



**MINISTRY OF HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS  
AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

**FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND  
OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

**Belgrade, December 2025**

Abbreviations:

RS -	Republic of Serbia
HPM -	National Preventive Mechanism
CC -	Criminal Code
CPC -	Criminal Procedure Code
LECS -	Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions
CPT -	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture
UNHCR -	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IOM -	International Organization for Migration
CVSV -	Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence
CHTP -	Centre for Human Trafficking Victims' Protection
EUAA -	European Union Agency for Asylum
AVRR -	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme
PPOWC -	Public Prosecutor's Office for War Crimes
ICTY -	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IRMCT -	International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
AVRR -	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme
AEPS -	Administration for the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions
MLEVSA -	Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs
CE -	Council of Europe
MoI -	Ministry of the Interior
RISP -	Republic Institute for Social Protection
CSW -	Center for Social Work
SPPO -	Supreme Public Prosecution Office
CSOs -	Civil Society Organizations
KIRS -	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration
CMH -	Centre for Mental Health

1. Despite the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija being an integral part of the territory of the RS, as a Contracting State, the Republic of Serbia is unable to monitor the implementation of the Convention in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija given that, based on UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999), the administration of the said Autonomous Province is entirely entrusted to the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). This is the reason why the report before you does not contain detailed information on the implementation of the Convention in this part of the territory of the RS.
2. At the Office of the Protector of Citizens, which performs the tasks of the NPM, in accordance with the adopted Rulebook on Internal Organization and Systematization of Job Positions, four positions are envisaged, of which two were filled in August 2025. According to the NPM's assessment, the staffing deficit is affecting regular activities, especially in comparison to previous years.
3. The procedure for amendments to the Criminal Code is in progress. The amendments to the Criminal Code have been sent to the European Commission, after which they shall be subject to further legislative procedure. In addition to other amendments, the amendments to the Criminal Code also provide for amendments to Articles 136 and 137. When proposing these amendments, the recommendations of the UN Committee were taken into account. They include harsher sentence threatened for officials who commit such criminal offences.
4. Under our law, there is no possibility for a person who committed the criminal offence of torture to be released from criminal liability just because such person claimed to have committed such criminal offence under the direct orders of its superior. As regards the issue of completely excluding the application of extenuating circumstance when sentencing persons due to having committed a criminal offence of torture, we are of the opinion that it is impossible to fully prescribe this, i.e. that it is impossible to exclude extenuating circumstances when determining the sentence. When imposing a sentence, the court shall, *inter alia*, assess whether the perpetrator caused minor or serious bodily harm through the commission of a criminal offence.
5. As regards the issue of prescribing the absence of a statute of limitations in respect of criminal prosecution for the criminal offence of torture, we emphasize that such prescribing would be contrary to the criminal law system of the RS, since under our law, the legal concept of statute of limitations is linked to the gravity of the criminal offence, and the absence of a statute of limitations for criminal prosecution is provided for only the most serious forms of grave criminal offences. Bearing in mind that the criminal offences under Articles 136 and 137 of the Criminal Code prescribe a penalty of up to ten years of imprisonment, these offences carry a significantly lower penalty than the maximum one; hence, we believe that it is not justified to prescribe the absence of a statute of limitations for criminal prosecution for these offences.
6. In accordance with the CPC, an arrested person is entitled to the rights of a defendant, including the right to be informed of the following rights by the procedural authority: to remain silent, to refuse to answer a specific question, to freely present his/her defence and to admit or not admit to being guilty, to defend himself/herself alone or with the professional assistance of a defence counsel, and to read the criminal charges, the report on the conducted investigation, and the expert's findings and opinion immediately prior to the first hearing.

