

Contribution of the Office of the National Rapporteur, Hellenic Republic, regarding the General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/149 on “Violence against women migrant workers”

Responses should provide concrete examples of measures taken at the national level with regard to the issues outlined below, highlighting results achieved, lessons learned and opportunities for up-scaling and replication:

1. Signing, ratifying, acceding to relevant UN and/or ILO instruments and/or adhering to their provisions (operative paragraph 3)

Greece has ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols – the “Palermo Protocol”: Law 3875/2010 (158/A’/2010), which foresees measures to protect any person, including women migrant workers, from any form of trafficking in human beings including forced labour.

The Greek Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare is on the process to ratify the 2014 Protocol to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention.

2. Formulating and implementing gender-responsive legislation, policies and plans on migration, labour, social protection, ending violence against women migrant workers and migrant girls, including budget allocation to address violence against women migrant workers (operative paragraphs 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 24, 28)

Greece has ratified the three fundamental legal instruments against Trafficking in Human Beings, which provide the legislative means to protect all individuals, including women migrant workers, from this hideous crime.

A. The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols – the “Palermo Protocol”: Law 3875/2010 (158/A’/2010)

B. The Transposition of the 2011/36/EU Directive with the Law 4198/2013 (215/A’/2013). The new Law establishes the Office of the National Rapporteur (MFA) and gives an official mandate of accountability to the informal Coordination Mechanism of competent Ministries, International Organizations and accredited NGO’s. This is promoting a better cooperation between the competent authorities and stakeholders, and facilitates the “national ownership” of internationally recognized 'best' practices” for combating THB.

C. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings with the Law 4216/2013 (266/A’/2013)

The Council of Europe’s “Istanbul Convention” was ratified by Greece on April 2018 (Law 4351/2018).

Complying with the relevant national and international legislation, Greece has put in place a formal national identification and referral system for victims and presumed victims of human trafficking (Ministerial Decision 30840/20.9.2016). The Mechanism, supervised by the Office

of the National Rapporteur and managed by the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare operates as a hub for coordinated action and partnership building, among all actors involved in combating human trafficking (state agencies, International Organizations, NGOs). The NRM was officially launched on the 1st January 2019.

The drafting of the new National Action Plan 2019-2023 has been completed and it is expected to be officially endorsed by the Greek government in the next months. In the new National Action Plan, a shelter specifically for women victims of human trafficking and another for girl victim of human trafficking are foreseen. The new National Action Plan refers explicitly to women and women in migration as vulnerable groups and it also considers the needs of women victims of trafficking in human beings who have children.

3. Promoting research and sex-disaggregated data collection on trends in women's labour migration and violence against women migrant workers, including domestic workers and undocumented women migrant workers at all stages of migration (operative paragraphs 33, 35)

Concerning the data on women and girls victims of trafficking in human beings as well as the trends in the forms of human trafficking suffered by women and girls, the Hellenic Police collects and shares with competent authorities such data, while the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights collects data on relevant court processes and court decisions. As from 1st January 2019, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is being collecting sex-disaggregated data on presumed and identified victims of trafficking in human beings. The NRM will also collect data on the services provided to THB victims, and will follow up the cases up as to provide data on their developments.

In terms of research, the Office of the National Rapporteur (ONR), in collaboration with the Rights Lab, University of Nottingham, UK and the School of Social Sciences, University of Crete, Greece, carries out a research project on the needs of unaccompanied migrant children, either identified or presumed victims of THB, in terms of psychological support and intervention. The ONR, in collaboration with the Municipality of Athens, the Athens Partnership and the OSCE will run a pilot (simulation) project aiming to review the procurement procedures of the Municipality of Athens and to identify necessary changes in order to eliminate any form of human exploitation in the Council of Athens's supply chains.

4. Preventing violence against women migrant workers, including regulation of labour recruitment and intermediaries, capacity building programmes and awareness raising efforts for government and civil society including for migrant girls (operative paragraphs 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 29, 30, 31)

Awareness-raising campaigns: Greece has embarked on large-scale campaigns to reduce 'Demand' for services or products extracted from THB victims. In this context, as a good practice of effective collaboration between the State and the Private Sector to prevent and combat THB is the public awareness Campaign "BREAK THE CHAIN". In 2018, a second

large awareness-raising event was organized which focused on the prevention of labour exploitation, the Raise your Voice Festival.

Training and Capacity building programs: Training of professionals on first-level identification is an intrinsic part of Greece's anti-trafficking and protection to victims of THB policy. The ONR steps up efforts to facilitate capacity-building activities through a strategic partnership with the State Institute of Training (National Center of Public Administration & Local Government) for the implementation of annual anti-trafficking seminars. Cooperation with leading international organizations, namely the UNODC, resulted in several specialized trainings for law enforcement and front-line professionals. In 2018, Labour Inspectors and Health Professionals will receive training on first-level identification organized by the National Centre of Public Administration & Local Government, the Institute of Training and the Office of the National Rapporteur.

Furthermore, several public agencies and NGOs have organized trainings for professionals on identification and protection of victims. For example, the Hellenic Police, the National Centre for Social Solidarity, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Solidarity, the General Secretary for Gender Equality, Ministry of Interior, the First Reception Services, and the Asylum Services, Ministry of Migration Policy, among others have periodically organized trainings on THB issues. Many NGOs such as A21, Praxis, Arsis, Metadrasi, Smile of the Child, Solidarity Now, among others have also participated and organized trainings on THB issues. European agencies such as FRA and EASO, as well as international organizations such as IOM-Greece and UNODC have also contributed to knowledge sharing between professionals.

5. Ensuring mechanisms and services for protection, assistance and improved access to justice (operative paragraphs 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 32)

Complying with the relevant national and international legislation, Greece has put in place a formal national identification and referral system for victims and presumed victims of human trafficking (Ministerial Decision 30840/20.9.2016). The Mechanism, supervised by the Office of the National Rapporteur and managed by the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare operates as a hub for coordinated action and partnership building, among all actors involved in combating human trafficking (state agencies, International Organizations, NGOs). It subscribes to a more inclusive identification regime that brings-in additional professionals and stakeholders into the screening and identification process of mixed migratory/refugee flows (migration services, labour inspectors, health providers, local administration authorities). Special attention has been given to the collaboration between the NRM and the Labour Inspectorate to identify cases of human trafficking for forced labour.

6. Enhancing bilateral, regional, international and other cooperation and partnerships to address violence against women migrant workers (operative paragraphs 13, 37).

The Office of the National Rapporteur (ONR) systematically collaborates with the Office of the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator. Systematic collaboration also takes place between the ONR, other State Agencies and European Agencies such as the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), EUROJUST, and EUROPOL. Stable and constructive collaboration on issues related to trafficking in human

beings takes place between the ONR and international organizations such as OSCE, OSCE/ODIHR, UNODC, UNHCR, and IOM. Specific examples of collaborative actions between the ONR and the aforementioned agencies have been provided in other sections of the present questionnaire.