working Group meeting five times in total during this period. At these meetings, the Working Group identified persisting problems in the various strategic areas of the Action Plan and proposed measures to address these problems. External experts (mainly from the Committee's Working Group for Work with Violent Persons) were invited to some of these meetings. The Working Group also kept the Committee informed about the state of preparations at its meetings.

A working version of the Action Plan was presented to the Committee on 10 January 2019 for comments, and on 17 January the Committee met to discuss the draft Action Plan. The final version of the Action Plan was approved by the Committee by correspondence voting on 28 January 2019. In March 2019, the Action Plan was approved by the Government Council for Equality between Women and Men and subsequently opened for interdepartmental consultation.

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<sup>29</sup> For more information see:

<http://new.profem.cz/shared/clanky/670/V%C3%BDstupy%20z%20v%C3%BDzkumu.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> Research Institute of Labor and Social Affairs. 2018. Providing psychotherapeutic assistance to a child in cases of domestic violence. Analysis based on data from LOCIKA Center clients.

<sup>31</sup> For more information see: <https://www.unicef.cz/aktualne/146814-ceske-deti--jak-jsme-na-tom>.

Experts in domestic and gender-based violence from NGOs active in this field, from state administration, the judiciary, intervention centres and other relevant social services providers were participated in preparing the Action Plan.

**Committee members (as at 10 January 2019):**

Bálková Pavla, MoJ	Laurenčíková Klára, Charles University
Bednářová Zdena Zuzana, independent expert	Levová Jana, Spondea
Bělohávková Kateřina, MoI	Marvánová Vargová Branislava, independent expert (chair)
Čechová Jitka, Persefona	Poláková Jitka, proFem, Czech Women's Lobby (deputy chair)
Hurychová Eva, independent expert	Potměšil Jan, independent expert
Holušová Barbora, IC Praha	Prokopová Zdeňka, ROSA
Hovorka Daniel, MoLSA	Spoustová Ivana, lawyer
Chaloupková Jaroslava, Acorus	Trávníček Zdeněk, independent expert
Ježková Veronika, independent expert	Vitoušová Petra, Bílý kruh bezpečí
Jonitová Bronislava, MoD	Vojtíšková Martina, Association of Intervention Centres Workers
Jung Tomáš, MoH	Vrbický Jan, MoLSA
Krpálková Jindřiška, Pro Dialog	Wűnschová Petra, Centrum Locika

**Other collaborators:**

Bubeník Miroslav, Nomia	Líbalová Alena, Association of Intervention Centre Workers
Fajmonová Veronika, MoEYS	Mertlíková Jitka, Theia – crisis centre
Hořavová Barbora, OSF Foundation	Volná Jana, IC Vysočina
Košatková Eva, MoLSA	Skoumalová Alena, Regional Headquarters of the Police of the Czech Republic in Brno

## 4. Review of existing measures

The previous Action Plan 2015 – 2018 was the second comprehensive strategic document at the level of the Czech government specifically focusing on the prevention of domestic violence and help for its victims. Unlike the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence for 2011 – 2014, it also covered other forms of gender-based violence. Work on the Action Plan 2015 – 2018 began at the end of 2013 and it was approved by Czech government resolution no. 126 of 23 February 2015.

The implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018 was assessed by the Committee through its annually adopted document, entitled, “Summary Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018” (hereinafter the “Summary Reports”). The Summary Reports also contain recommendations to the Committee for more effective implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018. These recommendations underpinned the formulation of some of the tasks in this Action Plan. The Summary Report for 2016 included an Updated Action Plan 2015 – 2018, which was approved by Czech government resolution no. 622 of 4 September 2017.<sup>32</sup> The update comprised both a reformulation of certain existing tasks and a number of new tasks.

<sup>32</sup> The update of the Action is accessible online at: [https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/Aktuality/Aktualizace\\_Akcního-planu\\_DN\\_2017.pdf](https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/Aktuality/Aktualizace_Akcního-planu_DN_2017.pdf).

It became clear in the early stages of the implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018 that the rigorous execution of certain measures by some government departments would be problematic, either because the given measure was too general or because the departments lacked the will to execute measures.

In general terms, the implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018 can be viewed positively in the sense that most positive steps were taken by the state administration in the fields of awareness-raising and education. As part of the implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018, numerous specialist conferences, training seminars for experts and the general public and an extensive awareness-raising campaign on this issue were organised. The implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018 pooled a large number of new findings regarding the incidence of domestic and gender-based violence in the Czech Republic, the availability of specialised services for persons affected by this violence, and perpetrators of this violence. These findings played an important role in the formulation of Action Plan measures.

The implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018 made it possible to push through certain important legislative changes. These included the approval of an amendment of Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, and certain other acts in connection with preparations for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. Another important legislative development was the adoption of Act No. 250/2016 Coll., on responsibility for infractions and infraction proceedings, which now makes it possible to compel perpetrators of violence in close relationships to undergo a suitable aggression and violent conduct management programme. Under the Act on Social Services, help is provided to the victims of domestic violence through intervention centres in all regions.

Continuing challenges include ensuring that other specialised social services are available for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (e.g. safe houses for persons affected by this violence or other forms of residential service), including children with specific needs (e.g. the availability of specialised social services in foreign languages or with provided interpreting) and ensuring that there is sufficient and predictable funding for NGOs operating in the field of preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence. An equivalent situation applies to the availability of programmes for work with perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence. This latest Action Plan seeks to respond to these challenges.

In line with experiences with the implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018, the tasks contained in this Action Plan were formulated as specifically as possible so that government departments get a clear idea of how they are expected to implement them. At the same time, the number of strategic areas<sup>33</sup> and the number of measures were reduced so that the implementation of the measures by government departments was clearer and more effective. When the various tasks were being proposed, an effort was made to apply the SMART approach so that the envisaged measures are sufficiently specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.<sup>34</sup>

## 5. Implementation of the Action Plan

The Action Plan will be implemented through activities by government departments linked to the tasks set out in it. The member of the Czech government whose responsibilities include

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<sup>33</sup> As with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, a “3 P’s” system was applied: Prevention, Protection a Prosecution.

<sup>34</sup> The SMART method (contraction of: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) is an aid used in project management and strategy creation at the phase of setting goals.



equality between women and men will play a coordinating role in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Monitoring implementation and evaluating the Action Plan will be done by the Committee and Council. It is envisaged that the various government departments, through their representatives on the Committee, will keep the Committee informed on progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and, if necessary, consult their steps with a view to executing the various tasks. The Committee will therefore play an assistance role as well as a monitoring role.

Annual assessment of the Action Plan's implementation will continue to take place in the form of reports in line with the timetable presented below. The member of the Czech government whose responsibilities include equality between women and men will be responsible for preparing the reports. For the purposes of collecting materials from departments for preparing the Action Plan implementation reports, the Committee will draw up an overview of the required information in connection to indicators for the relevant Action Plan tasks. Preparation of the reports will also encompass proposals for updating or adding to the tasks laid down by the Action Plan so that it is possible to respond swiftly to new challenges and current problems. In the middle of the Action Plan's effective period (start of 2021), a proposal for updating it will be put before the Czech government.

**Summary Reports preparation timetable:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>
continuous	informing the Committee about how individual departments are implementing the Action Plan	members of the Czech government
January year <i>n+1</i>	requesting materials from departments on implementation of the Action Plan in year <i>n</i>	member of the Czech government whose responsibilities include equality between women
February/March year <i>n+1</i>	drawing up implementation reports for year <i>n</i>	member of the Czech government whose responsibilities include equality between women
March year <i>n+1</i>	discussing the implementation report for year <i>n</i> in the Committee	member of the Czech government whose responsibilities include equality between women
April/May year <i>n+1</i>	discussing the implementation report for year <i>n</i> in the Council	member of the Czech government whose responsibilities include equality between women
June year <i>n+1</i>	submitting the implementation report for year <i>n</i> to the Czech government	member of the Czech government whose responsibilities include equality between women

Funding for the implementation of Action Plan tasks should be provided as part of the standard budget of the departments in question, or possibly using the next funding period of EU cohesion policy. The existing financing period of the Norwegian Funds should also be a significant contribution to the implementation of certain Action Plan measures.