7. An arrested person also has additional rights that are directly related to the deprivation of liberty, namely the right to be informed immediately, in a language he/she understands, of the reason for his/her arrest, the right to a confidential conversation with his defence counsel prior to being questioned, which is monitored only by sight, the right to request that a member of his/her family or another person close to him/her be notified of his/her arrest without delay, as well as a diplomatic or consular representative of the state of which he/she is a citizen, or a representative of an authorized international organization of public law, if he/she is a refugee or a stateless person, as well as the right to request that he/she be examined without delay by a physician of his own choosing, and if such physician is not available, by a physician designated by the public prosecutor or the court.
8. In the event of an arrest, the police are obliged to immediately inform the arrested person of the aforementioned rights and take him/her to the public prosecutor without delay. In order to ensure that the arrested person is informed in a timely manner in any case, the law also stipulates the obligation of the public prosecutor to inform the arrested person brought before him of his/her rights.
9. During the questioning with the public prosecutor, after being informed of his/her rights, the suspect signs a record containing an instruction on his rights, thereby confirming that he/she is aware of the rights he/she is entitled to in accordance with the law.
10. In accordance with the recommendations of the GRECO Committee, in October 2023, a Code of Police Ethics was adopted, the provisions of which, *inter alia*, oblige police officers to respect the dignity, reputation and honour of every individual, as well as other fundamental human rights and freedoms, when dealing with citizens, while acting contrary to the provisions of this Code constitutes a breach of official duty.
11. The Rulebook on Police Powers, *inter alia*, prescribe the obligations of police officers to orally inform the brought and detained persons of their rights and to provide them with a written notice, which, in addition, stipulates the right to inform their family or other persons, as well as the right to a defence counsel. Written notices on the rights of brought and detained persons, which are prescribed in detail in Articles 19 and 29 of the Rulebook on Police Powers, are served to brought and detained persons on standardized forms, which are translated into English and into the languages of national minorities (Hungarian, Romanian, Roma and Albanian), and are available to all police officers, and if necessary, the engagement of language interpreters is also enabled.
12. Actions of the police officers: issuance of a decision on detention, serving of a decision on detention, as well as the data on the rights exercised by the brought and detained persons, are recorded in the records of brought and detained persons, which are kept in electronic form, centralized at the level of the entire Ministry.
13. The obligations that police officers have towards the aforementioned category of persons, regarding the exercise of their rights and the conditions in the premises where they are held, are subject to control and planned monitoring. In the reporting period, the work of all 27 police departments and 3 reception centres for foreigners was subject to inspection supervision.

14. The aim of inspection supervisions is to determine whether there are any non-standard items in the official premises, or whether all temporarily seized items are properly marked and placed in the premises designated for such purpose. Each temporarily seized item is recorded in the electronic Record of Temporarily Seized Items.
15. In cases where there are indications that abuse by officials has occurred, the obligation of police officers and public prosecutors is to act in accordance with the Methodology for Conducting Investigations in Cases of Abuse by the Police, developed by the SPPO and MoI, which is implemented by police officers in accordance with the Instruction issued by the MoI, and by public prosecutors in accordance with the General Mandatory Instruction of the SPPO on the Implementation of the Methodology.
16. Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Rulebook on the Complaints Procedure in the Ministry of Internal Affairs stipulates: If the complaint contains allegations of a criminal offense committed, for which prosecution is being undertaken *ex officio*, the head of the organizational unit in which the complainant works is obliged to notify the competent public prosecutor thereof without delay, and no later than within 24 hours of learning of it, and to hand over the entire case-file to him for processing. Paragraph 3 of the same article stipulates that: If the complaint referred to in paragraph 1 of this article contains allegations of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, bodily harm or threats of torture, the head of the organizational unit shall, without delay, notify the Internal Control Sector and provide it with the entire case file for processing, and shall inform the police director and the body responsible for implementing standards of police conduct in the field of prevention and torture of the filed complaint.
17. When it is determined that unlawful conduct by police officers had occurred in respect of persons to whom police powers of bringing in and detention have been applied, the disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated, *inter alia*, for violations of official duty prescribed under Articles 206 and 207 of the Law on Police, and the head of the organizational unit is authorized to issue a decision against such police officer on his temporary suspension from work at the Ministry of the Interior until the disciplinary proceedings are completed.
18. So far, 17 rooms have been equipped with audio/video equipment for recording questionings.
19. During the reporting period, the NPM did not encounter any restrictions regarding access to places of deprivation of liberty. The NPM has unlimited and unhindered access, without requiring prior announcement of a visit, to all places of deprivation of liberty. All visits were unannounced, including visits during the night to police stations, with full and professional approach to employees. The NPM had unlimited access to all premises, including the right to inspect documentation and conduct confidential interviews with detained persons.
20. Statistical data on the NPM's visits to places of deprivation of liberty are provided in Annex 1 to this Report.
21. The CPT had conducted *ad hoc* visits to the RS in March 2023 and November/December 2024. The first visit of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to the RS was carried out in June

