**INPUTS FROM THE PROTECTOR OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**FOR THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY**

**1. Key areas in which people (in your country, region or worldwide) suffer socio-cultural**

**and economic exclusion as a result of violence and discrimination on the basis of**

**sexual orientation and/or gender identity; in particular,**

**a) What knowledge, including data, exists in the State planning bases in relation to**

**socio-cultural and economic exclusion based on sexual orientation and gender**

**identity, including levels of poverty, homelessness, education, employment,**

**health, political participation and any other relevant social indicator?**

**b) How are individuals, groups or communities differently affected, based on their**

**sexual orientation and/or gender identity?**

**c) What are the main barriers in ensuring equal access to education, health care,**

**employment and occupation, housing and other relevant sectors?**

Even though certain progress was made in the previous period when it comes to the protection of rights of LGBTI persons**[[1]](#footnote-1),** persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity as well as persons who advocate for the exercise of their rights are exposed to violence, including physical violence and harassment. In accordance with that, the timely reaction of competent bodies is necessary as well as processing and adequate punishment of perpetrators, unequivocal response of the entire system that violence is absolutely unacceptable and that every case of violence will be punished.

The Protector of Citizens in his reports indicates to the shortcomings in the exercise and protection of rights of LGBTI persons, such as the lack of the law which regulates same-sex relationships, lack of the law which regulates legal consequences of the adjustment of sex and gender identity, lack of rules of conduct and sanctions for the holders of public functions for discriminatory and hate speech, lack of the network of services for LGBTI persons especially for the young and homeless, lack of education of children and the young on sexual and reproductive health and the position and rights of LGBTI persons at all levels of education, inexistence of the national campaign for raising of the awareness of the public on the position and rights of LGBTI persons.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Due to expressed prejudice and stereotypes about persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity, they are exposed to a great extent both to discrimination and hate speech. Unfortunately, we frequently face the use of hate speech from the holders of public functions, which is absolutely unacceptable and must be sanctioned in an appropriate manner.

It is most often reported on LGBTI persons in most of the media within specific, most frequently sensationalized events as well as before the announcement and event of the Pride parade, not within constant topics or columns within a warm human story which would contribute to understanding of the position of these persons as well as everyday problems they face. Journalists, on the occasion of the reporting on LGBTI persons, do not always adhere to the Code of Journalists of Serbia and a major problem in the electronic media is the readers’ comments containing the hate speech. Therefore, it is necessary to implement continually measures and activities dedicated to raising of the awareness of the public on the necessity of the respect of the rights of LGBTI persons.

In the Regular Annual Report of the Protector of Citizens for 2013 the recommendation was issued to competent ministries that they should prepare the draft regulation which should regulate legal consequences of the adjustment (change) of sex and gender identity, repeated in Regular Annual Reports for 2014 and 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018[[3]](#footnote-3). Unfortunately, the competent Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs still has not established the Working group which will work on the preparation of the Draft of the Law on Gender Identity, even though in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of Prevention and Protection from Discrimination the second quarter of 2016 was designated as the deadline for the implementation of this activity.

The amendments to the Law on Registry[[4]](#footnote-4) prescribe that the information on the change of sex is entered into the Birth Registry on the basis of the decision which is passed based on the prescribed confirmation of the competent health care institution, which is submitted electronically to the competent body by the health care institution, within 15 days since the day of the sex change.[[5]](#footnote-5) Pursuant to the legal provisions the Rulebook on the manner of issuing and the form of confirmation of the competent health care institution on the sex change[[6]](#footnote-6) is issued and it prescribes that the confirmation on the sex change is issued by the health care institution after the implemented hormone therapy in the duration of at least one year with the indication and monitoring by the doctor specialist of psychiatry and doctor specialist of the narrower field of endocrinology, upon the termination of the process of sex change upon the request of the person subject to the sex change or performed surgery intervention of sex change, within 15 days since the day of the termination of sex change process[[7]](#footnote-7). The adoption of mentioned legal decisions and legal organization of the entrance of information on sex change into the Birth Registry is the first step and progress in the sphere of regulation of legal consequences of sex and gender identity adjustment, to whose importance it has been indicated by the Protector of Citizens in his annual reports since 2012 and recommendation has been sent with the aim of the preparation and passing of regulations which regulate legal consequences of adjustment (change) of sex and gender identity, pursuant to recommendations of the Joint Working Group of the Protector of Citizens and Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, so it is believed that this process should be continued by taking also into account the need of comprehensive legal regulation of the position of all trans-persons, including those who do not want or from objective reasons cannot undergo hormone-surgery procedure of the adjustment of sex to gender identity.

