**Status of implementation of the recommendations formulated in the report by the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls**

**82a:**  The non-ratification of optional protocols providing for a complaints procedure does not in the least mean that Poland does not comply with the Convention. Determining the possible self-enforcement of the Convention's provisions, as well as those of other international human rights agreements, is a matter for independent courts in Poland.

**82b:** The National Action Plan for Equal Treatment (2022-2030) foresees a development of a legislative package that will implement the principle of wage transparency as a means of combating the wage gap. Further, it is envisaged to monitor and promote solutions leading to the bridging the gender pay gap as well as the pension gap.

**82c:** On 24 May 2023, Poland adopted the National Action Plan for Equal Treatment (2022-2030) which is a programmatic document developed in a multi-year perspective that defines the goals and priorities of activities for equal treatment in Poland. Activities envisaged include tasks targeting women and girls, in particular in the areas of Labor and Social Security, Education, and Awareness Building.

**82d:** Upon request of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, Provincial Offices and Ministries appointed representatives of their Offices to be responsible for the implementation of equal treatment policies at the respective Institution. Thus, the positions of Plenipotentiary/Provincial Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment and Coordinators/Coordinators for Equal Treatment at the Ministries were created, which constitute a support network for the Plenipotentiary.

On September 1, 2023, the Gender Equality Plan for the Police for 2023-2026 came into effect. It is the first strategic document in the Police covering all organizational units of the Police, which strategic goal is to strengthen the organizational culture by shaping an inclusive, equal and diverse service and work environment free of discrimination and prejudice and based on mutual respect and dignity. The Plenipotentiary of the Chief of Police for the Implementation of the Plan, along with coordinators at lower-level police units was appointed. Their responsibility is to act as regional focal and consultation points for gender equality.

**82e:** Recently adopted/amended documents at national level include the National Action Program for Equal Treatment 2022-2030, the Government's Domestic Violence Prevention Program for 2024-2030, as well as the amended Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.

**83a:** The Election Code includes mandatory quota solutions for registering candidate lists in elections to the Sejm, municipal councils in cities with county rights, district councils and provincial assemblies. Some political parties voluntarily apply the zipper system when creating candidates lists.

In 2023 parliamentary elections women accounted for 43.8 percent of those running for a seat in the Sejm. This represents an increase of 1.7 percentage points over the previous election. Female deputies won 136 out of 460 seats in the Sejm and 19 out of 100 in the Senat. Compared to the previous elections this is a slight increase.

**83b:** In the current government women filled 9 out of 26 ministerial positions, which makes 35 per cent and is an significant increase in comparison with the last legislature period. The Speaker of the higher chamber of the parliament is female speaker. Two deputy speakers of the lower chamber are also female.

**84a:** Between 2019 and 2022 approx. 200 governmental projects promoting professional activation for Roma community were implemented, providing jobs for approx. 500 persons, mostly Roma women. 1966 Roma people took part in projects under the umbrella of the European Social Fund (programming period 2014-2020), and 270 persons were employed in result. A system of scholarships at all levels of education is available to Roma minority with the goal of improving their access to the labor market. In years 2019-2022 261 scholarships were granted, mostly to Roma girls. Roma women benefit from the governmental program “Mother 4+” which offers to women who gave birth at least four children a title to quasi-pension benefits. This secures stability of their income as due to the early marriages and pattern of family with many children Roma women often had no chance to work out any pension. Roma women and girls are specifically defined as a target group in governmental strategy of Roma integration for the period 2021-2030.

**84b:** The National Action Plan for Equal Treatment 2022-2030 includes monitoring and bridging the wage gap. In 2017, an online tool was developed to make it easier for interested employers to verify whether they pay equally for equal work. The free "Equal Pay" app allows to easily estimate the wage gap between employees, taking into account their gender, age, education and other selected characteristics (i.e. the so-called "adjusted wage gap"). There is no additional administrative or financial burdens for the entrepreneur. The application is available free of charge on the website of the Ministry of Labour. The European Commission presents the Polish app as an example of a best practice in promoting pay transparency.

On June 16, 2020, the Supreme Court issued a decision in case I PK 193/19 regarding equal pay regardless of gender: "The principle of equal rights of employees for equal performance of the same duties (Article 112 of the Labor Code) justifies the verification of the determination of unequal remuneration for work pursuant to Art. 78 of the Labor Code, which requires the determination of remuneration in a manner corresponding in particular to the type of work performed and the qualifications required for its performance, as well as taking into account the quantity and quality of the work performed”.

