



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations  
GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the letter dated 7 February 2022 by Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh, Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, has the honour to transmit herewith the replies of the authorities of Azerbaijan to the requested questionnaire.

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

Geneva, 18 March 2022



Enclosure: 6 pages

**Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA**

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**Information**  
**on child trafficking and sexual abuse in 2021 in the context of “Sustainable Development Goals” (sub-paragraphs 5.3, 8.7 and 16.2 of the SDG)**

Combating trafficking in children and sexual abuse in the context of "Sustainable Development Goals" is carried out within the "National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2020-2024".

Central and local executive authorities, specialized non-governmental organizations, as well as higher education institutions and commissions for affairs and protection of the rights of minors have been involved in the implementation of the measures envisaged in this National Action Plan.

Only 2.1% or 25 of the 1,165 victims identified between 2005 and 2021, after the Law on Combating Human Trafficking of the Republic of Azerbaijan was adopted, were children. 13 of them were trafficked, 7 are sexually abused, and 5 are forced to work. There were no child victims in 2021.

Apparently, child labor and sexual abuse are not typical for Azerbaijan. Purposeful activity carried out under the guidance of national legislation prevent the spread of these illegal acts in our country.

According to Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “About Combating Human Trafficking”, a number of preventive measures are being implemented: strengthening the legal and social protection of children; establishment and effective use of a system of social, legal, pedagogical and other measures aimed at identifying and eliminating the causes and circumstances that create conditions for the neglect and loneliness of children; to identify truant students; to take measures for their upbringing and education; development of special programs in educational institutions, orphanages, boarding schools and other bodies and institutions engaged in the prevention of neglect and violations of law.

At the same time, according to the "National Action Plan to Combating Human Trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2020-2024", measures to prevent child trafficking, improve support to children who are victims of human trafficking or potential victims of human trafficking were carried out. They include the followings:

- Include topics related to the involvement of children in sexual abuse or violence via the Internet in the anti-trafficking training program;
- Awareness raising with entrepreneurs and employers to prevent child labor;
- Carrying out special work with children engaged in begging, strengthening the fight against begging and the organization of such activities by involving

infants in begging activities with others, holding special talks with the parents (substitutes) of such children, taking measures against their parents (substitutes);

- Preventing the spread of child pornography on Internet information resources, as well as online broadcasting of child sexual abuse, restricting access to such Internet information resources in the country in accordance with the law;

- Strengthening measures to prevent child marriage;

- Strengthening control over births outside medical institutions, detection of child marriages based on such facts;

- Formation of the institute of social work with minors, especially children with disabilities on the basis of advanced international experience;

- Increasing the educational opportunities of children who are victims of human trafficking or potential victims of human trafficking;

- Continue to provide social, legal and socio-psychological services, employment assistance and social counseling to graduates of state children's institutions to reduce the risk of them becoming victims of human trafficking;

- Continuation of monitoring of children's truancy and neglect, individual preventive work with truant students and children in a socially dangerous situation;

- Monitoring the families of adopted or foster children; Continuation of measures to provide children without identity documents with relevant documents;

- Development of general standards for communication with these children by officers of law enforcement agencies and other government agencies working in the field of combating human trafficking, as well as relevant work and procedures for the submission of relevant child victims.

Thus, the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Justice, Labor and Social Protection of Population, Education, Health, Youth and Sports, and the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children held roundtables, seminars, trainings, and other awareness-raising events on combating human trafficking. Also, lectures on the following and other topics were given to senior students of higher, secondary and boarding schools in 16 cities and regions of the country and students' questions were answered: "The essence of human trafficking", "What is human trafficking?", "Which children are more victims of human trafficking? "Human trafficking and ways to combat it."

In order to strengthen measures to prevent child marriages, early and forced marriages and in accordance with the joint action plan of the UN Children's Fund in Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Education, round tables on early marriages, domestic violence, healthy lifestyles, etc. were held in secondary schools. In accordance with the approved annual work plans for the organization of leisure time in boarding schools, lectures were held for senior students on "Combating the harmful effects of early marriages."

At the same time, in order to prevent early marriages in our country and increase awareness in this field, employees of the Ministry of Justice regularly conducted explanatory work and talks among the population, especially in schools, and held 140 awareness-raising events.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs has produced a video and 500 booklets entitled "Let's Say No to Early Marriage for a Healthy Life" with information on strengthening the educational opportunities of children who are potential victims of human trafficking in order to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking. These booklets were given to ASAN Service Center No. 5 for distribution to people.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs had paid special attention for prevention of cases of begging among teenagers as well as the activities by combating with persons who forced the teenagers to such actions.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and local executive authorities, together with the commissions for the affairs and protection of minors, have developed and implemented action plans to address the existing problems by identifying the causes of child neglect.

During 2021, 450 children deprived of their family environment, pedagogical and social means, working and begging on the streets and 75 parents were identified, they were administratively punished and taken under police control.

