



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

Ref. No. 6171.1G/20/1326

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the letter from the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice dated 3 July 2015, has the honour to attach herewith the answers to the questionnaire on the prevention of gender discrimination.

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



Geneva, 9 September 2015

To: **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**
Special Procedures Branch
Fax: 022 917 9006

Att.: 21 pages

A/

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECONSTRUCTION

HELLENIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS

SUBJECT: «Questionnaire of the President - Rapporteur of the Working Group to combat discrimination against women in law and in practice»

RE: The document of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under reference AS29385 dated 10/7/2015

In response to the questions included in the above relevant document, with regard to the responsibilities of the Hellenic Police Services, please note the following:

«Question 6

(YES) prostitution

(YES) violations of modesty or indecent assault

This positive response refers to infringements of the provisions of Act 1399/1983 on «Establishing and operating nudist resorts», the provisions of Article 353 of the Penal Code and those of Article 5, paragraph 4 of Act 2734/99 on «Prostitutes».

Specifically, the criminal treatment of prostitutes is governed by the provisions of Act 2734/99, as amended by Article 31 of Act 3904/10, pursuant to which their infringement is punished by a fine not exceeding € 3000. Moreover, persons related to the violent exploitation of sexual freedom and the promotion of prostitution are treated, for these acts, in the context of the relevant provisions of the Penal Code (Article 349 of the Penal Code on pimping, Article 350 of the Penal Code on exploitation of prostitutes, Article 351 of the Penal Code on trafficking, Article 351A on indecent assault of a minor against payment, 360 of the Penal Code on neglecting supervision of minors in the form of preventing prostitution) and particularly severe penalties are threatened against them.

It should be noted that, as regards the criminalization of the client, the provisions of Article 351, paragraph 3 of the Penal Code state: «whoever, knowingly, indecently assaults a person who is under the conditions described in paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be punished with imprisonment of at least six months», while paragraphs 1 and 2, Article 351 of the Penal Code provide respectively: «1. Whoever, by force, threat of force or other coercive means, imposing or abusing authority or by abduction, hires, transports, or moves, inside or outside

the territory, detains, abets, delivers, with or without consideration to another person, or receives from another person, in order to proceed, either himself/herself or another person, to his/her sexual exploitation, is punished with imprisonment not exceeding ten years and a fine of ten to fifty thousand euros. 2. The perpetrator is punished with the sentence provided by the previous paragraph if, to achieve the same purpose, elicits the consent of a person using deceptive means or misleads him/her, taking advantage of his/her vulnerable position, using promises, gifts, payments or other benefits.»

Question 14

Yes (x)

In the Criminal Policy Plan for the years 2015-2019, the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction / Citizen Protection Sector, sets priorities having as a reference point the following main strategic goal: «Police next to the citizens, zero tolerance to crime». In this context, the safety of the citizens and the guarantee of their rights are a constant aim and a fundamental purpose of the Hellenic Police's work. This Program, among others, includes specific actions to protect vulnerable social groups, by providing self-protection and victimization prevention guidance. Furthermore, the website of the Hellenic Police (www.astynomia.gr) has posted information and useful advice on the safety of the citizens, as well as specific advice for women, to prevent their victimization.

Question 15

Yes (x)

Statistics on domestic violence are kept.

Question 16

Statistics by gender are kept.

Question 18

-police detention cells (x)

Please note that Article 67, paragraph 4, subparagraph y' of the Presidential Decree 141/1991, which lays down the powers of the official bodies of the Hellenic Police, especially those of the jailer and his/her assistant, states that: «It separates detainees Military and police staff, women and minors must be detained in special detention facilities». Please also note that, in the Attica region, the necessary interventions were made to configure and exclusively use the Hellenikon detention area as women detention facilities, so that the specific needs of this group are served, in the most suitable and appropriate way.

Furthermore, Article 144, paragraph 12 of the same Presidential Decree provides, inter alia, that: «Transport of men and women under the same escort should be avoided, but, if it is necessary for any reason, women are detained separately. The transport of a female prisoner is made under the escort of a female police officer, if the Transport Service has female police officers».