2025. During their stay, the delegations of the Committee and Subcommittee have made unannounced visits to prisons, detention units, homes for children, the elderly and people with developmental disabilities, penal correctional institutions for minors and psychiatric institutions for adults and children, and spoke with state authorities, representatives of the NPM, and representatives of the civil society.

22. During 2022 and 2023, the Protector of Citizens continued his cooperation with the Provincial Ombudsman of AP Vojvodina and associations with which he concluded cooperation agreements in carrying out the tasks of the NPM: Committee for Human Rights Valjevo, Center for Youth Integration, Victimology Society of Serbia, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, Klikaktiv - Center for Development of Social Policies and Group 484. CSOs cooperating with the NPM are provided access to institutions.
23. In accordance with the LECS, the representatives of domestic and foreign institutions and associations dealing with the protection of human rights are allowed to visit penal correctional institutions under the jurisdiction of the AEPS.
24. In the reporting period, the following CSOs have visited the penal correctional institutions: Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Center for Human Rights Niš, World Roma Organization, Association for Providing Aid to Addicts, Association for Support in Addiction Treatment, which during their visits had the right to talk to persons deprived of their liberty, inspect documentation and talk to employees, all this without the presence of officials.
25. All recommendations of international and domestic bodies for the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty have been incorporated into the measures and activities prescribed by the Strategy for the Development of the Criminal Sanctions Execution System 2022-2027.
26. In addition to the NPM, UNHCR and IOM also have unhindered access to asylum centres and reception centres for migrants. The NGOs are also present at the centres, providing various services to the persons accommodated in them (translation, information and legal aid, psychosocial support and other educational activities).
27. The Ministry of Health cooperates with the NPM and acts promptly upon requests in this area. After the conducted visits, the NPM submits a report to the Ministry of Health, which is acted upon promptly if any irregularities are identified, and the Protector of Citizens is notified about this in writing.
28. The Operational Center of the Ministry of the Interior has established a telephone line 0800 100 600, which is free and available 24/7, to which events with elements of domestic violence can be reported throughout the country. Citizens can also report events with elements of domestic and partner violence by dialling 192.
29. Upon reporting an event with elements of domestic violence, the competent police officer, in accordance with the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, collects the necessary information from the possible perpetrator within a period of eight hours and assesses the risk of imminent danger of domestic violence, after which he may impose one or both of the following emergency

measures: "Temporary removal of the perpetrator from the apartment" and "Temporarily prohibiting the perpetrator from contacting the victim of violence and approaching him/her" for a duration of 48 hours from the moment the measures are imposed, which are issued by order that is served to the person in respect of whom the emergency measure was imposed. The order is delivered to the basic public prosecutor, the Centre for Social Work and the Group for Coordination and Cooperation. The victim of violence is informed of the measure imposed. The basic public prosecutor evaluates the risk assessment of the competent police officer and, should he establish that there is an immediate danger to the family, he is obliged to submit a proposal to the court to extend the emergency measure. The court shall extend the emergency measure if, after evaluating the risk assessment of the competent police officer and the basic public prosecutor, as well as the attached evidence, it establishes that there is an immediate danger of domestic violence for a period of 30 days, or shall reject the proposal as unfounded. The Basic Court shall issue a decision on the proposal without holding a hearing within 24 hours. If a person violates an emergency measure imposed or extended by the court, they shall be punished with imprisonment for a misdemeanour for up to 60 days. This Law is implemented and applies to the provision of protection and support to victims of the criminal offence of Domestic Violence, as well as of other criminal offences covered by this Law.