## 6. Tasks

### Area 1: Preventing domestic and gender-based violence

#### Area 1 priorities:

- Ensuring systematic and intensive training in domestic and gender-based violence for professionals that come into contact with affected persons;
- Education in the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence (including sexual harassment) at primary and secondary schools;
- Conducting awareness-raising campaigns against domestic and gender-based violence;
- Making available programmes for work with perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence;
- Putting in place system data collection on domestic and gender-based violence.

#### Expected impacts of Area 1 measures:

- Professionals that come into contact more commonly with persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence know the specific features of these forms of violence, are aware of the possible risks, know what entities and services to refer an affected person to, communicate sensitively with persons affected by this violence, take their needs into account and provide them with appropriate interventions. They thus simultaneously contribute to preventing secondary victimisation and ensuring victim safety;
- Children at primary and secondary schools are acquainted with the issue of domestic and gender-based violence (including sexual violence) in an age-appropriate manner and are educated in working with emotions, creating positive peer-to-peer relationships and non-violent conflict resolution;
- School prevention methodologists, school psychologists, education consultants and other teaching staff are sufficiently educated in domestic and gender-based violence (including sexual violence), ways of preventing it and how to identify and provide appropriate intervention for children affected by violence in the family. The education of teaching staff in this issue is systematically supported (including a sufficient range of educational events on offer in this area);
- The public is sufficiently aware of the availability of services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence and of new forms of this violence (e.g. cyber-violence, violence in adolescents' relationships); and persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence are sufficiently informed of their rights and ways to exercise them;
- There is a dedicated therapy programme for perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence who decide to confront their violent conduct (or are ordered to by a court or infraction commission). There is a therapy programme for working with these perpetrators in every region;
- Systemic and regular data collection is in place for domestic and gender-based violence at the level of state administration, and data from individual entities are placed in the context of all available data.

**Measure 01: Ensure further deepening of the education of professionals that come into contact with persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence as a means of preventing secondary victimisation.**

Responsible ministry: **MoLSA, Mol, MoH**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Education for staff of socio-legal child protection authorities (“SLCPA”) focusing on the prevention of secondary victimisation of victims of domestic and gender-based violence and early identification of risks and children affected by domestic violence in the family (including taking into account the specific needs of persons facing multiple discrimination and other vulnerable persons <sup>35</sup> )	Number of accredited courses for SLCPA staff focusing on these topics	31.12.2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoLSA
Education programme on prevention of secondary victimisation of the victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including its specific features under the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education (“IPME”)	Created educational programme under IPME	31. 12. 2020  MoH
Education for healthcare staff (especially gynaecological department, emergency and paediatric staff) focusing on the prevention of secondary victimisation of victims of domestic and gender-based violence (including taking into account the specific needs of persons facing multiple discrimination and other vulnerable persons <sup>36</sup> ) Offer of training on the specific features of domestic and gender-based violence under the IPME	a) Number of training sessions b) Number of persons trained	31.12.2020 and continuously in subsequent years  MoH
Thorough training for methodologists of regional headquarters and local branches of the national police in domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence Continuation of the regular training of police officers from public order police and criminal police units in domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence (including the gender-sensitive treatment of victims of this violence and taking into account the specific needs of persons facing multiple discrimination and other vulnerable persons <sup>37</sup> ), following up instruction of the police president no. 291/2017 regarding work methodology in the field of victims of crimes and domestic violence	a) Number of training sessions b) Number of persons trained	31.12.2019 and continuously in subsequent years  Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure that professionals that most frequently come into contact with persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence receive systematic education.

<sup>35</sup> For more information see Chapter 1.1

<sup>36</sup> For more information see Chapter 1.1

<sup>37</sup> For more information see Chapter 1.1

Justification:

Police officers, medics and socio-legal protection of children workers are the professionals that most frequently come into contact with persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence. Educating these professionals was one of the main priorities of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018. The aim of this measure is to follow up and deepen this education. At the same time, the education of these professionals should be extended to cover other forms of gender-based violence.

The needs of victims of domestic and gender-based violence are specific and, in many cases, differ from the needs of other users of these institutions' services. Training specialists is not only an effective way to prevent the various forms of violence. It also helps change these professionals' attitudes and conduct with regard to affected persons, which improves the quality of the provided interventions. In line with international standards, specialist training should be continuous and should be duly monitored to see whether the newly acquired skills are being put to appropriate use. The education of the relevant professionals in the field of domestic and gender-based violence should also take into account the specific needs of persons facing multiple discrimination and other vulnerable persons.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> For more information see Chapter 1.1

Measure 02: **Include the issue of domestic and gender-based violence into conceptual materials and raise awareness of this violence (including sexual violence) among teaching staff and children at primary and secondary schools.**

Responsible ministry: **MoEYS, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Performance of a survey of the content and extent of education in domestic and gender-based violence in primary and secondary schools, including identifying schools' needs for methodological guidance in this field and providing specialist and methodological support in expanding this education	a) Performed survey, including identifying schools' needs for methodological guidance in this field b) Created methodological support for expanding this education	31. 12. 2019 MoEYS
Increased emphasis on domestic and gender-based violence, including children's education focusing on working with emotions, creating positive peer-to-peer relationship and non-violent conflict resolution as part of the review of primary and secondary school curricula	How domestic and gender-based violence is included and emphasised, including the said education of children in updated curricula	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoEYS
Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence systematically incorporated into the relevant conceptual materials of MoEYS	List of materials into which the issue was incorporated	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoEYS
Training in the use of the educational film "Angry Man" for schools' prevention methodologists, school psychologists and other teaching staff	a) Number of training courses b) Number of persons trained	31.12.2020 and continuously in subsequent years MoEYS, Office of the Government
Execution of a project focusing on educating teaching staff and primary and secondary school children and teacher training faculties in sexual violence	a) Execution of the project in individual years b) Number of persons trained	31. 12. 2020 and continuously in subsequent years Office of the Government in cooperation with MoEYS

Systematic support for further education of form teachers, education consultants and schools' prevention methodologists in the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence through conferences, seminars and training courses dedicated to these topics	a) Number of conferences, seminars and training courses in domestic and gender-based violence in the relevant years (at least one regional conference on this topic) b) Number of participants and time allocated	31.12.2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoEYS
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More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of this measure is to educate primary and secondary school children and the relevant teaching staff in equality between women and men and domestic and gender-based violence with a view to preventing this violence.

Justification:

As part of the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, it is essential to provide education on topics such as equality between women and men, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, and gender-based violence. This education should be adapted to the changing levels of children's development and incorporated into formal school curricula at all levels of the education system. International good practice in this context shows the positive benefit of social-emotional learning as part of universal primary prevention. Developing children's social and emotional skills has a positive impact both on their academic achievement, peer-to-peer relationships and mental health and on reducing violent conduct and bullying.<sup>39</sup>Including school programmes targeting psychosocial skills as part of the prevention of pathological phenomena is also recommended by the WHO.<sup>40</sup>

Schools' prevention methodologists, school psychologists and other teaching staff play a key role in preventing these forms of violence, educating on this issue, identifying risks linked to violence and providing information on the available help. In this context, systematic education on domestic and gender-based violence should be provided to these staff.

<sup>39</sup> Greenberg et al. 2017. Social and Emotional Learning as a Public Health Approach to Education. For more information see: <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/Documents/FOC-Spring-Vol27-No1-Compiled-Future-of-Children-spring-2017.pdf>.