**2. Root causes and structural factors responsible for marginalization and socio-cultural**

**and economic exclusion, such as laws, public policies, institutional practices,**

**organizational behaviors, and prevailing ideologies, values and beliefs?**

In the society there are still prominent prejudice and stereotypes on persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity, who are exposed to a great extent to discrimination and deeply rooted patriarchal values just contribute to intolerance. Persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity as well as persons who support the exercise of rights of LGBTI persons are exposed to discrimination and violence, including physical violence and harassment. It is important to provide full exercise of the rights of LGBTI persons in the sphere of education, employment, health care, social protection, legal organization of life communities and legal consequences of the adjustment of sex and gender identity as well as the protection of physical and mental integrity of LGBTI persons. Namely, the lack of the law regulating same-sex relationships, the lack of the law regulating legal consequences of the adjustment of sex and gender identity, the lack of the rules of conduct and sanctions for the holders of public functions for discriminatory and hate speech, the lack of the network of services for LGBTI persons and insufficient application of the institute of hate crime have significant impact on the inadequate position of persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity.

Raising of the level of tolerance of wide public toward LGBTI persons who, according to the survey results, still face homophobia, and social distance[[8]](#footnote-8), is the process which requires time and dedication of public authorities, holders of public functions and civil society organizations, who have an important role in this process. It is necessary to raise the awareness of the public via corresponding media contents, adequate curricula at all levels of education as well as the education of employees with the aim of the adequate treatment of persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity. Also, the consistent application of the criminal and anti-discriminatory legislation is necessary in order to suppress each form of discrimination, hate speech and hate crime toward persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity.

 **3. State efforts to address socio-cultural and economic exclusion through legislation,**

**policies, data gathering, and other means, for example:**

**a) Destitution and poverty;**

**b) Current efforts by States to address bullying and exclusion of LGBT people from**

**education, including in education curricula teacher training, measures to promote**

**continuing education or reinsertion in education settings and vocational training;**

In June 2013 the Government of Serbia adopted the Strategy of Prevention and Protection from Discrimination for the period 2013-2018[[9]](#footnote-9), and in October 2014 the AP[[10]](#footnote-10) for the implementation of this Strategy was adopted. Anti-discriminatory strategy is the first strategic document which, inter alia, contains specific measures and activities intended for the prevention of discrimination and improvement of LGBTI persons, while the Action Plan states the performers of activities, deadlines for their application, indicators of the accomplished progress and estimated financial resources necessary for the realization of activities. The Protector of Citizens in his Regular Annual Report for 2015 indicated that some of the activities have still not been implemented even though the deadline for their implementation, stated in the Action Plan, expired, that is, these are the activities which should be implemented continually, for each calendar year. It is, inter alia, about the improvement of the quality of textbooks, curricula as well as the content of the textbooks and other teaching material at all levels of education, with the aim of elimination of all discriminatory contents (especially those which, inter alia, refer to gender, sexual orientation and gender identity); organization of support groups for LGBTI persons who ended up in the street at municipal centers for social work and support groups of parents of LGBTI children and the young. The Protector of Citizens states with regret that when these strategic documents ceased to be valid, most of prescribed measures and activities dedicated to the improvement of the position of LGBTI persons were not implemented.

The widespread intolerance of the young toward LGBTI persons is directly connected to violence and threats which these person face on a daily basis and indicate to the need to invest, in all forms and at all levels of education, an additional effort for the education about tolerance, non-discrimination and non-violent society.