**84c:** Poland has not adopted temporary special measures such as gender quotas for publicly listed companies. The Directive (EU) 2022/2381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on improving the gender balance among directors of listed companies and related measures came into force on December 27, 2022. The EU member states have two years to transpose it and implement the changes into their national legal system.

**84d:** The educational system in Poland guarantees every student the right to respect for his or her dignity and safe and hygienic conditions of learning, upbringing and care. Issues relating to the roles of men and women in the context of stereotypes, as well as the functions of the family, the performance of marital and parental roles, social roles, a better understanding of themselves and their immediate environment are included in the core curriculum of the subject "Upbringing for life in the family." The subject provides for content on interpersonal relationships, their importance in social-emotional development, mutual respect, helping each other, cooperation, empathy, the concepts of "masculinity" and "femininity", marriage, parenthood, building lasting and happy ties, complementarity, integral cooperation of the sexes, with the goal to form attitudes that will enable students to build proper relationships in a family and a social group.

The teaching content of social and civic education takes into account, in particular, the core curriculum of subjects: "Polish language", "Philosophy", "History", "Knowledge of society", "Ethics", "Upbringing for life in the family", "Physical education". E.g. the core curriculum of the subject "Knowledge of society" includes human dignity and the human rights, as well as recognizing human rights violations.

**84e:** Sexuality education is carried out in schools on the basis of the provisions of Article 4 (1) and (3) of the Act of January 7, 1993 on family planning, protection of the human fetus and the conditions of permissibility of abortion. The Minister of Education, by decree of August 12, 1999, indicated the teaching content which includes knowledge of human sexual life, the principles of conscious and responsible parenthood, the value of the family, life in the prenatal phase and methods and means of conscious procreation included in the program basis of general education. In accordance with § 1. of the aforementioned decree, the above content is implemented within the framework of educational classes "Upbringing for life in the family" in elementary and secondary schools.

**84f:** In accordance with Article 86 of the Law of December 14, 2016. - Education Law, associations and other organizations whose statutory purpose is educational activity or expansion and enrichment of the forms of didactic, educational, caring and innovative activity of a school or institution may operate in a school or institution, with the exception of political parties and organizations.

In accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Act, the headmaster creates conditions for the activity of volunteers, associations and other organizations in the school or institution. Undertaking cooperation with external institutions at school requires a positive opinion of the parents' council, which is one of the school's organs, and the consent of the head of the school or institution, expressed after agreeing on the terms of this activity. Accordingly, it is the headmaster who ultimately decides on the conduct of activities, including activities on school premises by representatives of non-governmental organizations.

According to Article 70(5) of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, "the autonomy of higher education institutions shall be ensured on the principles laid down by law." The organization of the study process belongs to the autonomous sphere of regulation of higher education institutions - within the limits of the law and the regulation of studies. The freedom of teaching, artistic creativity, scientific research and the publication of their results, as well as the autonomy of universities underpin the system of higher education and science.

In terms of institutional autonomy, higher education institutions have the right to: to adopt statutes; to elect, appoint and dismiss the university's single-member and collegiate bodies; to determine the organizational structure; to establish personnel policies, the mode and manner of training faculty, and to introduce their own remuneration systems, as well as to undertake cooperation with foreign scientific institutions. Teaching and scientific autonomy includes the freedom to conduct scientific research, independently determine the mission of the university or create fields of study.

**85a:** The healthcare system in Poland is based on the principles of equal treatment and access to medical services. According to Article 68 of the Polish Constitution everyone has a right to have access to health care. Citizens are granted equal access to the publicly funded healthcare system. In particular, the government is obliged to provide free health care to young children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and the elderly. The scope of provided health care services depends on the clinical indications.

**85b:** There are many hormonal contraceptives available on the Polish market. The Ministry of Health and its subordinate units constantly monitor the availability of necessary medicinal products. However, temporary shortages of individual drugs are inevitable. They are not always predictable and largely depend on random factors related to delivery delays, production problems or business decisions of pharmaceutical companies. Trade in medicinal products is based largely on the principles of a free market economy, limited only to marketing authorization and reimbursement.

The Ministry of Health has started a process to change access to the emergency contraception pills from “on prescription only” to “over-the-counter (OTC)”, meaning that the pills can be obtained in pharmacies directly without the need of consultation a doctor first. The intention behind these policy reforms is to simplify and, hence, accelerate access to the emergency contraceptives, thereby reducing the number of unintended pregnancies.