<sup>40</sup> World Health Organization. 2003. Investing in mental health. Geneva: World Health Organization.

**Measure 03: Ensure financial support for awareness-raising activities by civic society in the field of domestic and gender-based violence (including combating gender stereotypes) through the Norwegian Funds.**

Responsible ministry: **MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Calls for projects focusing awareness-raising activities by NGOs and social services providers in the field of domestic and gender-based violence, including combating gender stereotypes and the main causes of this violence through the Norwegian Funds	a) Announcement of a call for awareness-raising activities by NGOs and social services providers b) Number of supported projects and their budget (in 2020 – 2022)	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of this measure is to provide objective information to the public and raise public awareness about the issue of domestic and gender-based violence, including gender stereotypes, and thus to contribute to combating and preventing this violence.

Justification:

Raising public awareness about domestic and gender-based violence and combating gender stereotypes encouraging these forms of violence is a key component of preventing this violence (in accordance with international documents in this field – see Chapter 1.5). The Ministry of Finance is the mediator of the *Human Rights, Roma Inclusion and Domestic and Gender-based Violence* programme for the current period of the Norwegian Funds. The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic plays the role of expert guarantor of this programme.

Evidence of persisting stereotypes in the field of gender-based violence is provided, for example, by the representative survey done by Amnesty International in 2018 (for more information see p. 11).<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Amnesty International. 2018. Violence on women from the view of Czech public. For more information see: [https://www.amnesty.cz/data/file/4254-vvm\\_problematika-nasili-na-zenach-optikou-ceske-populace.pptx?version=1541109702](https://www.amnesty.cz/data/file/4254-vvm_problematika-nasili-na-zenach-optikou-ceske-populace.pptx?version=1541109702).

**Measure 04: Raise public awareness about the availability of services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence..**

Responsible ministry: **MoLSA, Mol, MoJ**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Awareness-raising campaign to inform the public about the availability of social services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence and their children	a) Executed campaign b) Number of awareness-raising outputs	31. 12. 2020  MoLSA
Awareness-raising campaign focusing on informing the victims of crime and the broader circle of injured parties in connection with domestic and gender-based violence of their rights and ways of exercising them (e.g. through the follow-up project Probation and Mediation Services)	a) Executed campaign b) Number of awareness-raising outputs	31. 12. 2021  MoJ
Awareness-raising campaign focusing on informing the public (with the emphasis on young people and adolescents) about cyber-violence and dating violence	a) Executed campaign b) Number of awareness-raising outputs	31. 12. 2022  Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of this measure is to ensure that the general public is informed about all forms of domestic and gender-based violence, victims' rights, and available resources.

Justification:

Raising public awareness about all forms of domestic and gender-based violence is a key component of preventing this violence (in accordance with international documents in this field – see Chapter 1.5). According to research by the EU Agency for Fundamental Human Rights, just 14% of victims of this violence seek help on average, while 75% of women in the Czech Republic did not know of a single institution or service they could turn to in these cases.<sup>42</sup> Greater levels of information can help to make affected persons more willing to seek out specialised help as well as to motivate those around the affected person take an active approach to this issue. The degree to which society tolerates violence in relationships facilitates the secondary victimisation of affected persons. The systematic public rejection of any form of violence in relationships is an important precondition for changing social attitudes and tolerance of violence. Research by the Association of Intervention Centre Workers of the Czech Republic shows that awareness-raising activities in the field of domestic violence and the de-tabooing of this issue (as well as legislative and other measures in this area) lead to positive change in the public's perception of this topic and its seriousness (and thus also the need to help and protect persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence and other impacted members of the family or household) (see Chapter 2.2 for more information).<sup>43</sup>

In recent years, the Probation and Mediation Service carried out a successful project called "Why me II". It is a campaign designed to inform victims of their rights and ways to exercise

<sup>42</sup> FRA. 2014. EU wide survey on violence against women. For more information see:

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> Topinka, D. 2016. Domestic violence from the view of applied research. Accessible at:

<http://www.domaci-nasili.cz/wp-content/uploads/Dom%C3%A1c%C3%AD-n%C3%A1sil%C3%AD-z-perspektivyaplikovan%C3%A9ho-v%C3%BDzkumu.-SocioFactor-2016..pdf>



them. Under the Act on Victims of Crime from 2013, injured parties have the rights to receive specialist help, to information, to protection from danger, to protection of privacy, to protection from secondary harm, and to financial assistance. One of the goals of this measure is to follow up this successful campaign and continue to raise victim awareness.

At the same time, attention must be paid to new forms of gender-based violence (such as cyber-violence) that are on the increase, especially among young people.<sup>44</sup> That is confirmed by the experiences of organisations that work with persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence. At the same time, this is an area that has so far received insufficient attention in the Czech Republic.

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<sup>44</sup> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. 2016. Analysis of the gender-based cyberviolence in the Czech Republic. For more information see: <http://www.tojrovnost.cz/images/analyzy/Analyza-genderove-podmineneho-kybernasili.pdf>

**Measure 05: Ensure financial support for and availability of programmes for work with the perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence through the Norwegian Funds.**

Responsible ministry: **MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Call focusing on support for programmes for work with the perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence	a) Announcement of a call for support for programmes for work with perpetrators of violence b) Number of supported projects and their budget (in 2020 – 2022)	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure financial support for and availability of programmes for work with the perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence.

Justification:

Systematic work with the perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence is a key component of preventing further violence (in accordance with international documents in this field – see Chapter 1.5). Analysis done by the Office of the Government in 2016, showed that there are currently 9 organisations in the Czech Republic providing interventions for these persons, most of them in Prague and Brno.<sup>45</sup>

The availability of these services is therefore highly restricted. Financial support is therefore necessary to ensure the availability of these programmes. The Ministry of Finance is the mediator of the *Human Rights, Roma Inclusion and Domestic and Gender-based Violence* programme for the current period of the Norwegian Funds. The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic plays the role of expert guarantor of this programme.

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<sup>45</sup> Analysis accessible at: [https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/postoje\\_puvodcu\\_FINAL\\_rev.pdf](https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/postoje_puvodcu_FINAL_rev.pdf)

**Measure 06: Ensure support for and availability of programmes for work with the perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence through national grants and programmes.**

Responsible ministry: **MoLSA, Mol, MoJ**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Maintained focus of the Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena grant on work with the perpetrators of violence and increased allocation	a) Allocation of the grant programme in individual years b) Number of programmes supported	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  Mol
Support for programmes for perpetrators of violence through the Development of Probation and Resocialising Programmes for Adult Perpetrators grant	a) Allocation of the grant programme in individual years b) Number of programmes supported	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoJ
Continuing support for work with the perpetrators of violence as part of the Family grant programme and raising potential beneficiaries' awareness of this possibility	Number of supported projects targeting these activities	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoLSA
Binding compliance with the Minimum Standards for Work with Perpetrators of Violence in the Czech Republic enshrined in the grants and programmes	Binding compliance ensured with the standards, e.g. by including them in the training of application assessors	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoLSA, Mol, MoJ

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure the programmes are available for work with the perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence and that these programmes are adequately and predictably funded.

Justification:

The task is designed to ensure that programmes for perpetrators of violence are funded from national sources and follows on from Measure 5. For the purpose of supporting programmes, the Ministry of the Interior operates the Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena grant and the Ministry of Justice the Probation and Resocialization Programmes for Adult Perpetrators grant. Starting in 2019, it is also possible to support these activities under the Family grant programme. The allocations and capacity of these grants and programmes for work with perpetrators of violence have long been insufficient. To this end, it is necessary to maintain the focus of the existing grants and programmes (including the existing allocation) and ensure that minimum standards are complied with by the project operators.