30. In order to improve cooperation between institutions involved in the process of preventing and sanctioning violence, as well as a clearer definition of the rights and obligations of all participants in the procedure, a Special Working Group was formed on 30 July 2025 in order to prepare the text of amendments to the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.
31. In order to efficiently implement the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, which has been in effect since 1 June 2017, the SPPO has taken a series of measures introducing specialization, priority action and reporting, risk analysis, and enhanced control in all cases of domestic violence, so that the Public Prosecutor's Office can respond to domestic violence and prevent its recurrence by taking measures within its jurisdiction.
32. The special contribution of the Public Prosecutor's Office to ensuring efficient and effective protection of victims and providing support to victims of violence is reflected in the participation of the representative of the SPPO in the Working Group for the Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System, which is based on completed cases in order to identify and eliminate its weaknesses and shortcomings, and to draft a working text of the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code, by submitting specific proposals for amendments to the criminal offence of Domestic Violence under Article 194 of the Criminal Code, as well as for the criminal offence of Rape under Article 178 of the Criminal Code, in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and other international standards. After the conducted public hearing procedure, the Draft Law was sent to the European Commission for its opinion.
33. The Working Group was also presented with a proposal to introduce a new criminal offence titled Femicide.
34. In 2021, the RS adopted the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for the period 2021–2025.

35. The institutional mechanism for monitoring gender equality and violence against women in the RS has been strengthened with the establishment of the Office of the Minister without Portfolio, responsible for coordinating activities in the field of gender equality, prevention of violence against women, and economic and political empowerment of women.
36. There are currently 7 licensed providers of service of shelters for the victims of violence in the RS, with a total capacity of 110 beneficiaries, and 9 licensed SOS telephone service providers for women who are victims of violence.
37. There is also a Shelter for emergency accommodation of victims of human trafficking at the CHTVP. It is intended for girls and women aged 16 and over. The Shelter can also accommodate mothers with children. It is a facility with high security measures, and is intended primarily for victims at high security risk. The Shelter's capacity is 6 victims of human trafficking, with the possibility of additionally accommodating their children. The services of all shelters are provided free-of-charge and are available to all women who are victims of violence without discrimination.
38. The AP Vojvodina has adopted the Programme for the Protection of Women from Domestic and Partner Violence and Other Forms of Gender-Based Violence in the AP Vojvodina for the period 2023-2026 <https://www.socijalnopolitika.vojvodina.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Program-APV-za-sprecavanje-nasilja-2023-2026.pdf>
39. In accordance with the standards and generally accepted practices for the reception of asylum seekers, which KIRS also applies in the reception centres for irregular migrants, special attention is paid to the needs of women and gender-related needs. This practice involves identifying special needs, providing appropriate housing conditions, empowering women, and providing protection and referral in cases of violence.
40. Numerical data on emergency measures imposed, criminal charges filed, pre-investigation and investigative actions, indictments and convictions for criminal offences with elements of violence against women, and data on training of judicial authorities in order to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, are provided in Annex 2 to this Report.
41. In order to improve society's systemic response to the problem of human trafficking in the RS, at the Government session held on 20 March 2024, the Programme for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the RS for the period 2024-2029 was adopted, along with the Action Plan for its implementation for the period 2024-2026. The aforementioned Programme is an inter-sectoral planning document that comprehensively establishes goals and measures for combating trafficking in human beings in the RS. The Programme aims to promote respect for and protection of human rights and ensure a continuous comprehensive response of society to the issue of trafficking in human beings through an improved system of prevention, timely identification, assistance and protection of victims, as well as through the suppression of trafficking in human beings.
42. A Special Working Group for the Implementation, Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of the Programme has been established, whose task is, *inter alia*, to monitor and evaluate the fulfilment of the Programme's objectives, assess the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the

implemented activities, analyse in more detail the problems and obstacles that arose in the process of implementing the Programme, and recognize the improvements achieved in the work, in order to create conditions for proposing necessary amendments. The Working Group had met twice thus far, and at the second meeting had adopted the Report on the Implementation of Activities from the AP for the Implementation of the Programme for 2024, within which 95% of activities were implemented.