**85c:** According to the declarations reflected in the exposé of the Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, the intention of the current Council of Ministers is that "every woman should feel a fundamental difference in the treatment of motherhood, understanding pregnant women and safe abortion, in a situation that requires it. Women will experience essential improvements in their rights, dignity, health and safety.” The Ministry of Health expresses its will to respect and treat patients' rights as a priority in its current activities. Reproductive health and perinatal care will be one of the issues where actions will be taken to fully respect patients' rights, including the right to health-care services and the right to information.

Some of these actions have already been taken or initiated, these include ensuring public funding for infertility treatment with medically assisted reproduction procedures. In accordance with the Act of December 29, 2023 the Minister of Health was obliged to develop, implement and finance a health policy program for infertility treatment, including medically assisted reproduction procedures, i.a. in vitro fertilization conducted in a medically assisted reproduction entities. The Minister of Health allocates annually no less than PLN 500 million from the state budget for the implementation of the above-mentioned program. The first program will be developed and implemented from June 1, 2024.

The health safety of patients in the field of broadly understood perinatal care also includes the availability of abortion procedures. This issue is currently the subject of in-depth analysis. In this field, an emphasis will be put on compliance of the health care system with the currently regulations in force by all participants, by ensuring the respect for patients' rights and enforcement of the obligations of healthcare entities. This should result in a noticeable qualitative change in the actual access to currently permitted abortion procedures[[1]](#footnote-1). Possible further steps, including those requiring possible legislative changes, will also be considered and discussed, but this will require time necessary to carry out the legislative procedure and appropriate consultations.

**85d:** Reproductive health is an important part of the definition of health, as an overall physical, mental and social wellbeing, not just the absence of disease or reproductive disorders in both sexes in all phases of life. Reproductive health contains such issues as puberty and menopause, fertility and infertility, family planning, health during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum. The reproductive health determines the health of Poles, good health of the next generations and supports measures aiming at improving the demographic indicators. In Poland everyone has the right to health protection. Polish citizens, regardless of their social or economic situation, have equal access to health care services financed by the public funds. The range of these services is defined by law.

The provisions of the Act of August 27, 2004 on health care services financed from public funds and the Regulation of the Minister of Health of November 6, 2013 on guaranteed health-care services in the field of outpatient specialist care, provide women with health care including specialist health services in the field of gynecology and obstetrics. There are two types of services: (1) obstetrics and gynecological advice and (2) gynecological advice for girls. These services include consultations on reproductive health care. It should be emphasized that under the Act on the medical and dental professions, the doctor is obliged to provide the patient or their legal representative with accessible information about their health condition, diagnosis, proposed and possible diagnostic and therapeutic methods, foreseeable consequences of their use or omission, results of treatment and prognosis.

Since 1 June 2023, a nationwide HPV vaccination program was implemented in Poland. The program is a part of the National Oncology Strategy for 2020–2030 and was created in response to the high incidence of HPV-related cancers in Poland. In 2024 all girls and boys aged 12 – 14 can benefit from free HPV vaccination . The national HPV vaccination program offers free access to two types of HPV vaccines: 2-valent and 9-valent vaccines. The vaccination schedule consists of two doses, and the interval between doses of the vaccine is 6 to 12 months. A parent wishing to vaccinate their child for HPV vaccination should make an appointment with a primary care practice providing vaccinations within the program. A visit for vaccination can be arranged directly at the facility, via the central helpline, or using an e-health tool called Patient’s Internet Account. Health communication strategy for the national HPV vaccination program included media campaigns (TV, radio), billboards, and leaflets as well as web marketing (including social media). By 5 January 2024, over 157 thousand children were vaccinated against HPV within the program.

**85e:** The regulations and benefits described above regarding the healthcare dedicated to women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum are general standards and therefore apply to all women, regardless of their place of residence.

**86a:** Recently, Poland's first Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 has been adopted. The main goal of this document is to include persons with various disabilities in social and professional life, thereby guaranteeing their rights as defined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The strategy pays special attention to the situation of women with disabilities who face specific additional barriers to full inclusion in public, social and professional life. The Strategy identifies barriers that may impede them from, among other things, deciding to have children. Persons with various disabilities, especially women, experience limited access to medical services, including preventive care. Medical professionals are often unaware of specific needs of women with disabilities, and stereotypes are particularly acute in the area of prevention. The action planned in the Strategy aims to develop and implement standards for gynaecological and obstetric services accessible to women with disabilities. The standards will cover ensuring accessibility at all stages of a given service.