**Measure 07: Ensure systematic data collection and performance of analyses in the field of domestic and gender-based violence.**

Responsible ministry: **MoJ, MoH, Office of the Government in cooperation with MoI, MoJ and MoH**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Methodology for systematic and comparable data collection in the field of domestic and gender-based violence	Created methodology	31. 12. 2020  Office of the Government in cooperation with MoI, MoJ and MoH
Systematic data collection on domestic and gender-based violence	Publication of a summary of statistical developments in the field of domestic and gender-based violence in the relevant years	31. 12. 2021 and continuously in subsequent years  Office of the Government in cooperation with MoI, MoJ and MoH
Creation of a departmental expert group on the proposal for systematic data collection in the field of domestic and gender-based violence	Created departmental working group on this issue	31. 12. 2019  MoH
Systematic data collection on the incidence and impacts of domestic and gender-based violence in healthcare facilities based on a conducted pilot representative survey (e.g. through the Institute of Health Information and Statistics (“IHIS”))	a) Regular and systematic data collection in this field b) Statistical outputs published annually	31. 12. 2020 and continuously in subsequent years  MoH
Performing research activities in the field of domestic and gender-based violence focusing on improvements in the system of work with perpetrators of this violence and persons affected by this violence (e.g. through an Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention project under the Norwegian Funds) and incorporating the outputs of these activities into conceptual and strategic documents	a) Performed research activities b) Number of documents into which the outputs of these activities were incorporated (in 2022)	31. 12. 2021 and continuously in subsequent years  MoJ

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure systematic data collection and analyses in the field of domestic and gender-based violence at the level of state administration with a view to formulating effective measures and policies in this field.

Justification:

If we are to effectively assess whether these measures meet the needs of persons exposed to

violence, it is essential that the state, through its institutions, perform systematic and regular collection of the relevant statistical data on all forms of domestic and gender-based violence. Statistical data on cases of domestic violence and its victims and perpetrators are key to the long-term planning of systemic measures and to creating concepts for the availability of specialised services.

Even though the various departments possess certain data on the numbers of cases of domestic and gender-based violence, these data are not comparable in the national, interdepartmental or international context. In some departments, there is no systematic data collection on cases of domestic and gender-based violence.

In line with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention and other international standards, data on victims and perpetrators should be kept and should be structured by gender, age, type of violence and relationship between perpetrator and victim. It would also be appropriate to include other data categories, e.g. information on the outcome of proceedings and the form/severity of punishment of perpetrators, the number of protective injunctions issued, etc.

Although research into the occurrence of domestic and gender-based violence exists in the Czech Republic, usually done by research institutions and NGOs, study of these forms of violence and their development remains entirely inadequate at the national level.<sup>46</sup> The main problem in this context is the fact that, unlike other countries, there is no systematic and regular data collection on the incidence of domestic and gender-based violence at the level of state administration. Detailed data on domestic violence is collected by the Association of Intervention Centre Workers of the Czech Republic, which provides the data to the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic and the MoLSA. There is currently no system in the state administration, however, that would place these data in the context of other data (e.g. data from the courts, police, health system).

Insufficient knowledge impairs the effectiveness of measures at the national level. One goal of these research activities in the field of domestic and gender-based violence, therefore, is to promote fact-based policies, procedures, and measures to improve the system for working with perpetrators of violence and simultaneously improve the situation of the victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

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<sup>46</sup> For more information on the issue of the availability of data on the incidence of domestic violence see e.g. Martinková, M., Slavětínská, V., Vlach, J.: Vybrané problémy z oblasti domácího násilí v ČR. Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention. 2014. Accessible at: <http://www.ok.cz/iksp/docs/414.pdf>.

**Measure 08: Incorporating the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence into the relevant conceptual, strategic and methodological documents.**

Responsible ministry: **MoI, MoEYS, MoH, MoLSA**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence incorporated into conceptual, strategic and methodological documents on crime prevention and the fight against human trafficking	Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence factored into the relevant documents	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoI
Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence incorporated into conceptual, strategic and methodological documents on the protection and promotion of health and prevention of illness	Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence factored into the relevant documents	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoH
Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence factored into conceptual, strategic and methodological documents on the prevention of risk behaviour by children and young people	Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence factored into the relevant documents	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoEYS
Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence factored into conceptual, strategic and methodological documents on the protection of children's rights and family policy	Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence factored into the relevant documents	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoLSA

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure that the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence is factored into all departments' relevant conceptual documents with a view to achieving effective prevention of this violence at the state administration level.

Justification:

If there is to be systematic and effective prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, it is essential that this issue is incorporated into all relevant conceptual, strategic, and methodological documents of state administration.

## **Area 2: Protection of and support for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (including children)**

### Area 2 priorities:

- Ensuring specialised services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence are available (day-care, residential, crisis, field services)<sup>47</sup>;
- Ensuring specialised services for children affected by domestic and gender-based violence are available (day-care, residential, crisis, field services)<sup>48</sup>;
- Enshrining procedures for assessing the risks and needs of victims in the relevant professionals' work;
- Ensuring the continued operation of non-stop toll-free telephone assistance to victims of domestic and gender-based violence;
- Strengthening interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary cooperation;
- Ensuring sufficient attention is paid to persons facing multiple forms of discrimination (persons with a disability, migrants, seniors, LGBTQ etc.)<sup>49</sup>.

### Expected impacts of Area 2 measures:

- For adults and children affected by domestic and gender-based violence there is an accessible regional network of specialised services (accessible safe houses, crisis beds, telephone crisis help, accessible safe housing e.g. one of the forms of "social housing") with sufficient capacities;
- There is a uniform and validated tool for identifying risks and threats of domestic and gender-based violence, including identifying the needs of persons affected by this violence; the tool is used by all the relevant professionals that come into contact with these persons;
- The continued operation of non-stop toll-free telephone assistance to victims of domestic and gender-based violence is ensured;
- The capacity of intervention centres is increased with a view to deepening interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary cooperation with all the relevant entities providing help to victims of domestic and gender-based violence in all regions;
- The needs of persons facing multiple forms of discrimination are taken into account in the provision of help to victims and persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence.

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<sup>47</sup> The availability of intervention centre services under Section 60a) of the Act on Social Services is ensured in every region, unlike other specialised services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> For more information see chapter 1.1

**Measure 09: Ensure that specialised social services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence are available.**

Responsible ministry: **MoLSA in cooperation with regions, MfRD**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Analysis of the accessibility of specialised social services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence in the Czech Republic in line with the Council of Europe standards (including services for children affected by violence in the family)	Conducted and published analysis	31. 12. 2020 MoLSA
Amendment of Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services, adding gender-based violence as a subcategory of specialised social counselling	Submitted amendment of the act adding gender-based violence as a subcategory of specialised social counselling	31. 12. 2020 MoLSA
Financial support for specialised safe houses for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (and ensuring that the specific needs of certain groups, e.g. seniors or persons with a disability, are taken into account)	a) Financial allocation earmarked for supporting these services b) Number of programmes supported	31. 12. 2022 MoLSA in cooperation with regions
Financial support for specialised crisis beds for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (including crisis beds for seniors and other vulnerable persons affected by this violence)	a) Financial allocation earmarked for supporting these services b) Number of programmes supported	31. 12. 2022 MoLSA in cooperation with regions
Support for crisis help hotline for victims of sexual violence	Existence of a monitoring mechanism to assess whether the existing state reflects the need for specific support for these services	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoLSA
Support for the availability of safe accommodation for all persons affected by domestic violence (regardless of age, gender, number of children etc.) e.g. through Housing Ready accommodation, starter apartments with regulated rent or another form of "social" housing	Number and capacity of accommodation for persons affected by domestic violence, via Housing Ready accommodation, starter apartments or another form of "social" housing in individual years	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MfRD

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure the accessibility of social services (in particular safe houses and crisis beds) for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence, which take into account victims' specific needs and the dynamics of domestic and gender-based



violence.<sup>50</sup>

Justification:

The results of the Analysis of the Availability of Specialised Residential Social Services for Adult Victims of Domestic Violence done by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic in 2017 showed that just 5 of the registered residential social services currently offer their services exclusively to domestic violence victims. These 5 services are operated by just 3 organisations in 2 cities. The capacity of these services is approximately 90 beds – i.e. approx. 30 family spaces.<sup>51</sup> This pilot analysis showed that the capacity of these services is inadequate. To formulate effective measures for this area, it is necessary to perform a comprehensive analysis of the accessibility of all specialised social services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (day-care, residential, crisis, field services) that will include detailed information from all regions of the Czech Republic.