43. The key reform activity defined by the Programme is the adoption of a *lex specialis* which shall regulate the area of trafficking in human beings in a systematic and comprehensive manner. By decision of the Minister of the Interior of 8 October 2024, a Working Group was established for drafting the Law, in which, in addition to state bodies and organizations, five CSOs have also participated.
44. During the work on the Draft Law, the Spanish model of law was taken into account as a reference at the level of an EU Member State, the Finnish model of the organizational structure used for the purpose of implementing the Law, with a comparison with the Spanish model of organization and the Croatian model of organization (due to the legal heritage originating from the SFRY).
45. For the first time, the Draft Law stipulates all the rights of the victims of human trafficking: the right to information, the right to free choice and access to assistance and support services, the right to reflection, the right to temporary residence, the right to voluntary return, the right to protection of physical and mental integrity, the right to health care, the right to privacy and personal data protection, the right to support and assistance in the procedure, the right to free legal aid, the right to a translator and interpreter, the right to non-punishment, the right to work inclusion, the right to social welfare, the right to education, the right to financial compensation and the right to safe accommodation, as well as the procedure for identifying victims of human trafficking.
46. A public hearing process was implemented from 22 May to 10 June 2025. The Draft Law was publicly available on the e-Consultations portal and the website of the Ministry of the Interior, after which the text of the Draft Law was harmonized with the proposals from the public hearing.
47. The draft text was also submitted to an independent expert whose role is to provide an opinion on the text's compliance with international documents, primarily the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and Directive 2024/1712 amending Directive 2011/36. In addition to harmonization with the comments from the public hearing, the text of the Draft Law was also harmonized with the comments of an independent international expert, after which the text of the Draft Law, with the harmonization table, was submitted to the European Commission for its opinion, after which the Law should enter the regular adoption procedure.
48. In order to achieve legality, effectiveness and uniformity in the actions of all public prosecutors, the Supreme Public Prosecutor had issued a General Mandatory Instruction in June 2021, in accordance with which public prosecutors in all Appellate and Higher Public Prosecutor's Offices are designated as contact points for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings under Article 388 of the Criminal Code, and since 2016, in all Higher Public Prosecutor's Offices in Serbia, one public prosecutor per HPPO has been appointed as a contact point for international

legal aid cases. In this way, public prosecutors were specialized in handling the cases of trafficking in human beings.

49. The CPC prescribes various possibilities for procedural protection of witnesses and aggrieved parties, who, in addition to basic protection, may receive the status of a particularly vulnerable witness and a protected witness. The status of a particularly vulnerable witness is determined by a decision which, depending on the phase or type of proceedings, is made by the public prosecutor, the presiding judge or a single judge. This solution may constitute the basis for appointing a proxy for such a witness, which represents an additional form of his/her protection. In addition, the Code itself prescribes rules on the hearing of a particularly vulnerable witness, in order to avoid possible harmful consequences of criminal proceedings on the personality, physical and mental state of a particularly vulnerable witness.
50. In 2019, a Working Group of the Supreme Court of Cassation, consisting of judges of the criminal department, judges of the civil department, and public prosecutors, had developed Guidelines for improving court practice in compensation proceedings for victims of serious crime in criminal proceedings.
51. The aforementioned Guidelines were produced in the form of a publication that was presented at several training courses for public prosecutors and judges, and have produced significant results in practice.
52. The system for identifying victims of human trafficking in Serbia is unique in the world, given that a specialized social protection institution has been established in our country - the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims' Protection, whose specially trained professionals assess whether someone is a victim of human trafficking by using special methods and tools, and later coordinate their protection. During identification, specially developed lists of indicators are used for child victims, broken down by type of exploitation, as well as indicators for assessing risks and vulnerability.
53. All actors from different systems who come into contact with persons at risk of human trafficking have an obligation to report any suspicions to the CHTVP. Action upon each report is urgent.
54. For each identified child victim, the CHTVP immediately begins with providing support, involving the Center for Social Work, police, and Public Prosecutor's Office. A multi-sectoral support network is formed for each child, consisting of experts from various institutions who, based on an individual approach, create a protection plan and monitor the recovery period in the following years, until the beneficiary becomes independent.
55. The most common areas covered by these plans are: beneficiary's safety, access to justice, health care, support in overcoming trauma, ensuring economic security, providing accommodation, support in family functioning and providing guardianship.
56. At the construction site of "*Linglong International Europe d.o.o.*" in Zrenjanin, since the beginning of the construction works on the factory, labour inspectors have carried out, and continue to carry out, inspection supervisions in the field of labour relations and occupational

safety and health at the investors and contractors, and have taken, in accordance with the established facts, both preventive and corrective, as well as repressive measures.