To ensure decent detention conditions and to protect the health of prisoners, specific orders and instructions have been given, in particular for the following:

- thorough cleaning and tidying of the detention areas (regular oil painting)
 - regular disinfection of the areas, in accordance with the applicable hygiene provisions and rules of the Health Regulations,
 - personal hygiene and cleanliness of the prisoners,
 - health care of the prisoners, in cooperation with the jointly competent Health Services, regular and adequate ventilation of the detention and access to the yard for the detainees,
 - adequate supply of food,
 - periodic health control of detention areas by the competent Health Service.
- pre-deportation centers (x)

Women, as well as individuals belonging to vulnerable groups, are separated and live in a separate wing, for security reasons, pending completion of the required administrative procedures (screening, identification, recording, fingerprinting, photographing). The provision of health services at the Pre-Departure Detention Centers (P.K.E.K.) for Aliens is falling under the competence of the Ministry of Health. At this stage, however, significant efforts are made by the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control & Prevention (KE.EL.P.NO.) and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), while the necessary health care is provided, on a daily basis, to aliens either by the nearest general hospitals or other hospitals operating outside the respective Region, or by doctors of NGOs working in these Centers.

Question 19

Regarding the training programs developed in the field of social discrimination, based on gender, we indicatively mention the participation of the Hellenic Police staff in seminars organized by the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government / Further Training Institute, addressing issues of violence against women, and in workshops on human trafficking, through the Human Trafficking Resource Line (“1109”).

Question III

The posting on the Hellenic Police website (www.astynomia.gr) of specific guidance and advice to avoid women victimization is a good practice to ensure their safety, as it gives them the opportunity to seek relevant advice without any time or local restrictions.

THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE SECTOR

Mr. STYLIANOS VOLYRAKIS

BRIGADIER

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B/

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣΥΝΗΣ,
ΔΙΑΦΑΝΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΝΩΝ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑΤΩΝ
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ΘΕΜΑ: Questionnaire from the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group to combat discrimination against women in law and in practice

Σχετ.: Το με Α.Π. ΑΣ 29385/10-7-2015 έγγραφο της Δ4 Δ/σης του Υπουργείου Εξωτερικών

Σε συνέχεια του ως άνω εγγράφου σας, παραθέτουμε κατά λόγο αρμοδιότητας απαντήσεις της υπηρεσίας μας επί των κάτωθι ερωτημάτων του σχετικού ερωτηματολογίου, ως ακολούθως:

K. Prevention of sex discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health and safety

A. Health

4. Are the following acts criminalized?

(NO) transmission of HIV or other venereal diseases by women only

(NO) female genital mutilation (NO) child marriage

(NO) home births with an obstetrician or midwife

(YES) abortion

FGM is not criminalized as such, but in case of such an incident the provisions of the Criminal Code regarding grievous bodily harm shall be applied (ar. 320 CC)

if yes, are there any exceptions to these prohibitions and under what circumstances do exceptions apply?

Abortion is criminalized under certain circumstances, pursuant to the provisions of ar. 304 of the Criminal Code.

And who is criminally responsible?

The woman, the doctor, other persons directly or indirectly related with the pregnancy and/ or the abortion.

ft Safety

5. Does your country have regulations that guarantee:

[YES] Specific protection against gender base violence

[YES] Equal access for women to criminal justice

6. Are the following acts criminalized?

(NO) adultery

(YES) prostitution - art. 349, 350, 351 CC If

yes, who is criminally responsible?

The procurer and the customer in case of prostitution due to trafficking (Ar. 351 par. 3 of the Criminal Code)

(NO) sexual orientation and gender identity

(NO) violations of modesty or indecent assault (see however art. 353 CC)

7. Are there any provision in criminal law that treat women and men unequally with regard to:

(NO) Procedure for collecting evidence

(NO) Sentencing for the same offence, especially capital punishment stoning, lashing, imprisonment etc

(NO) So called "honor crimes"

II. Diagnosing and counteracting possible sex discrimination in practice in the area of health and safety

XO. Are there any statistical data and/or estimations regarding the number of reported and/or unreported cases and convictions for;

(NO) Female Genital

Mutilation (NO) illegal

voluntary abortion (NO) forced

abortions

(NO) forced sterilizations

(NO) malpractices in cosmetic medicine

(NO) obstetric violence

a *Safety*

15. Are there any statistics on crimes amounting to violence against women in public spaces and/or domestic violence?

YES

Criminal data on certain crimes related to violence against women, such as trafficking, are gathered by the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights in the framework of responding to specific international obligations. Current problems in data collection regarding domestic violence will be addressed through the implementation of the new computerization system of the courts that is expected to be applied by the end of 2015.