Women with disabilities can start families just like non-disabled people, in particular marry and have children. In Poland, a person who has attained the age of 18 may marry, however, for important reasons, the guardianship court may permit a woman who has attained the age of sixteen to marry, and the circumstances indicate that the marriage will be compatible with the good of the established family. On the other hand, it should be emphasized that a person suffering from mental illness or mental retardation cannot enter into marriage. However, if the state of health or mind of such a person does not threaten the marriage or the health of future children, and if the person is not completely incapacitated, the court may allow him or her to enter into marriage. Marriage cannot be contracted by a person who is completely incapacitated. With regard to Article 23(1)(a) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Poland has made a reservation to avoid charges of violating the Convention. A special team at the Ministry of Justice is conducting conceptual and analytical work in the area of replacing the institution of incapacitation with a model of supported decision-making.

**86b:** The MALUCH+ 2022-2029 Program supports development of childcare institutions for children up to the age of 3 - nurseries, children's clubs and day care centers. Local government units and private entities can participate in the Program. According to available data, as of the end of 2023, there were 8,105 institutions in Poland, including 5,707 nurseries and children's clubs and 2,398 daycares. They offered places for 234,768 children, including 220,115 in nurseries and children's clubs and 14,653 at day care centers. Thanks to the Program, by the end of 2026 the number of available places in care centers will increase by another 102,577 places. The budget of the Program is nearly PLN 5.5 billion.

The Program aims to improve the situation of economically inactive women due to the birth of their children. Increased access to childcare services increases the labour force participation of parents – especially women, who are the most likely to take over caregiving responsibilities – and makes it possible to balance professional and family life.

**86c:** According to the Labor Code the basic amount of parental leave is a total of 41 weeks for both parents (43 weeks in the case of multiple pregnancies). Important in the context of measures to encourage fathers to take parental leave is that each employee-parent of a child is entitled to an exclusive right to 9 weeks of parental leave from the indicated dimension, and that this right cannot be transferred to the other employee-parent of a child.

The 2023 amendment of the Labour Code aimed, among other things, at implementing into the Polish legal order the provisions of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of June 20, 2019 on the work-life balance of parents and guardians and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU. This law introduced, among other things, an increase in parental leave. According to the amended provision of Article 1821a of the Labor Code, employee-parents of a child are entitled to parental leave to care for the child of up to:

* 41 weeks in the case of the birth of one child in a single birth,
* 43 weeks in the case of multiple births.

Each parent of a child is entitled to an exclusive right to 9 weeks of parental leave from the above-mentioned amount of leave. This is the non-transferable portion of parental leave that each parent of a child is entitled to. Thus, from the above-mentioned parental leave dimension, the right to the non-transferable 9 weeks of this leave is granted to both the employee-mother of the child and the employee-father of the child, and the remaining dimension of the leave can be shared by the employee-parents of the child at their discretion. The purpose of this solution is to encourage fathers to exercise their right to parental leave, at the same time, this solution also promotes and facilitates the return of mothers to the labour market after a period of maternity and parental leave.

**86e:** The Act of 9 June 2022 on the Support and Re-socialisation of Minors governs the situation of minors residing in district educational institutions, correctional facilities and shelters for minors. It introduced an obligation for the units under the Minister of Justice (i.e. district educational centres, correctional institutions and shelters for minors) to establish divisions for minor female pupils who had given birth and declared they were willing to take care of the child. In case of youth education centres that are neither created nor supervised by the Minister of Justice, the decision to establish such a division lies with the founding authority. A child may stay with their minor mother in a youth educational centre, district educational centre, correctional facility and shelter for minors until it reaches the age of three, unless the child’s welfare and educational or health reasons argue for an earlier separation from the mother. Ensuring the safety of and the appropriate conditions of the minor mother and her child required issuance of relevant regulations on organization, operation, mode of admission, conditions of stay, documentation etc. The order of the Minister of Justice was issued in consultation with the minister responsible for family affairs to ensure that the underage mother is able to exercise custody or participate in the day-to-day care of the of the child, and to safeguard the proper development of the child.