57. At the construction site of “*Linglong International Europe d.o.o.*” in Zrenjanin, Vietnamese nationals were employed who were sent to the RS by a foreign legal entity, to a branch of a foreign legal entity with headquarters in the People's Republic of China: „*CHINA ENERGY ENGINEERING GROUP TIANJIN ELECTRIC POWER CONSTRUCTION CO LTD*“ *BELGRADE BRANCH - ZEMUN*“. A total of 353 Vietnamese nationals were hired as of 16 April 2021, who worked in groups and left the construction site upon finishing their work. The last group of workers from Vietnam left the construction site in July 2022, and the last group - four of them - left the RS on 19 December 2022.
58. Regarding the hiring of workers from Vietnam in 2021 and 2022, a total of 6 inspection supervisions were carried out, of which one was related to the accommodation of Vietnamese workers, four were related to their labour status and work permits, and one was related to a work-related injury of a Vietnamese worker.
59. On 5 January 2022, a motion was filed for initiating misdemeanour proceedings against a foreign legal entity, with headquarters in the People's Republic of China, which has a business unit registered in the RS and against the responsible person of the branch of the foreign legal entity, for failing to secure work permits for 318 Vietnamese nationals before commencing with the works.
60. Upon the submitted motion, the judge of the competent misdemeanour court had passed a judgment on 13 March 2023, establishing the misdemeanour liability of the legal entity and the responsible person at the legal entity and imposing fines. The judgment became final on 30 March 2023 and enforceable on 14 April 2023.
61. Numerical data on the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings under Article 388 of the Criminal Code, as well as the data on training of police officers and representatives of judicial authorities in order to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking in human beings, are provided in Annex 3 to this Report.
62. In order to provide a coordinated and coherent response to the needs of migrants in transit through its territory, the Government had adopted a Response plan to the increased number of migrants on the territory of the RS, which is revised annually. In accordance with this Plan, KIRS organizes reception centres where it provides appropriate support to irregular migrants. This support includes emergency accommodation, food, basic non-food items (clothing and personal hygiene items), information, translation, health care, and legal aid from specialized NGOs.
63. As irregular migrants encounter officials for the first time in reception centres, adequate information about their rights and possible solutions to their situation is of utmost importance. To this end, KIRS, in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM, has developed a standard set of information that is appropriately presented to all accommodated persons, including through the holding of informative sessions attended in person by migrants. The materials are translated into the languages most commonly used by migrants, and the centres also provide support by translators

and cultural mediators. Migrants who express a desire to seek asylum are transferred to asylum centres after submitting their application.