C. Health and Safety

18. Are there specific health and safety protective measures for women, and/ or with special provisions for mothers with young children, in "closed" institutions, including in

(YES) prisons

According to the provisions of the Correctional Code (Law 2776/1999) females are detained in prisons exclusively for women or at special departments of other establishments that are regulated by rules and programmes that meet the needs of their sex.

Art 13 par. 3 of the Correctional Code (Law 2776/1999) provides for mothers with young children, as follows: "*A special area of the establishment or section in which they are detained is organized suitably for imprisoned mothers with children of no more than three years of age. Children of more than three years of age are placed in institutions of special child care operating under the supervision of the Ministries of Health and Welfare and Employment and Social insurances, provided they have no suitable relatives according to the judgment of the competent judicial functionary and following an interview of the parents*".

Furthermore*, according to art. 105 par. 7 of the Criminal Code, mother detainees can be favored by beneficial estimation of their sentence serving: i.e. one day of their serving counts as two of the total sentence.

Moreover, according to art 27 par. 1 of the Correctional Code: "*The administration guarantees to the detainees medical and pharmaceutical care of a level equivalent with that of the remaining population.*" This provision applies to all the detainees regardless their sex.

Finally, we would like to note that regarding the issue of special nutrition needs, art. 32 par, 3 of the Correctional Code states that: "*The physician of the establishment determines, through his written opinion, a special diet or additional food for such persons or categories of detainees which need it, such as patients, pregnant women or the aged.*",

19, Are there specific training programs for medical and legal professionals on the issue of gender based discrimination in the area of health and safety?

YES (regarding prosecutors and judges in the framework of the curriculum of the National School of Judges) Do they cover

(N A) specific women's vulnerability to be victims of gender base violence or specific crimes, covering e.g. issues of

(N.A.) the nature of gender based violence

(N.A.) its occurrences and symptoms

(NA) methods of detection

[NA] medical protocols

[NA] influence of gender based violence, in particular of sexual violence on the future behaviours of the victim

N. A.: Details on the content of the seminars are not available at the moment, but they could be available in a second time upon request to the National School of Judges.

III, Could you please indicate any legislative reform, policy or practice, that you consider "good practice" regarding health and safety for women in your country? If yes, please indicate on which criteria your definition of "good practices" is based.

The Greek Law 3500/2006 on domestic violence (GO A', 232), which was drafted by a special legislative committee set up by the Hellenic Ministry of justice.

Transparency and Human Rights, brings reforms on civil and criminal issues related to domestic violence. The afore mentioned law amends provisions of the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and of the Civil Code, introducing the criminal offences of domestic bodily harm, domestic illegal violence and throat and domestic sexual abuse, establishing the procedure of penal mediation for misdemeanours of domestic violence and adding domestic violence to the grounds establishing the breakdown of the marriage and to the facts founding bad exercise of parental care. The enforcement of the law falls within the competence of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, which addresses the problem of domestic violence by creating support centers for victims and offering them temporary refuge,

Η ΠΡΟΪΣΤΑΜΕΝΗ ΤΗΣ ΓΕΝ. ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗΣ κ.α.α,

A. Ελευθεριάδου

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GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Questionnaire

I. Prevention of sex discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health and safety

A. Health

1. Does your country have regulations (in the Constitution, legislation or in other legal codes) that guarantee:

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

(yes) the right to equal access for women and men to all forms of healthcare, at the highest available level, including access to alternative health provisions such as homeopathy, naturopathy, etc.

(yes) access to sexual and reproductive health services

(yes) women's rights to make autonomous decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive lives

2. Are medical services related to women's sexual and reproductive life and/or violence against women covered by universal health coverage?

Yes No

If yes, what kind of medical services are free of charge?

Women victims of gender-based violence who are going to be housed in the Shelters, are subjected to the necessary medical and laboratory tests free of charge. See link below:

<http://womensos.gr/wp-content/uploads/Medical-Tests-to-Women-victims-of-violence.pdf> (in Greek)

Are women's rights to health, including sexual and reproductive health, autonomy and health insurance, applied also to girls under 18?

Yes No

If "yes", please indicate the legislation regulating these and indicate enforcement mechanisms.