The Social Welfare Law extends special assistance under crisis intervention to mothers with minor children (also fathers with minor children or other persons with custody of children) and pregnant women, who, in accordance with Article 47 (4) of the Social Welfare Law, in the event of being affected by violence or other crisis situation, may find shelter in homes for mothers with minor children and pregnant women. The homes provide assistance in the form of shelter (up to 12 months with the possibility of extension) and specialized support. By providing financial support to the counties the Minister of Family, Labor and Social Policy has been taking measures to increase the number of available facilities and develop a network of homes for mothers with minor children and pregnant women. Since 2017, each year, an amount of PLN 3 million was provided from the state budget, while as of 2022 the amount was increased to PLN 5 million per year. The funds can be spent on creating new homes for mothers with minor children and pregnant women, or on improving standards in existing facilities. In addition, the Order of the Minister of Family and Social Policy of January 17, 2022 amended the regulations on the operation of this type of institution. The changes included increasing the effectiveness of the assistance provided, as well as gave priority to the task of providing specialized support. The order defined the standard of basic services provided by the homes, both in terms of intervention, therapeutic-support and living needs. The provision of assistance is based on an individual support plan, developed in consultation with the residents, so that the support meets the needs of the supported persons to the greatest extent possible.

**86g:** The National Action Program for Equal Treatment 2022-2030 plans Public Campaigns to raise awareness of hate speech, or to counter sexual abuse.

**87a:** In 2023 the Law on Amending the Law on Counteracting Domestic Violence and Certain Other Laws was adopted. The name of the existing law was changed from "on the prevention of domestic violence," to "on the prevention of domestic violence," in order not to stigmatize the family and indicate that acts of violence occur also in other settings. In addition to physical violence, psychological violence and sexual abuse, two more forms of domestic violence were introduced to be countered, i.e. economic violence and cyberbullying. The new law expanded the circle of persons who will be affected by the provisions of the amended law, in particular to include a former spouse, former partner or other family member, regardless of the fact of cohabitation with the person committing domestic violence. The regulations also recognizes children who witness domestic violence as victims of domestic violence.

New regulations shall increase the safety and protection of persons at risk of and suffering from domestic violence, in particular through a more individual and subjective approach to the process of support and assistance. In this regard, it is planned to create in municipalities, diagnostic and assistance groups, consisting of a social worker and a police officer, who will work respectively: with the person experiencing domestic violence and the person doing the violence. (In the current legislation, the composition of working groups is at least five specialists, which does not allow for the preservation of subjectivity and an atmosphere of trust.)

New provisions penalising female genital mutilation and forced marriages were introduced by the Act of 13 January 2023 in the Penal Code. Furthermore, the upper limit for punishment with a custodial sentence for rape has been raised from 12 to 15 years and new grounds for aggravating circumstances were added. If the offender rapes a minor below 15 years of age or the perpetrator of the above-said acts commits them with particular cruelty or if serious health damage ensues, they will be liable to imprisonment for a term no shorter than 5 years or life imprisonment. When the death is a result of the said acts, the offender will be liable to imprisonment for a term no shorter than 8 years or life imprisonment.

The Prosecutor General issued (6.12.2022) new guidelines on the principles of prosecutorial conduct in countering domestic violence. The guidelines oblige prosecutors to take measures to counter domestic violence in all areas of their activity, including criminal proceedings, preventive measures, non-criminal activities, providing assistance to victims, as well as cooperation with victim assistance centers. Every district prosecutor's office has a designated prosecutor acting as a consultant on domestic violence cases. He or she is obliged to cooperate with family courts, state and local government bodies, non-governmental organizations and other services that carry out tasks related to the prevention. The guidelines require the prosecutor and police officers to, inter alia, provide the victim with detailed information and instructions on his or her rights.

**87b:** On October 17, 2023, Resolution No. 204 of the Council of Ministers was adopted on the National Plan Against Crimes Against Sexual Liberty and Vice to the Harm of Minors for 2023-2026. The National Plan strengthens the protection system against sexual crimes, including in the digital environment, though: (1) a coordinated analysis of the risks of sexual crimes; (2) an educational program for various social groups (development and dissemination of tailored educational materials for children, adolescents, parents/guardians, school and facility personnel; prevention activities in schools and facilities; outreach activities to raise public awareness and sensitivity); (3) training on recognizing the symptoms of child abuse, providing assistance and support; (4) strengthening the competence and specialization of law enforcement officers, judges and prosecutors; (5) creation of a database to facilitate the detection of prohibited content, e.g. on the Internet; (6) comprehensive support for victims of sexual crimes and their families; (7) strengthening therapeutic and preventive measures; (8) measures to expose sexual crimes against children; (9) respect for the privacy and dignity of victims - ensuring ethical media coverage.