Domestic violence victims do not seek out residential social services because they have lost their housing, but their homes are where violence, i.e. fundamental human rights are violated. To them, “home” is not synonymous with “safety.” Rather it is a place where their human dignity, health, and, in many cases, lives, are under threat. They are not just looking for a “roof over their head”, but a safe space with specialised support that will enable them to cope with the consequences of trauma.

The EIGE study of services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence differentiates between general and specialised services for domestic violence victims.<sup>52</sup> General services are intended for the general public, so they do not have to respond appropriately to victims’ specific needs and traumatic experiences. General services satisfy a whole series of clients’ needs but on a general level, regardless of their specific needs. These services include general services for victims of crime, persons with psychological difficulties, shelters for those in danger of becoming homeless, shelters for families with children, shelters for mothers and children, marriage and family counselling, citizens’ advice centres, or helplines. Moreover, the EIGE study draws attention to the fact that women are disproportionately the victims of relationship violence, so there is a need (in line with the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action – see Chapter 1.5 for details) for specialised support services specifically for women who are victims of intimate partner violence. Under this conception, the definition of general services also includes services for domestic violence victims (i.e. men and women) that do not apply a gender-specific approach and do not reflect the discriminatory nature of violence against women in terms of human rights violations. According to EIGE, specialised services are characterised by the fact that their objective is to protect and empower women who are victims of domestic and intimate partner violence and their children. These services are tailored for both the immediate and long-term needs of victims. The services are provided by specialist staff with an understanding of the specific features of gender-specific violence. These services include specialised telephone lines, specialised shelters and safe houses, short-term and long-term psychological support, legal advice, field services and, last but not least, services for children who have witnessed or been victims of domestic violence.

As a minimum standard the Council of Europe recommends 1 family place per 10,000 inhabitants. The Czech Republic should therefore have 1,000 places (over 300 family places). The Czech Republic only attains 10% of this standard. The existing network of crisis helplines can be used for the task consisting in supporting crisis telephone help for victims of sexual violence.

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<sup>50</sup> The availability of intervention centre services under Section 60a) of the Act on Social Services is ensured in every region, unlike other specialised services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence.

<sup>51</sup> Analysis accessible at: [https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Analzya-dostupnosti-a-kvality\\_final\\_s-opravami\\_revize-leden.pdf](https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Analzya-dostupnosti-a-kvality_final_s-opravami_revize-leden.pdf)

<sup>52</sup> <http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Violence-against-Women-Victim-Support-Report.pdf>

Measure 10: **Minimise the amount of time in which children grow up in a family affected by violence and support services focusing on stopping violence in families in which children are growing up and coping with violence in the family.**

Responsible ministry: **MoLSA in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
A designated uniform validated tool for early identification of children affected by violence in the family, identification of risks and appropriate intervention for the socio-legal child protection authorities and organisations in the context of socio-legal child protection authorisation (in cooperation with the Committee)	Designated appropriate and uniform tool	31. 12. 2020  MoLSA in cooperation with the Office of the Government
Supporting the accessibility of the network of specialist help services for children following the detection of violence in the family coming under socio-legal child protection	a) Support for services under the Family grant programme b) Number of supported organisations, including financial allocation c) Number of families and children receiving specialist help	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoLSA
Supporting the accessibility of specialised crisis help for children affected by violence in the family pursuant to Section 60 of the Act on Social Services at regional level	a) Prioritising of the service under the MoLSA grant programme for social services providers b) Number of supported organisations, including financial allocation c) Existence of a monitoring mechanism to identify the number of children who received specialist help linked to domestic violence	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoLSA in cooperation with regions
Designated appropriate and uniform tool for early identification of children affected by violence in the family, identification of risks and suitable procedures for experts in the first contact with the children, created standards for work with children affected by violence in the family	a) Creation of a Working Group for identifying an appropriate tool and creating standards for work with children affected by violence in the family b) Designated appropriate and uniform tool c) Created standards for work with children affected by violence in the family	31. 12. 2020  Office of the Government in cooperation with the MoLSA

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of this measure is to support the accessibility of services for children affected by domestic and gender-based violence, the provision of suitable methodological tools for socio-legal child protection workers working with children affected by these forms of violence, and the provision of timely crisis intervention in these cases.

Justification:

The socio-legal child protection authorities register approximately 2,500 cases of domestic violence at which children were present every year. However, there is currently no uniform tool for the early identification of children affected by violence in the family by staff of the socio-legal child protection authorities and other socio-legal child protection workers who most frequently come into contact with children affected by violence in the family. At the same time, the accessibility of specialised crisis help for children affected by domestic and gender-based violence is not guaranteed at regional level. In this context it is necessary to define an appropriate tool for identifying risks and to create standards for work with children affected by violence in the family (including the specific features of domestic and gender-based violence).

**Measure 11: Update the existing methodological support for professionals coming into contact with children affected by violence in the family or create new methodological support.**

Responsible ministry: **MoLSA, Mol, MoH, MoEYS**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Updated methodological instruction no. 3/2010 governing the procedure of staff of the socio-legal child protection authorities, with a time limit by which a child affected by domestic violence should be contacted, and containing information about suitable tools and recommended standards for work with children affected by violence in the family (in cooperation with the Committee)	Updated methodological instruction	31. 12. 2021 MoLSA
Created educational programme and methodological support for the public order police and criminal police focusing on police officers' competence for working with children and families affected by domestic violence (including situation assessment and risk mapping), containing information on suitable tools, recommended procedures for all actors in the child's interest and standards for work with children affected by violence in the family (in cooperation with the Committee)	a) Created educational programme b) Created methodological support	31. 12. 2021 Mol
Updated methodological measure for general practitioners' procedure with children and adolescents in the event of suspicion of child abuse or neglect, including ways of treating children affected by violence in the family and containing information on suitable tools, recommended procedures for all actors in the child's interest and standards for working with children affected by violence in the family (in cooperation with the Committee)	Updated methodological measure	31. 12. 2021 Office of the Government, MoH
Updated methodological recommendation for primary prevention of risk behaviour in children, schoolchildren and students in schools and school facilities, including ways of treating children affected by violence in the family and containing information on suitable tools, recommended procedures for all actors in the child's interest and standards for working with children affected by violence in the family (in cooperation with the Committee)	Updated methodological recommendation	31. 12. 2021 MoEYS

Committee)		
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More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to provide workers in all the relevant professions who come into contact with children affected by violence in the family with sufficient methodological support for work with this particularly vulnerable target group.

Justification:

There is currently no uniform methodological instruction for workers in the relevant professions coming into contact with children affected by violence in the family containing up-to-date information about how and when to contact children affected by violence in the family, suitable tools, recommended procedures for all the relevant actors in the child's interest etc. In addition, there are no uniform and up-to-date standards for working with children affected by violence in the family. The measure is designed to update and unify all the relevant methodologies in order to improve the quality of work of all the relevant professionals coming into contact with children affected by violence in the family.