Parent's consent needed.

3. Are there any provisions which restrict women's access to health services? In particular which:

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

require the consent of a male relative/husband for a married woman's medical examination or treatment or access to contraceptives or abortion,

require parental consent in case of adolescents' access to contraceptives or abortion;

allow medical practitioners to refuse provision of a legal medical service on grounds of conscientious objection

prohibit certain medical services, or require that they be authorized by a physician, even where no medical procedure is required; in particular:

IUDs (intrauterine devices) or hormonal contraceptives

Emergency contraceptives, including the morning-after pill.

() Sterilization on request (please also include information regarding whether non-therapeutically indicated sterilization is allowed for men);

() Early abortion (in first trimester of pregnancy) at the pregnant woman's request

() Medically assisted reproduction (e.g., in vitro fertilization)

If yes, please indicate the relevant legal regulations and indicate the sources.

4. Are the following acts criminalized?

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

(no) transmission of HIV or other venereal diseases by women only

(yes) female genital mutilation

(yes) child marriage

() home births with an obstetrician or midwife

(yes) abortion

If yes, are there any exceptions to these prohibitions and under what circumstances do exceptions apply?

FGM: *There is no specific criminal prohibition for FGM/C. There is, however, a general protection provision in the Penal Code: Articles 308, bodily harm; 309, dangerous bodily harm; 310, serious bodily harm; and 312, bodily harm inflicted on minors, provide that inflicting serious, grave or dangerous bodily harm to adults or minors is a crime under the said provisions of the Penal Code. In cases where the offence of FGM was committed by non-citizens, or for FGM committed to non-Greek citizens outside the borders of Greece there is no special criminal provision hence the extraterritoriality principle is not applicable.*

Child marriage: *Marriage is prohibited under the age of 18 years. Marriage under 18 years is permitted for exceptional reasons and only after a court decision. (Law 1329/1983)*

Abortion *is legal within the first 3 months of pregnancy and in the following cases (with the consent of the pregnant woman):*

1. *Indices of serious fetal abnormalities, which will end up to a severely ill newborn and the pregnancy duration is not longer than 24 weeks.*
2. *Inevitable danger of pregnant woman's life, or danger of serious and permanent damage of her physical or mental health. In this case a medical certification from the competent doctor is required.*
3. *Pregnancy as a result of rape, underage seduction, incest or abuse of a woman incompetent to resist and as long as 19 weeks of pregnancy are not completed.*
4. *Pregnancy of a minor woman. In this case the consent of a parent or of the person holding the custody of the minor is required.*

And who is criminally responsible? *Criminally responsible can be whoever participates directly or indirectly to the act*

Please give legal references: *The act is criminalized according to the article 304 of the Greek Penal Code.*

Safety

5. **Does your country have regulations (in the constitution, legislation or in other legal codes) that guarantee:**

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

(**yes**) Special protection against gender based violence

() Equal access for women to criminal justice

6. **Are the following acts criminalized?**

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

(**no**) adultery

(**yes**) prostitution

If yes, who is criminally responsible – please circle the appropriate answer: the sex worker, the procurer and/or the customer: *only sex worker and the procurer are criminalized*

(**no**) sexual orientation and gender identity (homosexuality, lesbianism, transgender, etc.)

(**no**) violations of modesty or indecent assault (e.g. not following dress code)

Please give legal references and provisions.

Prostitution: Law 2734/1999 as it was amended by Law 3904/2010 (article 31, par. 7), provides the conditions under which prostitution may be legitimate.

7. Are there any provision in criminal law that treat women and men unequally with regard to:

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

() Procedure for collecting evidence

() Sentencing for the same offence, especially capital punishment, stoning, lashing, imprisonment, etc.

() So called "honor crimes" (are they tolerated in order for the perpetrator to avoid prosecution or to be less severely punished if the woman is killed?)

II. Diagnosing and counteracting possible sex discrimination in practice in the area of health and safety

A. Health

8. Are there legal obligations to provide health education in school?

Yes () No ()

If yes, does it cover: *(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")*

() prevention of sexually transmitted diseases

() prevention of unwanted pregnancies

() promotion of a healthy lifestyle, including prevention of dietary disorders of teenage girls, including anorexia and bulimia

() psychological/psychiatric training on self-control of aggression, including sexual aggression

Please indicate any relevant legal regulation or programs regarding to the above mentions.