64. Special attention is paid to identifying vulnerable categories for which the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection provides for special reception guarantees. These categories include minors, unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, seriously ill persons, persons with mental disorders, as well as persons who have been tortured, raped or exposed to other severe forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence. Vulnerability assessment is mandatory upon admission and throughout the entire stay in the centres. Upon admission, a preliminary assessment is carried out by the reception staff and a physician during the mandatory health check-up. In order to ensure uniform practice, in all centres, a set of indicators developed by the EUAA is used for the preliminary identification of vulnerable categories, which is available as an online application and allows for easy documentation of identified indicators, with full respect for confidentiality and personal data protection. In the event of identification or ground for suspicion, persons with special reception needs are provided with accommodation conditions in accordance with individual needs. These persons are referred to appropriate national protection systems and competent health care, family, legal, child and social welfare services through standard operating procedures.
65. Article 6 of the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection establishes the principle of non-refoulement, and thus provides that no person may be expelled or returned to a territory where his or her life or freedom would be threatened on account of his/her race, gender, language, religion, nationality, membership to a particular social group or political opinion; that, exceptionally, paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to a person who may be reasonably considered to endanger the security of the RS or who has been convicted by a final judgment of a criminal offence punishable under the legislation of the RS by imprisonment for a term of five years or a more severe penalty, due to which he/she poses a threat to public order, and that, regardless of the foregoing, no person may be expelled or returned against his/her will to a territory where there is a risk of him/her being subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
66. Any foreign citizen who is in a situation where, in the event of returning to their country of origin, he/she would be at risk of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, if they are on the territory of the RS, may submit an application for granting asylum, after which the competent authority shall carry out the prescribed procedure and, after assessing the evidence, facts and circumstances of each specific case, decide on the application for granting asylum.
67. Article 83 of the Law on Foreigners stipulates the principle of non-refoulement, i.e. that a foreigner may not be forcibly removed to a territory where he/she would be at risk of persecution because of his/her race, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, religion, nationality, citizenship, membership to a particular social group or political opinion, that the provision of this Article shall not apply to a foreigner who can be reasonably considered to endanger the security of the RS or to a foreigner who has been convicted of a serious criminal offence by a final judgment, due to which he/she poses a threat to public order, and that a foreigner may not be forcibly removed to a territory where there is a risk of him/her being subjected to the death penalty, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or where he/she is threatened with a serious violation of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. It is stipulated that an unaccompanied minor may not be forcibly

removed, unless the competent authority is convinced that the minor will be returned to a family member, guardian or appropriate child care facility.

68. Article 75 of the Law on Foreigners prescribes principles in the return procedure, which ensure that, during the return procedure, the competent authority acts, *inter alia*, in accordance with: the specific situation of particularly vulnerable persons, the family and health status of the person being returned, as well as the best interests of minors, regulations governing the position of persons with disabilities and international treaties, the principle of family unity, in the sense of the unity of all family members present on the territory of the RS. Before reaching a decision on the return of an unaccompanied minor, he/she must be provided with appropriate assistance from the child and youth social protection service, as well as, if necessary during the return procedure, with an interpreter for a language that the foreign national understands or can reasonably be assumed to understand, while the competent authority, at the request of the foreign national, must provide a written translation of the operative part of the decision on return, a translation of the entry ban if one has been issued, and a translation of the instructions on legal remedies in a language that the foreign national understands or can reasonably be assumed to understand.
69. In accordance with the aforementioned, asylum seekers, as well as all other foreign nationals who have been refused entry to the RS, are to be deprived of their liberty exclusively in cases prescribed by the Law on Police, the Law on Misdemeanours and the Criminal Procedure Code.
70. The actions of police officers of the Police Directorate, the Border Police Administration, and even of police officers of the Regional Border Police Centre for Internal Crossings, the Border Police Station "Belgrade" in the transit area of the international airport "Nikola Tesla", are regulated by the Law on Border Control, the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, the Law on Foreigners, the Law on Police, the Law on Air Traffic, as well as other laws and by-laws, which expressly prohibit the expulsion, return or extradition of a person to a country where there are serious reasons to believe that he/she will be exposed to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
71. An appeal may be filed against the decision to refuse entry, which does not have a suspensive effect, unless there are any of the reasons stipulated under Article 83 of the Law on Foreigners, which relate to the principle of non-refoulement.
72. Before reaching a decision to refuse entry to a foreigner into the RS, police officers of the Border Police Station "Belgrade" conduct an interview with the foreigner regarding the circumstances of the return, and the return will not be carried out if it is determined that there is even a minimal indication pointing to a risk of torture or inhuman treatment, in which case the foreigner is allowed entry to the RS.
73. Even if the conditions for refusing entry to a foreigner are met, if the person expresses the intention to seek asylum, he/she shall be allowed to enter the RS, i.e. he/she will be registered, issued a certificate of registration of a foreigner who has expressed the intention to seek asylum, and referred to one of the asylum centres.
74. We note that, following a conducted inspection of the records kept by the Ministry of the Interior, it was found that the majority of persons who expressed their intention to seek asylum at border

crossings or in the airport transit zone, and who were registered for such purpose, did not report to the asylum centre after entering the country, nor did they submit an asylum application.