**Measure 12: Prepare materials for a pilot project for a specialised service for sexual violence victims.**

Responsible ministry: **Office of the Government in cooperation with MoH, MoLSA, Mol, MoJ, MoEYS**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
A working group for the creation of a plan to set up a pilot project for a specialised multidisciplinary service for sexual violence victims and for the preparation of a methodology for a specialised approach to sexual violence victims	a) Created working group b) Created plan for setting up a pilot project c) Created methodology	a) 31. 12. 2019 b), c) 31. 12. 2020  Office of the Government in cooperation with MoH, MoLSA, Mol, MoJ, MoEYS
Draft certified educational programme for hospitals' medical and healthcare staff regarding the needs of sexual violence victims	Created draft certified educational programme	31. 12. 2020 Office of the Government in cooperation with MoH, MoLSA, Mol, MoJ
Training of hospital staff involved in the pilot project (certified course)	Number of persons trained	30. 6. 2021 Office of the Government in cooperation with MoH, MoEYS
Operation of a pilot project for a specialised multidisciplinary service for sexual violence victims in a selected hospital	Launch of the specialised service pilot project	31. 12. 2021  Office of the Government in cooperation with MoH, MoLSA and Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to put in place the right conditions for a pilot project for a specialised multidisciplinary service for victims of domestic and sexual violence in a healthcare facility. As part of the measure it is necessary to precisely define the intervention steps; to define how the service will be integrated into the existing network of healthcare and social services and how it will be combined with other necessary interventions (police etc.); to define the required resources (financial and human); to trial the proposed multidisciplinary service in a selected hospital with subsequent assessment of the project and data collection for any proposed modifications and for the proposal to extend an equivalent service to other healthcare facilities in the Czech Republic.

The measure will lead to a pilot project for a specialised service for victims of sexual violence being proposed and trialled in a selected university hospital. To this end, an expert interdepartmental working group will be set up to formulate the proposed pilot project and create a methodology for the specialised approach to sexual violence victims. Based on this working group's outputs, the staff of the hospital involved in the pilot project will receive training and then the trial of the specialised service for sexual violence victims will be launched. This

service should apply a multidisciplinary crisis approach and should stress the creation of an appropriate environment for treating victims, collecting forensic evidence, and possibly further questioning of victims. The proposal for setting up a pilot centre should include a proposal for how primary psychological help and how follow-up care will be provided, and how care will be provided in the victim's own social environment after discharge from the healthcare facility. All interventions should be formulated in a way preventing secondary victimisation/stigmatisation of victims.

Justification:

There is currently no specialised service for victims of sexual violence in healthcare facilities providing systematic help to these victims. That is despite the fact that around 600 cases of rape are reported to the police every year in the Czech Republic. Experts in this issue estimate that just 5–10% of these crimes are actually reported.<sup>53</sup> The actual number of rapes in the Czech Republic is therefore 6,000 – 12,000 every year. According to the results of an international study by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, victims of sexual violence most commonly seek help from doctors and healthcare facilities (22% in the case of intimate partner sexual violence and 16% in the case of sexual violence from someone else than an intimate partner).<sup>54</sup> Healthcare facility staff are often not sufficiently trained in this issue, however, which increases the risk of secondary victimisation. Healthcare facilities are also not always technically equipped for collecting all the forensic data that are essential for convictions and do not possess suitable spaces for police questioning of victims.

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<sup>53</sup> For more information see e.g. Home Office Research Study: A Gap or A Chasm? Attrition in Reported Rape Cases. 2005. Accessible at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110314171826/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors293.pdf>.

<sup>54</sup> FRA. 2014. EU wide survey on violence against women. For more information see: [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf)

**Measure 13: Factor the specific needs of victims of domestic and gender-based violence into the reform of mental health care.**

Responsible ministry: **MoH**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
As part of the implementation of mental health care reform, pilot projects of new services reflect the needs of victims of domestic and gender-based violence (in cooperation with the Committee)	Representatives of the Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women are invited to the MoH Working Group on Mental Health Care Reform	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoH and MoLSA in cooperation with the Office of the Government

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure that the needs of victims of domestic and gender-based violence are factored into the ongoing reform of mental health care. This should take place by ensuring that the Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women participates in this reform.

Justification:

The impact of domestic and gender-based violence on victims is long-term. Victims and their children who witnessed violence should be guaranteed access both to crisis intervention and specialist social counselling and to follow-up psychotherapeutic care, whose purpose is the processing of traumatic experiences, prevention of secondary victimisation, the gaining of insights into the dynamics of violence in relationships and the prevention of further victimisation. Victims of domestic and gender-based violence are currently confronted by the low availability of such services. It is therefore appropriate to factor this target group’s needs into the reform of mental health care.



**Measure 14: Improve the safety and protection of persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence by assessing the risks and needs of affected persons and via an approach based on identifying the needs of affected persons.**

Responsible ministry: **Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Analysis of the existing tools for identifying and assessing the risks and needs of persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence for professionals that come into contact with persons affected by this violence and their children	Published analysis	31. 12. 2020 Office of the Government
A single tool for identifying and assessing the risks and needs of persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence for professionals that come into contact with persons affected by this violence and their children, prepared in cooperation with the Committee	Existence of a single tool for risk assessment	31. 12. 2020 Office of the Government
A methodology for using the tool for identifying and assessing the risks and needs of persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence for professionals that come into contact with persons affected by this violence and their children, prepared in cooperation with the Committee	Created methodology	31. 12. 2021 Office of the Government

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to improve the safety of persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence and their children by means of the systematic assessment of the affected persons' needs and risk factors for the repetition and escalation of violence, with a subsequently drawn up safety plan.

Justification:

Ensuring and improving the safety of victims of domestic and gender-based violence and their children should be the fundamental objective of all interventions. The SARA DN questionnaire is currently used in the Czech Republic by the police, intervention centres and certain trained organisations to assess risks. Certain organisations use their own risk assessment methodology, including specialised tools, but these are not coordinated or comparable. Numerous organisations and institutions that provide interventions for domestic violence victims do not use any specialised tool for risk assessment, or do not use it systematically.

The existence of a specialised tool for risk assessment based on the needs of affected persons and its use by all organisations and institutions would enable more effective sharing of information on risks, higher-quality interdisciplinary cooperation and preparation of a safety plan, a valid source material for court rulings on protective measures, prevention of secondary victimisation and, ultimately, improved safety for victims and their children.

**Measure 15: Ensure the funding and nonstop operation of a toll-free telephone helpline for victims of domestic and gender-based violence.**

Responsible ministry: **Mol**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Nonstop of operation of the existing toll-free helpline for victims of domestic and gender-based violence	Ensured operation and funding of the existing helpline	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure the nonstop operation of the existing toll-free helpline for victims of domestic and gender-based violence in the coming years.

Justification:

The crisis helpline is one of the key components of immediate help for victims of domestic and gender-based violence. Ensuring a nonstop emergency helpline for victims of this violence is also one of the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. The existing helpline registers over 6,000 calls per year, with the number of calls increasing every year. The issue most commonly addressed issues are domestic violence, stalking, threats of violence and other crimes. In the past the helpline was supported by the Norwegian Funds; its operation is currently ensured by the Ministry of the Interior. In this context, sufficient and predictable funding of the existing helpline in the coming years must be ensured.

**Measure 16: Boost the capacities of intervention centres in the field of domestic violence through the Norwegian Funds.**

Responsible ministry: **MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Call for projects for strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation by boosting the capacities of intervention centres	a) Announcement of a call for projects promoting interdisciplinary cooperation b) Number of supported projects and their budget (in 2020 – 2022)	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of this measure is to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation by boosting the capacities of intervention centres.

Justification:

The goal of interdisciplinary cooperation is to ensure comprehensive and timely care for persons affected by domestic violence in the individual regions of the Czech Republic; to coordinate help for persons affected by domestic violence (in cooperation with other institutions of state administration, local government, NGOs); to improve practice in the provision of help of persons affected by domestic violence; to advertise services for persons affected by domestic violence; to offer and implement educational activities for the expert and general public etc. Interdisciplinary cooperation takes place on two levels. Primarily on the level linked to cases of expulsion of violent persons from shared households, where, under Section 60a) of the Act on Social Services, this action is followed up, as a rule within a few hours, by intervention centre help for the affected person. Interdisciplinary cooperation subsequently coordinates further activities and the involvement of institutions in addressing the situation of the affected person, with particular regard for ensuring their safety. Interdisciplinary cooperation is also applied in other (low-threshold) cases, where an intervention centre, or possibly another institution, comes into contact with a victim of domestic violence. In most of these cases, procedures are coordinated by the intervention centre.