By accepting the Opinion of the Protector of Citizens on the Draft of the Law on Textbooks, the principles of equal possibilities and prohibition of discrimination in textbooks in compliance with the Law on the prohibition of discrimination were introduced to the Law in 2015. The Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Minister for Public Administration and Local Self-Government mutually in 2016 passed the Rulebook on More Detailed Criteria for the Recognition of Forms of Discrimination by an Employee, Child, Student or a Third Party at an Educational Institution, in accordance with the recommendations of the Protector of Citizens from the Regular Annual Report for 2014 and 2015. However, apart from the repeated recommendations of the Protector of Citizens the curricula of primary and secondary schools then texts in textbooks still do not include content which will in an acceptable but still professional manner deal with all relevant issues which refer to the rights of LGBTI population. It is very important that, in accordance with recommendations from regular annual reports, the Rulebook on the conduct of an institution in the case of doubt or confirmed discriminatory behavior and insulting of a personal reputation, honor or dignity,[[11]](#footnote-11) as well as the fact that in the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Young for the period from 2018 to 2020 a series of activities with the aim of the improvement of the support to the social inclusion of the young from categories at risk from social exclusion was prescribed.[[12]](#footnote-12)

In his practice the Protector of Citizens faces in his practice with the lack of knowledge of employees at schools, administrations, teachers and secretariats how to treat persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity in a corresponding manner so as not to violate their rights, so we find indispensable to organize adequate educations also for employees of educational institutions in order to lead to the elimination of certain prejudice but also the acquisition of certain knowledge and skills. This statement may be supported by an example from practice of the Protector of Citizens: acting upon the complaint of a high-school student, who indicated that after he openly stated which his sexual orientation is, due to frequent attacks of his peers he was forced to terminate regular schooling and during the taking of extraordinary exams at school he suffered the violence of a group of students, the Protector of Citizens initiated the oversight procedure of legality and regularity of the school operation. It was confirmed that the school failed to take measures prescribed by the law and bylaw acts to protect of the student from violence to which he was exposed for the reasons of his different sexual orientation so recommendations were issued to the school[[13]](#footnote-13). Acting upon recommendations, the school in cooperation with competent school administration, analyzed the operation in this case, executed the Action Plan for the prevention of the prevention of violence at schools with special emphasis on the prevention of violence and reduction of intolerance toward persons of different sexual orientation, implemented the procedure of determination of the responsibility of school employees, while the school principal issued an apology to the student in writing because of the omission of the school to provide him with undisturbed schooling in a safe environment. In this manner all recommendations of the Protector of Citizens where acted upon.

**c) Homelessness among LGBT people, particularly youth, and inclusion in shelter**

**programs;**

**d) Coverage by social security and benefits, as well as public and private health**

**insurance (Taking into account survivor’s pensions for same-sex couples,**

**insurance coverage for gender affirming care, social housing for LGBT youth and**

**older persons etc.);**

**e) Equal access to health (including through training and sensitization of health care**

**personnel), regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;**

it is noticed that the phenomenon indicated to by the Protector of Citizens in his regular annual reports, that young LGBTI persons must leave their homes because after finding out about their sexual orientation and gender identity, their families rejected them. Many of these persons therefore abandon schooling and since they are unemployed and without significant opportunities for employment, they frequently live in the street. At the Republic of Serbia at the moment there are no safe houses or other services of temporary accommodation or other measures and services for young LGBTI persons in this situation even apart from the recommendations of the Protector of Citizens from regular annual reports for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.[[14]](#footnote-14)

De-stigmatization of LGBTI persons is necessary also at the level of republic and other bodies of public authorities. The actions were taken based on the Opinion issued by the Protector of Citizens to the Ministry of Health and RHIF for the alteration of the title of professional bodies conducting professional tasks in relation to the persons of different gender identity, finding that there are titles –the Republic Professional Commission for the Treatment of Trans-Gender Disorders and the Commission for the Treatment of Trans-Gender Disorders- which stigmatize LGBTI persons by creating the pathological notion of the different gender identity.

After the visit to the Punishment-Correctional institute in Belgrade – Padinska Skela with the aim of monitoring of the treatment of trans-gender persons deprived of their liberty, the National Preventive Mechanism executed in 2016 the Report with Recommendations for the Removal of Identified Shortcomings in Relation to Persons of a Different Gender Identity. The Administration for the Execution of Criminal Sanctions accepted the obligation to take measures in compliance with issued recommendation with the aim of the improvement of the position of persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity, to improve the training of the employees of the institute within the unit “Gender Equality”, whose aim is to provide additional education for the employees of institutes and professional education in the fields of standards and principles of equality and non-discrimination in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity. Apart from that, the Punishment-Correctional Institute in Belgrade – adinska Skela has the obligation to improve material conditions in the facility for the accommodation of persons punished for misdemeanor and take special measures for the protection from discrimination of trans-gender persons.