9. Are there any statistical data disaggregated by age and/or sex (collected over the last 5 years) regarding :

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

() malnutrition

- () maternal mortality
- () maternal morbidity, including obstetric fistula
- () adolescent childbearing
- (no) health consequences of physical, psychological, sexual and economical gender-based violence
- () incidence of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- () drug abuse
- () alcohol addiction
- () legal abortions
- () death resulting from legal abortions
- () illegal abortions
- () death resulting from illegal abortions
- () use of contraceptives, including mechanical and hormonal (including emergency contraceptives)
- () sterilization on request

If "yes", please provide for data and sources.

10. Are there any statistical data and/or estimations regarding the number of reported and/or unreported cases and convictions for :

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

- () female genital mutilation
- () illegal voluntary abortion
- () forced abortions
- () forced sterilizations
- () malpractices in cosmetic medicine
- () obstetric violence

If "yes", please give further references.

11. Is the gender perspective included in national health-related policies:

Yes () No ()

In particular: *(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")*

() in planning the distribution of resources for health care

() in medical research on general diseases, with proper and necessary adaptations to the different biological make-up of women and men

() in geriatric service provision

() in state custodial decisions to institutionalize children between 0-3 years old

Explanation: *The need for a gender-based approach to public health is connected with the necessity to identify ways in which health risks, experiences, and outcomes are different for women and men and to act accordingly in all health related policies.*

B. Safety

12. Are there any national policies regarding women's safety in public spaces?

Yes (x) No ()

If "yes", please give references.

The "National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women". See below section III «good practices».

13. Have there been any public opinion research polls on the fear of crime among women and men (over the last 5 years)?

Yes (yes) No ()

If "yes", please give references and the outcomes of such research polls.

According to the FRA EU-wide survey on Violence against Women which was based on interviews with 42,000 women across the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), slightly more than half of all women in the EU (53 %) avoid certain situations or places, at least sometimes, for fear of being physically or sexually assaulted. In comparison, as shown by existing general population surveys on crime and victimisation, men's fear of crime, and its impact on their lives, is generally lower than women's (p.p 33)

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-at-a-glance-oct14_en.pdf

- 14. Are there any measures and programs undertaken in order to increase women's safety e.g. in public urban spaces, in public transportation, etc.?**

Yes () No ()

If "yes", please give references.

- 15. Are there any statistics on crimes amounting to violence against women in public spaces and/or domestic violence?**

Yes (**x**) No ()

If "yes", please give references.

Greece participated in the FRA EU-wide survey on Violence against Women, which was based on interviews with 42,000 women across the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU). Therefore its results apply also to our country.

- 16. Is the sex of the victim reflected in the police, prosecutors and courts records?**

Yes () No ()

If "yes", please give references.

C. Health and Safety

- 17. Are there any data and/or results of research on the detrimental influence of the feeling of insecurity and unsafety on women's mental health?**

Yes () No ()

If "yes", please give references.

- 18. Are there specific health and safety protective measures for women, and/or with special provisions for mothers with young children, in "closed" institutions including in:**

(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")

- () prisons (e.g. measures similar to the Bangkok Rules),
- () police detention cells
- () psychiatric hospitals,
- () pre-deportation centers,
- () camps for displaced women and families (if relevant),
- () nunneries
- (yes) women's shelters

If "yes", please provide any information about the protective measures established.

According to the Internal Rules of Operation of the Shelters for Women victims of gender based violence (see the Internal Rules in Greek here: http://womensos.gr/wp-content/uploads/Kanonismos_Shelters.pdf) the measures taken to protect these women and their children are:

- 1. Respect of the personal data of women. The confidentiality is assured at all levels.*
- 2. Provision of safe accommodation (housing and meals) to these women and their children by protecting them from the abuser in close cooperation with the nearest police station.*
- 3. Provision of psychosocial and legal support.*
- 4. Provision of safety, security and fair treatment to women victims of gender based violence and their children. Women victims are protected from any form of harm, victimization and re-victimization.*

19. Are there specific training programs for medical and legal professionals on the issue of gender-based discrimination in the area of health and safety?