Interdisciplinary cooperation plays an indispensable role in dealing with cases of domestic violence. Its principal significance is cooperation between specialist entities when dealing with specific cases in practice. Meetings between cooperating institutions lead to greater competence of the various entities in respect of domestic violence; raise awareness of the subject of domestic violence to other institutions and the public; support the system in place for helping persons affected by domestic violence in the Czech Republic; and above all, lead to constant improvements in the quality of help provided to persons affected by domestic violence at local levels. Given interdisciplinary cooperation's fundamental role in helping persons affected by domestic violence, interdisciplinary cooperation needs to be strengthened, especially by increasing the capacities of intervention centres (e.g. extra staff tasked with coordinating interdisciplinary cooperation, therapy, psychology, the law or coordination of preventive programmes).

The Ministry of Finance is the mediator of the *Human Rights, Roma Inclusion and Domestic and Gender-based Violence* programme for the current period of the Norwegian Funds. The

Office of the Government of the Czech Republic plays the role of expert guarantor of this programme. With a view to defining the support area, the Ministry of Finance organised “stakeholders consultations”, which were attended by the key protagonists helping victims of domestic and gender-based violence. At these working meetings, the need for further support for and widening of interdisciplinary cooperation was identified. In a discussion with the Association of Intervention Centre Workers of the Czech Republic it was agreed that funds would be allocated to boosting interdisciplinary cooperation by increasing intervention centres’ capacities.

**Measure 17: Support the availability of specialised social services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence through the Norwegian Funds.**

Responsible ministry: **MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Call for projects focusing on supporting the availability of specialised services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence (including safe houses), taking into account the status and specific needs of persons facing multiple discrimination	a) Announcement of a call for projects supporting the availability of specialised social services (including safe houses) b) Number of supported projects and their budget (in 2020 – 2022)	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoF in cooperation with the Office of the Government

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to support the creation of new specialised services and the expansion of existing ones (especially safe houses) for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence.

Justification:

See the justification of Measure 9 for more information. Establishing new specialised services for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence and expanding existing ones can be supported under the *Human Rights, Roma Inclusion and Domestic and Gender-based Violence* programme in the existing Norwegian Funds period. The MoF is the programme mediator; the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic is this programme's expert guarantor.

## **Area 3: Providing access to justice for all persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence**

### Area 3 priorities:

- Promoting greater expert knowledge among judges (including trainees) on the issue of domestic and gender-based violence (with particular regard to rulings on custody of children and on violent parents' contacts with children)
- Ensuring that expert opinions are high-quality;
- Ensuring judges and public prosecutors are informed about the issue of domestic and gender-based violence and current outputs in this field;
- Improving the awareness of all victims of domestic and gender-based violence about the right to claim appropriate compensation;
- Broaden the possible forms of help for victims of domestic and gender-based violence in the most serious cases of a threat to life;
- Create a strategy for combating cyber-violence that will work with gender-based violence, hate-based violence and groups of persons facing multiple discrimination;
- Legislation on the status of children and vulnerable persons in infraction proceedings;
- Reducing the number of repeated questioning sessions for both children and adult victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

### Expected impacts of Area 3 measures:

- Every year, judges and trainee judges will be able to undergo further education in the issue of ruling on child custody and violent parents' contacts with children, take the issue of domestic and gender-based violence seriously and take into account violent incidents in their rulings;
- Expert opinions in the field of domestic and gender-based violence are standardised and high-quality;
- Support is provided for deepening the specialisation of public prosecutors in the issue of domestic and gender-based violence by means of a sufficient number of specialist Justice Academy courses. Judges have sufficient ways to further their education on this topic and are also regularly informed about current expert outputs in this field;
- Persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence are informed in a concise, comprehensible and uniform manner about the right to claim compensation and about the help available. They know how to exercise their rights and who to turn to for help if necessary;
- The broader group of victims of domestic and gender-based violence at risk of repeated violence from their violent (former) partner has signalling devices for summoning immediate help. Thanks to these devices, the police has detailed information about these victims, children in the household and the violent person and pass on this information to the intervening police patrol unit that can take effective action.
- The state has drawn up a long-term conceptual strategic document for combating cyber-violence and successfully implements measures to combat these forms of violence;
- The status of children and other vulnerable persons in infraction proceedings (or in general administrative proceedings) is enshrined in law and improved. The personal data and privacy of vulnerable victims are safeguarded in infraction proceedings (or general administrative proceedings);
- The number of repeated questioning sessions of child and adult victims of domestic and gender-based violence is reduced to the minimum necessary.

**Measure 18: Make it possible for judges, trainee judges and public prosecutors to get further education on the issue of rulings on child custody and violent parents' contacts with children and standardise the work of court experts in the field of domestic and gender-based violence.**

Responsible ministry: **MoJ**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
An annual offer of Justice Academy courses for judges, trainee judges and public prosecutors on the issue of rulings on child custody and violent parents' contacts with children	a) Number of courses offered b) Number of participants	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  MoJ
Standardisation of the work of court experts in the field of domestic and gender-based violence	Submitted Act on Court Experts dealing with the standardisation of their work	31. 12. 2020  MoJ

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to improve the expert knowledge of judges, trainee judges and public prosecutors in the issue of domestic and gender-based violence in connection with rulings on child custody and violent parents' contacts with children. Another goal in this context is the standardisation of the work of court experts in the field of domestic and gender-based violence.

Justification:

Judges, trainee judges and public prosecutors are currently insufficiently knowledgeable about domestic and gender-based violence. In practice, it is common for them not to take domestic violence sufficiently seriously.

The issue of domestic violence is not a standard part of the curricula of law faculties, or the acquired information is not sufficiently extensive and comprehensive for a proper understanding of domestic and gender-based violence. In practice, it happens that prosecution for the crime of stalking is not sufficiently applied because public prosecutors and judges do not treat threats from the perpetrators of violence seriously enough.

Under the amendment of the Criminal Code, violence against family members, (former) partners and persons requiring special protection and minors is often regarded as an aggravating circumstance. In practice, however, judges do not treat such conduct as an aggravating circumstance. Another problematic area is the use of mediation in cases of domestic violence. It is currently common for mediation to be proposed for divorces, for example, in the case of violence. Judges do not currently link domestic violence with civil proceedings, yet such an approach may lead to the secondary victimisation of victims, who are put under pressure to reach an agreement with the perpetrator.

At the same time, it must be ensured that expertise work in the field of domestic and gender-based violence is high-quality thanks to standardisation.

**Measure 19: Raise awareness among judges and public prosecutors of the issue of domestic and gender-based violence and outputs in this field.**

Responsible ministry: **MoJ**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
An overview of appropriate decision-making practice by courts in cases of rape, drawn up by the Office of the Government (and possibly other outputs of analyses in this field) and included in the agenda of the meeting between the justice minister and the presidents of regional and higher courts	Inclusion of the analysis and other outputs in this field on the meeting agenda	31. 12. 2019 MoJ
Annually offered Justice Academy course for judges on the subject of courts' rulings in cases of rape and other forms of violence against women	a) Offered course b) Number of participants	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoJ
Internal instruction for courts on how to proceed in cases where the court does not have separate waiting rooms and entrances to prevent victims and perpetrators coming into contact (fulfilling the statutory obligation under Section 17 of the Act on Victims of Crime)	Approval of the internal instruction	31. 12. 2020 MoJ
Justice Academy training focusing on deepening public prosecutors' specialisation in cases of domestic and gender-based violence	Number of training courses offered by the Justice Academy and their capacity in individual years	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years MoJ

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to improve the expert knowledge of judges and public prosecutors about domestic and gender-based violence and to ensure they are informed about key outputs in this area.