**4. Complaints mechanisms available and accessible to LGBT people facing**

**discrimination.**

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia[[15]](#footnote-15) and Article 1 of the Law on the Protector of Citizens[[16]](#footnote-16), are used to establish the Protector of Citizens as an independent state body to protect the rights of citizens and control the operation of public administration bodies as well as other bodies and organizations, companies and institutions which are entrusted with public authorizations (republic agencies and funds, ministries, educational institutions, institutions of social and health protection, municipal bodies of administration, etc.).

Pursuant to the mentioned Law every natural person who believes that their rights have been violated by an act, activity or failure to perform an activity may file the complaint to the Protector of Citizens. If the Protector of Citizens confirms that the rights of the citizen were violated by public authorities acts, activities or failure to perform an activity, if republic laws are violated, other regulations and general acts, there is the obligation of acting upon the complaint of citizens or upon own initiative, pursuant to the law, to initiate the procedure for the protection of citizen rights.

LGBTI persons rarely use their right to contact the Protector of Citizens even though, unfortunately, we are all aware of the fact that their rights are violated in different fields of public and private life. Based on that we may conclude, as the results of different surveys show, persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity distrust competent institutions and are not sufficiently empowered so as to contact the Protector of Citizens in cases when their rights are violated by actions taken or not taken by competent administrative bodies.

Apart from the stated, many LGBTI persons face discrimination and other forms of violation of their rights due to the high level of prejudice towards them, so they do not want to disclose their sexual orientation and gender identity not even to the closest members of their families so as not to be rejected by family members, discriminated at educational institutions or at job position or exposed to other forms of the violation of their rights. Many LGBTI persons believe that addressing the bodies, even in the sense of reporting certain violation of their rights and failure competent bodies to take measures or to take adequate measures could result in the disclosure of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and it would not essentially lead to the improvement of their position.

The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination[[17]](#footnote-17) established the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality as an independent and autonomous state body. The provisions of this law prohibit discrimination and every unjustified making of differences or unequal activities and omission (exclusion, limitation and giving advantage) in relation to persons or groups as well as their family members or persons close to them, in an open or covered manner, based not only on sex, gender identity and sexual orientation but, inter alia, on race, skin color, ancestors, citizenship, nationality or ethnic origin, language, religious or political beliefs, citizenship, nationality or ethnic origin, language, health condition, disability and other personal properties. Pursuant to this Law, only the Commissioner and courts are competent to confirm whether certain act represents an act of discrimination. (the Commissioner is obliged, inter alia, except the review of complaints due to the violation of the provisions of the prohibition of discrimination and provision of opinions and recommendations, to provide the complainant with the information on their right and possibility of initiation of a court or another protection procedure or the settlement process is recommended, the suit filed to the court with the aim of the protection from discrimination, misdemeanor charges are pressed because of the violation of the prohibition of discrimination, the public is warned about the most frequent, typical and severe cases of discrimination, measures for the realization of equality are recommended to public authorities and other persons). We hereby indicate that discrimination is one of the forms of violation of human rights. If the Protector of Citizens confirms that the rights of citizens were violated by acts, activities or failure to act by administrative bodies, if it is the violation of republic laws, other regulations and general acts, he is obliged, upon the complaint of the citizen or own initiative, pursuant to the law, to initiate the procedure for the protection of rights of citizens. If female and male citizens contact the Protector of Citizens stating that they were discriminated, the Protector of Citizens will send them to the Commissioner and initiate the procedure only if it is considered that there was some violation of other rights of female and male citizens by the holder of public authorizations.