**87c:** As of August 15, 2023 the police acquired the power to issue a restraining order to protect a person experiencing domestic violence. This action expands the possibilities and accelerates the separation of the perpetrator of violence from their victim, since previously only the Court and the Prosecutor's Office had such powers. The measures aim to isolate the violence offender from the victim of violence not only in the dwelling and its immediate surroundings but also anywhere the victim of violence may stay, notably in the places associated with their life activities.

The Act Amending the Civil Procedure Code and Certain Other Acts of 30 April 2020, which took effect on 30 November 2020, entitled police officers and the soldiers of the Military Police to impose on a domestic violence offender a 14-days’ order to vacate the jointly-occupied dwelling and its immediate surroundings or a prohibition on approaching the jointly-occupied dwelling and its immediate surroundings (an order or a prohibition, i.e., two measures).

To ascertain the legitimacy of an order or a prohibition, a police officer evaluates the risk of human life or health hazard, separately for a child and an adult. The risk is evaluated by a human life or health hazard evaluation questionnaire. Such a questionnaire is a uniform tool and assistance for law enforcement agencies to properly identify the cases that represent life and health hazard stemming from domestic violence. It is obligatory for a police officer to fill out the questionnaire form.

**87d:** Special procedures to address the need of persons affected by sexual offenses and/or victims of sexual violence are in place. These actions are carried out with due care and respect for the personal rights of the person. Whenever possible, the victim is interviewed by a trained police officer of the same sex, unless the victim requests otherwise. Officers conducting the activity should show empathy and be aware of the particular emotional condition of the victim. Contact with the victim is carried out in conditions that ensure his/her privacy. This includes, providing the person with a sense of security and what is highly important in the case of a minor, immediate notification of the prosecutor and the juvenile court. The procedure is instructional in case of victims of a sexual crime.

If necessary, the victim is informed about the possibility of using of institutions for specialized counselling, including legal, psychological and family counselling from the governmental register for an assistance and a support. 305 centres provide assistance and resources to crime victims, their family or household members as well as witnesses and their household members, Poland-wide.

All persons in Poland, and especially those who are victims of a sex crime, are protected regardless of race, gender, nationality, social status, religion or place  of origin, and are equally entitled to support and protection from the state, also in cooperation with local governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Between January 2022 and November 2023, a total of 46,607 people received support, of whom more than 34,000 were women (73% of all persons supported). With respect to crime type, women were most often supported in relation to domestic violence (49%), other not mentioned (39%), non-payment of maintenance (12%), unlawful threat (9%), fight or beating and bodily harm (6%), other offences against sexual freedom (4%) and rape (2%).

Since February 2019, the nationwide telephone Helpline for Victims has been in operation. It facilitates the anonymous acquisition of information on the availability of assistance and allows individuals to make appointments at any assistance centre across Poland. Additionally, the service provides the option to promptly access psychological and legal advice. A special e-mail address is also available for contact. Following Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, the number of on-call hours of consultants providing advice in Ukrainian was increased. Within a span of two months, the number of counselling sessions offered in this language experienced a significant growth (from zero to 4,500).

**87f:** The Ministry of Justice holds, in partnership with the Police Headquarters and Military Police Headquarters, training sessions for relevant agencies in response to the enactment of the Act of 13 January 2023 and the need for the agencies to be properly prepared to implement it. A total of 5853 police officers and approximately 60 soldiers of the Military Police have been trained.

The thematic scope of Police training has so far included:

* Psychological aspects of dealing with a person experiencing domestic violence and/or perpetrating domestic violence.
* Dealing with people having complex communication needs.

In partnership with the UNICEF Refugee Response Office and the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution, the Ministry of Justice participated in online trainings and on-site workshops in framework of the project *“Implementing the idea of child friendly justice and underpinning victims’ rights”:*

1. *“Principles for holding procedural actions for persons under 18 years of age”* – for judges, prosecutors, junior judges, junior prosecutors, judge assistants, prosecutor assistants, judicial clerks, attorneys-in-fact, trainee attorneys-in-fact;
2. *“Violence against women (sexual offences) and domestic violence”* for judges, prosecutors, junior judges, junior prosecutors, judge assistants, prosecutor assistants, judicial clerks;
3. *“Dealing with victims of domestic violence and victims of sexual offences"* for probation officers.

1. ) Pursuant to the provisions of *the Act of January 7, 1993 on family planning, protection of the human fetus and conditions of admissibility of termination of pregnancy* termination of pregnancy is permissible in two circumstances, i.e. when the pregnancy constitutes a threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman, and also if there is a justified suspicion that the pregnancy was the result of a prohibited act. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)