**Response of Estonia to the Joint questionnaire by Special Procedure mandate holders**

**Protecting human rights during and after the COVID-19**

Estonia would like to make some remarks in reply to the joint questionnaire by Special Procedure mandate holders. On 12 March 2020 the Government of the Republic of Estonia declared an emergency situation in the entire territory of the Republic of Estonia to confront the widespread dangers of the COVID-19 to public health, and introducing certain measures to counter the spread of the coronavirus. The emergency situation initially remained in force until 1 May 2020. On 24 April 2020 the Government of Estonia prolonged the emergency situation until 17 May 2020. Beginning from 18 May 2020 the emergency situation is terminated.

Special website [www.kriis.ee](http://www.kriis.ee) was introduced to collect relevant information and advice regarding the emergency situation and the limitations and activities deriving from it. Information is also available in English <https://www.kriis.ee/en>

Emergency Response Centre opened a Hotline 1247 for help and information service. Hotline 1247 provides information on various issues concerned with coronavirus and its spread issues related to coronavirus. The hotline is available 24/7 and it is free of charge for the callers.

Also webpages and helplines of different governmental authorities provide instructions and advice as well as frequently asked questions.

The unofficial translation into English of all relevant documents concerning the emergency situation are available online at<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/viitedLeht.html?id=8>.

In compliance with its international obligations, Estonia has informed international organizations (United Nations, Council of Europe and OSCE) about introduction of the emergency situation and the measures applied and about the termination of the emergency situation. Relevant notifications to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under Article 4(3) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [C.N.113.2020](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2020/CN.113.2020-Eng.pdf) and [C.N.177.2020](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2020/CN.177.2020-Eng.pdf)

Estonia has responded to a questionnaire about implementation of the General Assembly resolutions A/RES/73/148 on “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment”, A/RES/73/146 on “Trafficking in women and girls”, and A/RES/73/149 on “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation” that also contained information about impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) has requested information of the measures that have been taken to address the effects of the pandemic in places of deprivation of liberty, including places of quarantine, and how it has taken account of the content of the SPT’s Advice when doing so. Estonia has on confidential bases provided the Subcommittee with relevant information.