No victims of human trafficking were identified among the begging children. 350 materials were sent to the commissions, guardianship and trusteeship structures under the executive authorities to provide appropriate care and assistance to the identified children and to solve their social problems.

As a result of measures taken to prevent the spread of child pornography and child sexual abuse on the Internet, to restrict access to such Internet resources in accordance with the law, as well as at the request of subscribers, telecommunications operators and providers provided safe access to Internet resources.

The "Safe Internet" Service has been launched by "Baku Telephone Communications" and "Aztelekom" LLC, as well as by mobile operators and a number of Internet service providers, thus protecting users from all kinds of dangerous content of the relevant age category.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has taken steps to increase the educational opportunities of children who have been victims of human trafficking or are potential victims of human trafficking by involving specialized non-governmental organizations.

Thus, 23 children of victims of human trafficking identified in 2021 were provided with equipment used in the curriculum, 14 children were involved in the preschool education program.

Non-governmental organizations provided education to 14 children in preschools.

Regular preventive measures were taken to protect adolescents from drug addiction by expanding communication between educational institutions and relevant commissions and law enforcement agencies operating under the local executive authorities in the administrative territories where juveniles prone to violations live, work and study.

In order to reduce the risk of graduates of state children's institutions becoming victims of human trafficking, the work on providing them with social, legal and socio-psychological services, employment assistance and social counseling continued as in previous years.

Thus, in order to assist the State Employment Agency under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population in integrating state children's institutions into the labor market, 8 boarding school graduates were involved in a training course on "cooking" in 2021. Other boarding school graduates will be involved in training courses on "hairdresser", "electrician for maintenance and repair of electrical equipment", "security guard".

The Ministry of Internal Affairs revealed 28 facts related to children working (without an employment contract) in the catering and other service sectors for personal and family needs, and sent them to local structures of the State Labor Inspectorate and other relevant agencies.

During September-December 2021, the Republican Center for Child and Youth Development conducted monitoring to conduct individual preventive work with schoolchildren, truant students and children in socially dangerous situations. Surveys were conducted among 3,000 students studying in a number of cities and districts, as a result of which 8 truant students were involved in education, and individual preventive work was carried out with neglected and truant children and their parents.

269 juveniles engaged in begging and small trade were identified and appropriate measures were taken against them by joint activities of the commissions for juvenile affairs and protection of their rights under the executive authorities of a number of cities and regions of the country and the police.

During 2021, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs conducted 10 monitoring visits to the families of adopted and foster children, and 115 monitoring visits were made by the guardianship and trusteeship commissions of local executive authorities.

In order to continue the measures to provide children without identification documents with relevant documents, 15 children of 13 victims of human trafficking identified in 2021 were assisted in obtaining birth certificates.

The Ministry of Education provided assistance to students studying in 41 state children's institutions to obtain various documents: 1 student "Birth certificate", 1 student "Pension for the loss of the head of the family", 1 student "Determination of affiliation to the citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan", 19 students "Identity card" and 8 students "Temporary Residence Permit".

In 2021, the Main Department on the Fight against Human Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs developed a draft methodological manual on general standards of communication with children who have been or are likely to be victims of human trafficking, as well as relevant work and relevant placement procedures for child victims.

In order to reduce the risk of graduates of state children's institutions becoming victims of human trafficking, they are regularly provided with social, legal and socio-psychological services. The Ministries of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Education, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children, and the State Agency for Compulsory Medical Insurance are working together in this direction.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has built a 25-apartment building for adult and orphaned girls from Baku Orphanage No. 1. In addition, 120-apartment buildings and infrastructure facilities have been built in the Absheron region for graduates of orphanages who have left public institutions, lost their parents, been deprived of parental care and have no place to live after reaching the age of 18.

By the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 90 dated March 30, 2015, the "Graduate House" for graduates of state children's institutions operates under the State Social Security Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection. Based on the list provided by the Ministry of Education and taking into account the wishes of the graduates, these graduates are transferred to the "Graduate House".

The State Employment Agency is taking measures in accordance with the legislation to solve the employment problems of this category of persons, including the training of new professions.

With regard to the involvement of children in military operations, it should be noted that the establishment of armed formations or groups is a crime under Article 279 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The crime is considered over from the moment an unofficial armed group is formed, so it is impossible for those groups to be involved in military service.

The activities related to gathering together combatants or hired fighters, conducting trainings for them, financing them or providing other kind of financial

support, as well as using them in military operations or military operations, also participation of the hired fighters in military conflicts or military operations in the country where they are not the citizens or residents or permanent residents without any mission or assignment on conducting certain activities in that country, sending these persons to take part in military conflicts with the aim to get payment for this activity is considered as a crime based on the Article 114 in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Taking into account that the report is related to children, it should be emphasized that according to Article 116.0.5 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the involvement of minors in the armed forces is punishable by ten to twenty years in prison or life imprisonment.