Yes () No ()

Do they cover: *(Please specify in the space provided for this purpose "yes" or "no")*

() the issues connected with specific women's needs in area of health

(yes) specific women's vulnerability to be victims of gender-based violence or specific crimes, covering e.g. the issues of:

(yes) the nature of gender-based violence.

(**yes**) its occurrences and symptoms

(**yes**) methods of detection

() medical protocols

(**yes**) influence of gender based violence, in particular of sexual violence on the future behaviors of victims (post-traumatic stress symptoms etc.)

III. Could you please indicate any legislative reform, policy or practice, that you consider “good practice” regarding health and safety for women in your country? YES

1. The “National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women”, which refers to all forms of gender based violence (e.g.domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking in women) and comprises:

-Fourteen new Counseling Centers operated by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality at the capitals of the corresponding Regions of the country.

-Twenty five new Counseling Centers operated by the twenty five largest Municipalities nationwide

-Nineteen shelters for Abused Women operated by 19 large Municipalities.

They have started their operation within the period 2013-2014. They provide bilingual (Greek and English) services of shelter, psychological and social support to women victims of violence and their children.

-Two Shelters for Abused Women operated by the Ministry of Labor/ National Centre for Social Solidarity, in the cities of Athens and Thessaloniki.

-The bilingual (Greek and English) SOS helpline 15900 accompanied by the email-address sos15900@isotita.gr, which is in operation since March 2011. It provides services of advice, support and counseling to women victims of gender based violence, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. It is a low-cost, nationwide, confidential helpline.

-Implementation of an awareness raising campaign including relevant seminars, a thematic conference, informational material in four (4) languages_(Greek, English, French and Albanian), TV and radio spots, cultural events, publicity on public transport, entries in national and migrant Press, a webpage and a facebook page as well as banners in web pages. The information leaflet for the Counselling Centre of Komotini – Thrace is also published in the Turkish language.

-Training is offered to counsellors who are recruited in the Counselling Centres, the Shelters and the SOS telephone helpline, to lawyers who participate in the legal aid programmes of women-victims of violence, as

well as to professionals who deal with such cases (i.e. policemen, judges, health professionals, etc.)

2. Provision of **advice and information on issues of contraception and sex education** to students of secondary education in cooperation with the Ministry of Education,

If yes, please indicate on which criteria your definition of “good practices” is based.

The basic criteria for the definition of “National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women”, as a good practice are:

1. *Effectiveness based on timely and complete case management with increased demand and*
2. *Innovation, because it is the first governmental program that deals in a holistic manner with the issues of gender based violence.*

*The basic criterion for the definition of the services of **advice and information on issues of contraception and sex education** to students of secondary education, as a good practice is that, it is addressed to all students and it is influenced by gender equality perspective.*

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D/

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

DIRECTORATE: PUBLIC HEALTH

Email: ddy@moh.gov.gr

SUBJECT: Questionnaire from the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group to combat discrimination against women in law and in practice

Re:

1. The e-mail dated 12/8/2015 from the Directorate of European and International Health Policy
2. The e-mail dated 14/8/2015 from the Department of Natural and Emigrational Movements of Population of the Hellenic Statistical Authority
3. Article 2 of Act 4316/2014 on the «Establishment of a monitoring body for dementia, improvement of perinatal care, regulating matters of competence of the Ministry of Health and other provisions» (Government Gazette issue no. 270 A).
4. National Immunization Program for children and adolescents
(Y1 / GP.oik. 140202 / 20.12.2011, ADA: 45PS6TH-TH0K)

5. Ministerial Decree no. 139491/2006 (Government Gazette 1747 issue B' / 30.11.2006), supplemented by the Joint Ministerial Decree no. Y4a /G.P.oik. 48985 / 5.6.2014 (Government Gazette 1465, issue B' 5.6.2014)
6. Circular under reference Y1 / G.P.oik.100237 / 18.11.2014 on «Vaccination of needy and uninsured citizens» (ADA: BZFC TH-6TB)
7. Article 6 of EMP5 (Government Gazette 3054, issue B' 2012)

Responding within our powers to the attachment of the above relative questionnaire, please be informed of the following:

1. Question 1, 2nd sub-question (access to sexual and reproductive health services)

Our Service, having regard to the relevant Plenary decision of the Central Board of Health (KE.S.Y.), the recognized right to health and the need for further improvement of the country's perinatal care services, recommended a law provision on the improvement of perinatal care, which was passed by the Parliament (Article 2 of Act 4316/2014 on the «Establishment of a monitoring body for dementia, improvement of perinatal care, regulating matters of competence of the Ministry of Health and other provisions» - Government Gazette issue no. 270 A', relevant document 3).