The amendments to the Criminal Code in 2011 introduced the institute of the hate crime in our criminal legislation, but it is not applied in practice sufficiently. Namely, only one enforceable verdict was passed in Serbia because of the hate crime based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and with the use of this legal institute in 2016 within the criminal act *the Violation of Equality* the deprivation or limitation of human and citizen rights were incriminated, inter alia, based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but we believe that in order to have a more complete protection of LGBTI persons it is necessary to amend the Criminal Code so that in all criminal acts with the purpose of punishment and prevention of racism and intolerance, the activity of the execution of these criminal acts and based on sexual orientation and gender identity are incriminated, therefore we issued such recommendation on our Regular Annual Report for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Protector of Citizens issued on multiple occasions, repeated in the Annual report of the Protector of Citizens for 2017[[18]](#footnote-18), too, the Law on Free Legal Assistance[[19]](#footnote-19) was adopted and the categories of users prescribed the persons in a sensitive position, inter alia, children, children victims of domestic violence and violence in partner relationships and human trafficking, persons with disabilities but not LGBTI persons, who, which is continually indicated to by the Protector of Citizens, frequently face the violation of their rights in different spheres of life.

Sexual orientation and gender identity are recognized as an explicit basis for discrimination in many systemic and special laws. However, the Law on Police failed to recognize sexual orientation as an explicit basis of discrimination. What is encouraging is the fact that the Law on Police explicitly prescribes the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

Pursuant to the Opinion of the Protector of Citizens to the Draft of the Law on Foreigners[[20]](#footnote-20), the Law on Foreigners[[21]](#footnote-21) state as especially endangered persons victims of domestic violence and violence in partner relations which may be caused by sex, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, the persons who face at their mother countries the danger of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment because of their sexual orientation or gender identity[[22]](#footnote-22). Pursuant to the Opinion of the Protector of Citizens it is prohibited to coercively move the foreigner to the territory where s/he is threatened with exile, inter alia, because of their sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, religion, nationality, citizenship, affiliation to a certain social group or political opinion[[23]](#footnote-23). It is important that the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection[[24]](#footnote-24) prescribes explicit prohibition of discrimination, inter alia, based on sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation[[25]](#footnote-25), as well as activities in accordance with the principle of gender equality and sensitivity[[26]](#footnote-26), the principle of the provision of special process guarantees, inter alia, for unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, the elderly persons, pregnant women, single parents with minors, victims of human trafficking, persons who were tortured, raped or exposed to other severe forms of psychological, physical or sexual harassment, such as women victims of mutilation of sexual organs.[[27]](#footnote-27) The right to asylum and the status of the refugee is guaranteed to the person who is outside their mother country or the country of usual residence, and has justified fear of exile, inter alia, because of their sex as well as the affiliation to a certain social group or political belief[[28]](#footnote-28), which may be based on mutual actual or supposed characteristics of sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation[[29]](#footnote-29). As an act of exile, the Law explicitly states physical or mental violence, including sexual violence and gender-based violence[[30]](#footnote-30).

**6. Actions taken to raise public awareness and sensitization on issues of sexual**

**orientation and gender identity, in order to promote the meaningful socio-cultural and**

**economic inclusion of LGBT people.**

The Protector of Citizens in his regular annual reports, and representatives of this body in public announcements and in the participation at various public events and professional summits indicate to the competence of the Protector of Citizens and invite LGBTI persons to report the violation of their rights to competent bodies, and to contact the Protector of Citizens by filing a complaint if they are not satisfied with the regularity and legality of their work.

The Council for Gender Equality of the Protector of Citizens provides professional and advisory support to the Protector of Citizens. Female and male members of the Council are persons with experience and knowledge in the field of the improvement of the position of women and LGBTI persons, with the special emphasis on the rights and position of the Roma women, women with disabilities, women suffering domestic violence and partner relationship violence as well as trans-persons. Female and male members of the Council continually indicate to the problems of sensitive social groups with the aim of the improvement of their position.

In his Regular Annual Reports for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 the Protector of Citizens[[31]](#footnote-31) sent, inter alia, the recommendation to public authorities to continually implement measures and activities with the aim of raising awareness on the necessity of the observance of rights of LGBTI persons, especially because of the high level of prejudice and stereotypes, as well as the hate speech which these persons face on a daily basis. In this process of raising of the level of tolerance toward sensitive social groups, apart from public authorities, independent bodies for the protection of human rights, organizations of civil society and academic community, the media also have an important role.

