



## Information relating to the implementation of the General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/149 on „Violence against women migrant workers“

On 6 May 2019 the **Action plan for the prevention of domestic violence and gender-based violence for the years 2019 – 2022** (hereinafter referred to as the “Action plan” was adopted by the Government of the Czech Republic.<sup>1</sup> The Action plan represents the third complex policy document in the field of prevention of domestic violence and gender-based violence. It includes 24 measures and covers 3 main strategic areas based on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and other international documents: 1, Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, 2, Protection and help to the victims of domestic and gender-based violence and 3, Ensuring the access to the justice for all victims of domestic and gender-based violence. Status of particularly vulnerable persons including migrant persons is the cross-sectional priority of the Action plan and will be taken into account during the evaluation of implementation of all measures.

Status of migrant persons is also taken into account in the **Government Strategy for Equality of Women and Men in the Czech Republic for 2014 – 2020** (hereinafter referred to as the “Strategy”) was adopted by the Government of the Czech Republic on 12 November 2014.<sup>2</sup> One of its’ specific goals is improving availability and quality of differentiated gender-specific service to migrant persons (in particular health services, legal and social counselling and language training) in particular through strengthening cooperation of state administration with NGOs and reserving financial means in this area.

Czech Republic also financially supports projects on gender equality and support of migrant women of Czech NGOs, as it believes that the cooperation among the state sector, academia, and NGOs is necessary to implement gender mainstreaming. Hence, the Department of Gender Equality at the Office of the Government oversees a **grant programme** called the Support of Charitable Activities of Non-Governmental Organisations in the Area of Gender Equality (hereinafter also the “Grant Programme”).<sup>3</sup> The Grant Programme was established in 2015 to support activities of non-governmental non-profit organisations which contribute to the realisation of the Strategy. Between 2015 and 2018, the Grant Programme was allocated CZK 7 million annually; in 2019, due to budget cuts, the available funds were decreased to CZK 4 million. The Grant Programme is financed from the state budget, and the grants are awarded annually. Focus on status of particularly vulnerable persons including migrant persons is one of the important evaluation criteria.

In the year 2019 several projects on support of migrant women were recommended by the Grant Support Commission<sup>4</sup> of the Department of Gender Equality at the Office of the Czech Government. An example is the project of the NGO Association for integration and migration called

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<sup>1</sup> Action plan is available in Czech on-line at: <http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/Aktuality/AP-DN---grafikaFINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Strategy is available in English on-line at: [http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Government\\_Strategy\\_for-Gender\\_Equality\\_2014\\_2020.pdf](http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Government_Strategy_for-Gender_Equality_2014_2020.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> More information about the Grant Programme is available in Czech on-line at: <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dotace/dotacni-program-podpora-verejne-ucelnych-aktivit-neslatnich-neziskovych-organizaci-v-oblasti-rovnosti-zen-a-muzu-123043/>



**“Migrants among women 2019 – health and protection from violence”**. Aim of this project is to decrease vulnerability of migrant women, eliminate risks of multiple discrimination, develop public discussion about their status and especially contribute to self-development and independence of this group of women. The project will focus on the issues of their mental and reproductive health and also on the prevention and protection against violence against migrant women (with emphasis on domestic violence). The key elements of the project are promotion of the topic of gender in migration, promotion of gender-sensitive migration and integration policies in the Czech Republic and facilitating the realization of rights to equal opportunities of individual women with migration experience. The project is based on interconnected networking, awareness raising, advocacy and advisory activities.

Another example of project recommended for the financial support is **“Chance for migrant women”** of the NGO InBáze which aims to develop complex programme including services of support for entering the labour market and work-life balance for the migrant women in the Czech Republic. The goal of proposed activities of the project is to reduce gender inequalities, increase sensitivity and raise awareness about current inequalities in society which are related to migrant women in the Czech Republic.

Currently there are **81 registered social services that provide support for target group migrant persons and asylum seekers** and 266 registered social services that provide support for target group victims of domestic violence in the Czech Republic. The number of supported services and financial support in years 2016 – 2018 for both prevailing<sup>5</sup> target groups by the programme grants of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are displayed in tables below. The register of social services in the Czech Republic unfortunately cannot determine the financial allocation for the support of target group women migrant workers - victims of violence.

Number of supported social services with prevailing target group “migrant persons and asylum seekers” in years 2015 - 2018		
Year	Number of services	Financial support
2015	30	20 344 191 CZK
2016	29	24 925 068 CZK
2017	25	29 210 988 CZK
2018	27	37 686 265 CZK

Number of supported social services with prevailing target group “victims of domestic violence” in years 2015 - 2018		
Year	Number of services	Financial support
2015	32	30 346 672 Kč
2016	33	34 972 034 Kč

<sup>5</sup> Number of social services for prevailing target group represents the number of services that specialize on the target group. Overall number of services that provide support to the target group is higher.

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Department of Gender Equality



2017	19	21 674 105 Kč
2018	24	27 235 200 Kč

On 1 July 2018 the amendment to the **Act No 85/1996 Coll., on Advocacy** concerning free legal aid came into force. Based on this legislation, free legal aid is extended to migrant persons and asylum seekers.

The adoption of the **Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers** is currently discussed in the Czech Republic. There is not a strong political support for adoption of the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** at the moment. The Czech Republic is considered to have all rules related to the migrant workers and their families sufficient.

In 2017 the Office of the Government published the **Analysis of gender perspective and gender-based violence issues in the implementation of Czech asylum policy**. Analysis explores the perspectives and practices of various entities entering the process of granting international protection in the Czech Republic, with a special focus on gender perspective in working with refugees, asylum seekers and applicants for international protection. Particular attention was paid to how these subjects have experienced assessing and addressing cases of gender-based violence in the context of refugee and asylum.

In the years 2013 – 2017 several projects on support of migrant women – victims of domestic violence were financially supported in the Czech Republic by **Norway grants** and the programme CZ 12 Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting work-life balance & domestic and gender-based violence.

For example the project of the NGO Association for integration and migration called “**I will not be a victim!**” focused on domestic violence on migrant women.<sup>6</sup> The project addressed the specific needs of migrants who have been threatened by domestic violence. The aim was to eliminate this violence, minimize its consequences and raise awareness about the issue. The project included analytical and conceptual work, direct work with the target group, educational and awareness-raising activities. Within the project, a comparative analysis of migration and asylum legislation and practice was created with regard to the status of dependent persons, including proposals for individual solutions and systemic changes. Another outcome of the project was manual with best practices for working with foreigners who are threatened by this violence.

Another project supported by Norway grants was “**Equal opportunities of migrant women**” of the NGO Organization for aid to refugees.<sup>7</sup> The aim of the project was to support the equality of migrant women in the Czech labour market, in family life and in access to health care and to promote the state's non-discriminatory policy towards migrant women. The goal of the project was to achieve systemic changes of the legislation, actual status of migrant women in the labour market, health insurance and family life, including family reunification, and in general migration policy as such. The project also sought to achieve positive changes in public and local policies and to promote gender mainstreaming in future public policy-making on migration and family.

<sup>6</sup> More information about the project is available in Czech online at: <http://www.dejmezenamsanci.cz/projekty/nebudu-obeti/>

<sup>7</sup> More information about the project is available in Czech online at: <http://www.dejmezenamsanci.cz/projekty/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-migrantek/>

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Within a project, the Analysis of policies and practices from the perspective of gender equality, focusing on work, health care and family life, including family reunification was created.