

Department of Victim Rights, which was established in 2013 under the Ministry of Justice so as to provide victims of crimes in vulnerable situations such as children, women, elderly and disabled individuals with legal guidance and support services and to prevent re-victimization in the course of legal proceedings carries on its duties attaching particular attention to the issue of domestic violence.

Violence against women, remaining to be one of the most tricky problems all around the world not only impairs individual rights of women but also undermines well-being and healthy functioning of the whole society, including detrimental effects on children and family, while constituting great impediments to achieving sustainable development goals as well.

Taking into account the fact that violence in its all forms against women explicitly constitutes an abuse of human rights, the Government is of the view that combating this multifaceted problem necessitates a multi-dimensional and holistic approach, as well as joint and dedicated efforts of the society as a whole. Accordingly, it is extremely essential that an inter-disciplinary approach be taken and engagement of all relevant institutions be ensured in the process of carrying out activities pertaining to prevention, protection, punishment and policy making.

In this vein, under the coordination of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services a working group consisting of relevant ministries and other institutions, inter alia of which Department of Victim Rights has also taken place, was formed to facilitate required actions. The Working Group has rigorously scrutinized the state of play, challenges, proposed solutions and finally introduced a series of necessary measures.

Aforementioned measures were embodied in an Action Plan, covering 2020 and 2021, which was prepared in light of international instruments, national legislation and the 3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women. Ministry of Justice and the Department of Victim Rights will assume and/or seek for, in this regard, the responsibility of effective implementation of the legislation, institutional capacity building and awareness raising activities.

On November 25th, 2019, with the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, relevant ministries signed a cooperation protocol and the Action Plan thus became effective.

Moreover, an other recently launched government policy document, Judicial Reform Strategy, including numerous goals to be accomplished between 2019 and 2023 also stipulates efforts to be made in order to overcome the problems arising from the implementation of the Law on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women.

While efforts continue to deepen the judicial statistics with a multi-directional understanding, it is currently not possible to provide data at desired level of detail since related legal provisions applies to all genders.