Justification:

The issue of various forms of domestic and gender-based violence (e.g. the crimes of abuse of a person living in a shared household, rape or stalking) is a very specific field that places considerable demands on the expertise of those coming into contact with affected persons, witnesses and accused persons. Experiences from abroad and from the Czech Republic show that the advantage of specialisation is that work is improved thanks to greater knowledge of the issue. Specialisation at the level of public prosecutors also leads to increased confidence in the justice system's ability to deal with cases of domestic and gender-based violence. General Instruction of the Supreme Public Prosecutor of 15.1.2016 amending General Instruction of the Supreme Public Prosecutor No. 4/2009, Specimen Organisational Rules, introduced a domestic violence specialisation in the structure of the public prosecution service.

There is currently no specialisation for judges in domestic and gender-based violence. Given the demands domestic and gender-based violence places on expertise in and knowledge of the issue, it is necessary to provide sufficient ways for judges to educate themselves on this subject and also to inform them about current expert outputs in this field.



**Measure 20: Raise awareness among persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence about their rights, including the possibility of claiming compensation and the provision of financial aid.**

Responsible ministry: **Mol**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Training for police officers focusing on ways to concisely and clearly inform persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence of their rights and the help available (including how revised forms should be used)	a) Number of training courses b) Number of police officers trained	31. 12. 2019 and continuously in subsequent years  Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to ensure that persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence are always informed in a comprehensible manner about their rights and the help available to them.

Justification:

The findings of organisations working with persons affected by this violence reveal that victims are not always sufficiently informed about basic principles and rights under the Act on Victims of Crime. Affected persons are informed about their rights in various ways. Affected persons often do not understand what their rights are in these cases and what steps will follow. Police officers should have at their disposal a uniform, concise and clear form for persons affected by domestic violence. In this context, it is necessary ensure that police officers are regularly trained in how to use these information materials correctly and how to inform persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence about their rights in a concise and clear manner. In practice, it repeatedly happens that affected persons are not duly compensated because they have not been informed in a sufficient and comprehensible manner about which phases of criminal proceedings they can exercise their rights in and how. The goal of the measure is to ensure they receive concise and comprehensible information about the right to claim damages and thus to improve their situation and position.

Measure 21: **Assess and, depending on the results of the pilot project, expand the use of signalling devices for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence to other regions.**

Responsible ministry: **Mol**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Evaluation of a pilot project for signalling devices for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence	Presentation of the evaluation at a Committee session	31. 12. 2019 Mol
Possible extension of the use of signalling equipment for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence to other regions (after evaluating the pilot project and overcoming technical obstacles)	Number of regions in the given year where the equipment is now used	31. 12. 2020 and continuously in subsequent years Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to widen the ways to help persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence in the most serious cases of a threat to life by means of signalling devices that are able to determine the affected person's location and relay the information to an operational centre of the police, which can thus take swifter and more effective action.

Justification:

In the most serious cases of domestic and gender-based violence the victim's life is in danger. In these cases, signalling devices have proved effective in other countries, enabling the police to prevent fatal consequences of domestic violence. It is necessary to evaluate cases where a violent person is expelled from a shared household and a high risk of another dangerous assault has been identified. In these cases the signalling devices enable victims to summon police help just by pressing a button. The police also have detailed information about the affected person, children in the household and the violent person and pass on this information to the intervening police patrol unit that can take effective action.

In 2018 the Mol carried out a project called "Don't be blind to domestic violence III", which trialled 15 signalling devices with technology enabling the affected person to summon immediate assistance simply by pressing a button. The project has so far been carried out in the Central Bohemian Region (Kladno and Příbram police departments). Experiences abroad show that this form of protection has a fundamental benefit for the safety of victims of domestic and gender-based violence. These measures will lead to the pilot project being evaluated, any technical obstacles being resolved and the testing of this equipment being extended to other regional and local police departments.

**Measure 22: Reduce the number of repeated questionings for both children and adult victims of domestic and gender-based violence.**

Responsible ministry: **Mol**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Analysis of the use of interrogation rooms and the number of repeated questionings of victims of domestic and gender-based violence	Published analysis	31. 12. 2020 Mol
Training for police officers in questioning victims of domestic and gender-based violence (including children)	a) Number of training courses b) Number of police officers trained	31. 12. 2021 and continuously in subsequent years Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to reduce the number of repeated questionings of victims of domestic and gender-based violence with a view to making sure that the victims of this violence are not exposed to repeated trauma and to preventing secondary victimisation (partly by ensuring questioning is conducted sensitively by police officers).

Justification:

According to the experiences of organisations working with persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence, in the current practice of criminal proceedings there is an excessive amount of repeated questioning of both child and adult victims of these forms of violence. On average, persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence are questioned 5–7 times; the figure is lower for child victims, but even so the questioning is repeated several times. This practice poses a significant risk of re-traumatisation and secondary or even tertiary victimisation of these victims. The need to minimise the number of questioning sessions has been pointed out in public speeches by some public prosecutors and criminal court judges (e.g. JUDr. Jan Svaček).

**Measure 23: Legislate on the status of children and vulnerable persons in infraction proceedings.**

Responsible ministry: **Mol**

Outputs	Indicator	Timing and person responsible
Legislation on the status of children as witnesses in infraction or administrative proceedings that effectively protects their interests, especially when dealing with violence in the family	Submission of an amendment of Act No. 250/2016 Coll., on liability for infractions and proceedings thereon, taking into account the status of a child in the relevant proceedings, for government discussion and approval	31. 12. 2019 Mol
Legislation on the protection of personal data, privacy and the procedural status of vulnerable victims in infraction proceedings	Submission of an amendment of Act No. 250/2016 Coll., on liability for infractions and proceedings thereon, taking into account the status of vulnerable persons and their privacy, for government discussion and approval	31. 12. 2019 Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is to improve and enshrine in law the status of children and other vulnerable persons in infraction proceedings (or in general administrative proceedings).

Justification:

The status of a child as a witness in infraction or general administrative proceedings is not sufficiently enshrined in law. At the same time, there is no legislation ensuring that vulnerable victims' personal data and privacy are protected in infraction proceedings. These measures were already part of the update of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018. Based on the assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018, these tasks were included in this Action Plan in 2018.

**Measure 24: Create a departmental conceptual material on the fight against cyber-violence.**

Responsible ministry: **Mol**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Timing and person responsible</b>
Cyber-violence Prevention Strategy	Approved departmental strategy	31. 12. 2020 Mol
Implementation of the Cyber-violence Prevention Strategy measures	Annual information on implementation of the strategy measures	31. 12. 2021 and continuously in subsequent years Mol

More detailed description of the measure:

The goal of the measure is the elaboration of a conceptual strategic document focusing on the prevention of cyber-violence in the Czech Republic.

Justification:

Cyber-violence has been on the increase in recent years, and not just among young people.<sup>55</sup> That is confirmed by the experiences of organisations that work with persons affected by this violence. It is simultaneously an area that has so far received insufficient attention in the Czech Republic. There is still no conceptual strategic document targeting the prevention of cyber-violence in the Czech Republic. This measure was already part of the update of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018. Based on the assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan 2015 – 2018, this task was included in this Action Plan in 2018. The cyber-violence prevention strategy should work with gender-based violence, hate-based violence and groups of persons facing multiple discrimination.

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<sup>55</sup> Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. 2016. Analysis of gender-based cyberviolence. For more information see: <http://www.tojrovnost.cz/images/analyzy/Analyza-genderove-podmineneho-kybernasili.pdf>