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The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and is pleased to submit, in the attachment to this Note Verbale, its responses to the Questionnaire elaborated by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration. *h*

Geneva, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015



**Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Geneva

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**Replies of the Czech Republic to Questionnaire on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation**

**1. Provide information of the legal, policy, institutional and budgetary framework developed by your country to establish assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation.**

Victims under 18 years of age are entitled to use services which are provided by the Ministry of labour and social affairs or by the Ministry of education, youth and sports. Ministry of labour and social affairs monitors the situation of children exploited for prostitution or production of pornography. This is being done mainly through the authorities of socio-legal protection of children.

Ministry of education, youth and sports, specifically Facility for children – foreigners takes care of unaccompanied children and functions as educational as well as pedagogical institution. This facility also monitors the situation in trafficking in persons under 18 years of age.

The Ministry of the Interior issued a manual “Trafficking in children -Recommendations for action taken by public authorities” which is meant to give basis of methodology for law enforcement agencies dealing with child victims or with victims whose age is verifiable.

The police of the Czech Republic monitor the situation and annually issues statistics of how many victims and offenders of trafficking in persons have been identified.

**2. Based on your experience, what elements are necessary for a comprehensive and rights-based care and recovery system of child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation.**

Early identification is a crucial element in case of victims of exploitations in general. Ministry of the interior regularly trains first line professionals that might come into contact of victims of trafficking, regardless of their age, gender or the form of exploitation. Social, psychological as well as educational care is also central to help provided to children, this is done primarily by the programmes mentioned in point 1.

**4. Describe the challenges that your country has identified in the establishment and management of assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation.**

From the cases registered, the traffickers/exploiters are often sold by their own family members or even directly exploited by them and they are instructed how to communicate in case of being questioned by state authorities. Another challenge is that children coming from countries with high level of corruption tend to distrust state authorities.

**6. How do you ensure access of child victims to support services?**

In the criminal code, par. 168, there is a special provision concerning victims of trafficking which states that in cases where victims are under 18 years of age, the law enforcement

agencies do not have to prove the means the perpetrator used in order to exploit a child so that higher level of protection of children is ensured and thus their access to specialised services. Further Law No. 45/2013 Coll., *about crime victims* states that a child (a person under 18 years of age) is automatically in position of a particularly vulnerable victim. The position of a particularly vulnerable victim is connected with psychological care, social counselling and legal advice etc. These services are offered for free.

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