In 2018 the Protector of Citizens issued recommendations to the Cultural Center Kruševac after in the oversight procedure of regularity and legality of the operation of this cultural institution initiated upon the complaint of the Citizen Association “Egal” it was confirmed that the Cultural Center Kruševac deliberately, unjustifiably and without any explanation refused to put at the disposal of the Citizen Association “Egal” the premises of the institution with the purpose of the organization of a platform on the position of LGBTI persons; refused to provide reasons of the change of previously provided positive response to the request of this Association for the use of public space and the director of this institution, in immediate communication with representatives of the Citizen Association “Egal”, conducted in an especially unfair manner. The cultural center Kruševac completely acted in compliance with recommendations of the Protector of Citizens.

At the building of the Protector of Citizens, on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Fight against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHO/T) and International Day of Pride every year the flag of rainbow colors is placed and thus support to persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity in a symbolic manner support is provided and it is indicated to the problems these persons face on everyday basis. At this event, apart from the Deputy Protector of Citizens and representative of the Secretariat, other participants involve male and female members of the Council for Gender Equality of the Protector of Citizens.

International Day of Awareness was celebrated on 26th October, 2018 by the placement of intersex flags at the building of the Protector of Citizens as a symbol of support to intersex persons, one of the most marginalized social groups whose rights, position and problems they face are not known and spoken about enough.

(еnd)

1. The Minister without portfolio for European integrations signed the Mutual statement on the termination of violence and hate crime toward LGBTI persons, together with ministers and deputy ministers from Montenegro, Croatia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; in Belgrade, without incidents, for the second time in a row in 2015 the Pride parade and for the first time the Parade of trans-persons were held, which enabled persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity to exercise the right to the freedom of gathering. The new Police Law introduced the provision on the prohibition of discrimination based on gender and gender identity, but not based on sexual orientation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Reports of the Protector of Citizens for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Secretariat of the group of experts for the activities against violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO) Reports of the Protector of Citizens for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and GREVIO, as well as the report on the progress of the European Commission. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Available at: <https://www.ombudsman.rs/index.php/izvestaji/godisnji-izvestaji>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 20/09, 145/14 and 47/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Article 45b of the Registry Law, “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 20/09, 145/14 and 47/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 103/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Article 3 of the Rulebook on the manner of issuing and form of the confirmation of the competent health institutions on sex change, “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 103/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The Research of the Protector of Citizens Public Perception related to the rights of vulnerable groups in the Republic of Serbia and recognition of the competence and perception of operation of the Protector of Citizens, 2015, available at: <https://www.ombudsman.rs/attachments/4174_Percepcija%20javnosti%20-%20ZG%202015.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Available at: <http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs/images/pdf/Strategija_jul_2013.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Available at: <http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs/images/Akcioni_plan_-_srpski.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 65/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Available at: <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/dokument/45678/strategije.php>. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Recommendation of the Protector of Citizens 13–3785/12 dated 8th August, 2013 available at: <http://www.ombudsman.rodnaravnopravnost.rs/attachments/058_058_preporuka%20ekonomska%20skola%20-%20kursumlija.doc>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. During the initial seminar of the Office for Human and Minority Rights and Council of Europe in December 2012 and the Strategy of Prevention and Protection from Discrimination and accompanying Action Plan it was indicated to the complexity of the family situation of LGBTI persons, available at: <http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs/images/Akcioni_plan_-_srpski.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 98/06. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 79/05 and 54/07. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 22/09. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Available at: <https://www.ombudsman.rs/attachments/article/5671/Godisnji%20izvestaj%20za%202017.%20godinu.docx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 87/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Opinion available at: <https://www.ombudsman.rs/attachments/article/5350/Misljenje%20ZG%20i%20NPM.PDF>. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Article 3 Item 24 of the Law on Foreigners, “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Article 83. The Law on Foreigners, “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Article 7. the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection “Official Gazette of RS”, no.24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Article 16. the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection “Official Gazette of RS”, no.24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Article 17. the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection “Official Gazette of RS”, no. 24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Article 24. the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection “Official Gazette of RS”, no.24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Article 26. the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection “Official Gazette of RS”, no.24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Article 28 the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection “Official Gazette of RS”, no.24/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Available at: https://www.ombudsman.rs/index.php/izvestaji/godisnji-izvestaji. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)