Specifically, the law provision provides for the establishment of:

- Perinatal Centres
- Units of Plain, Intermediate and Increased Neonatal Care
- the mandatory monitoring of high-risk pregnancies and the mandatory carrying out of high risk births at Perinatal Centres
- the development of public Perinatal Centres in all Health Regions and linking them with all health units of the Health Region
- the establishment of a five-year National Action Plan, the formation of a monitoring mechanism for perinatal care and the establishment, within KE.S.Y., of a standing Commission for Perinatal Care.

All these measures are aimed at providing efficient and quality perinatal care services to all pregnant women, mothers and infants, according to their state of health and regardless of their place of residence, financial situation or other socio-economic barriers.

2. Question 2 (if the medical services related to the sexual and reproductive lives of women and / or violence against women are covered by the universal health coverage. If yes, what kind of services are offered free of charge)

a) Vaccination against HPV virus is free to all girls aged 9-15. This vaccine is included in the National Immunization Program and is given free of charge to insured, needy and uninsured persons. For the immunisation coverage of needy and uninsured children and adolescents, legally and non-legally residing in our country, free of charge vaccinations are carried out, with the vaccines being administered by the Ministry of Health (relevant documents 4-6).

b) Examinations for early detection of cervical and breast cancer are mandatorily compensated, for insured women, by the National Organization for the Provision of Healthcare Services (relevant document 7) and are provided free of charge to the uninsured and needy ones (relevant document 5).

3. Question 4, sub-question 4 (birth at home in the presence of a gynaecologist or midwife / obstetrician)

Childbirths at home are not regulated by law.

4. Question 9:

a) no data is collected on the prevalence of malnutrition. According to information received from the Hellenic Statistical Authority, data is collected on malnutrition as a cause of death. For the years 2009-2013 no deaths have been confirmed from this cause.

b) on maternal mortality: Data is collected. For the years 2009-2013, the deaths were 4, 6, 4, 1 and 0 respectively.

c) maternal morbidity: Data available until 2010.

d) adolescent childbearing: There are birth figures until 2013, by age of the mother

e) incidence of HIV / AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases: recorded deaths from 2009 to 2013: 19, 18, 19, 40 and 44 respectively. For morbidity, data is available until 2010.

f) on the abuse of addictive substances and dependence on alcohol, please note the following:

The National Centre for Documentation and Information on Drugs (EKTEPN) (www.ektepn.gr) (e-mail: ektepn@ektepn.gr), which is the national reference point for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (info@emedda.europa.eu), and is responsible for the collection and processing of sound and reliable data from our country, in its annual reports on the state of the drugs and alcohol problems in Greece provides, inter alia, related statistical data, by age and gender.

Indicatively, to extract relevant data, in the context of the «Annual report 2014: The state of the drugs and alcohol problems in Greece» issued by EKTEPN, we mention:

1. Chapter 2 «Use of addictive substances in the general and special populations»
2. Chapter 4: «Estimated number of problematic users»
3. Chapter 7: «mental and physical health problems and drug-related deaths» and
4. Chapter 12: «Alcoholic beverages: use and addiction»

Please note that the «Supplement to the Greek Bibliography on Drugs and Alcohol 2014» was published in electronic form, including bibliographic references to publications, presentations at conferences or books of Greek scientists and professionals active in the field of drugs and alcohol.

This version is electronic and accessible through the website of EKTEPN (www.cktepn.gr)

Data is also collected from the Hellenic Statistical Authority on mortality from addictive substances and addiction to alcohol. Specifically:

- drug abuse: 2009-2013 deaths: 339, 255, 228, 208, 172 respectively
- alcohol addiction: 2009-2013 deaths: 7, 5, 4, 6, 10 respectively.

THE HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE

p.p. F. KALYVA

Attachments: *

Relevant documents 3-7, upon electronic transmission of the document

Internal distribution:

1. Office of the Minister
2. Office of the Deputy Minister
3. Office of the Secretary General for Health
4. Office of the Secretary General for Public Health
5. Office of the Head, Directorate General of Public Health & Health Services
6. Public Health