75. The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection guarantees the right of asylum seekers to be informed, in a language they understand or can reasonably be assumed to understand, about their rights and obligations in the asylum procedure, material reception conditions, organizations that provide assistance to asylum seekers, and available protection mechanisms, in case of vulnerable categories.
76. In practice, when expressing their intention to seek asylum and at the asylum centre, the asylum seekers are given information brochures in multiple languages (Arabic, Dari, Pashto, Urdu, English, French, etc.), and during the interview by officers of the Asylum Office and representatives of the CSOs, with the help of an interpreter, they are provided with oral explanations and legal orientations, while UNHCR and IOM have developed software for mobile devices and information materials available via the internet and QR codes at asylum centres and at all major border crossings.
77. In addition to the right to information, an asylum seeker who does not understand the official language of the procedure has the right to free translation into his/her native language, i.e. a language he/she understands, as well as the right to free legal aid, which includes legal advice, drafting submissions, representation before authorities, and filing of complaints and lawsuits.
78. The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection stipulates that the Government, upon the proposal of the ministry responsible for foreign affairs, adopts a Decision establishing the List of Safe Countries of Origin. However, the aforementioned decision has not been made so far, so when applying the concept of a safe country of origin, as well as the concept of a safe third country, each request is considered separately, whereby it is assessed whether a country meets the prescribed conditions for a safe country of origin or a safe third country, as well as whether, in the case of applying the concept of a safe third country, there is a connection between that country and the asylum seeker, on the basis of which it can be reasonably expected that he/she will seek asylum there. The asylum seeker shall be informed in a timely manner of the application of the concept of a safe country of origin or a safe third country (depending on the circumstances of the specific case), in order to enable him/her, taking into account his/her personal circumstances, to challenge the application of that concept.
79. The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection provides for the continuous identification of vulnerable persons by the competent authorities, at the earliest after the initiation of the asylum procedure, i.e. the expression of the intention to submit an asylum application, as well as the implementation of appropriate protection measures throughout the procedure and stay. After expressing his/her intention, the person is referred to one of the reception centres or asylum centres, where the KIRS conducts a more detailed vulnerability assessment, through interview and observation, and decides on appropriate accommodation and access to services (e.g. medical assistance, psychological support, special conditions for women with children, etc.). For particularly vulnerable groups (e.g. unaccompanied minors, victims of torture and/or human trafficking), the Centres for Social Work are involved to appoint temporary guardians, as well as

CSOs that assist in identification and provide additional services such as legal aid, psychosocial assistance, translation, etc.

80. In cases of extradition of accused and convicted persons, the competent authorities of the RS pay special attention to cases in which there is a risk that the requested person will be subjected to torture in the country requesting his/her extradition.
81. Data on the number of extraditions and refusals of extradition in the reporting period are provided in Annex 4 to this Report.
82. The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection stipulates that in the procedures for granting and terminating the right to asylum, the procedure is conducted and all decisions are made by the Asylum Office, an organizational unit of the Ministry of the Interior within the Border Police Directorate responsible for asylum matters. The aforementioned Article of the Law also stipulates that the officers of the Asylum Office do not belong to the uniformed staff. Since the last report, the number of officers at the Office has increased, and currently has a sufficient number of officers to efficiently conduct the asylum procedure. The occupancy rate of the Asylum Office is now 92%.
83. In the previous period, when amending the law, issues of direct court revision of decisions of the Asylum Office were considered; however, there was no room for amendments in this regard by the Ministry of Justice, as well as by the Administrative Court, due to the limited capacities (in terms of personnel, technical terms, etc.) of the judicial authorities.
84. More detailed information on the training of police officers and other persons performing tasks relevant to migration management in respect of international refugee and international human rights law is provided in Annex 5 to this Report.
85. Given that the competent authorities have recognized the problem with regard to the efficiency of the asylum procedure and the expertise of the Asylum Commission, as a second-instance authority, the text of the draft of the new Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection identifies the composition of the Commission as one of the priority issues that needs to be resolved, and one of the proposals is that the Asylum Commission be composed of representatives of the Ministries responsible for the following: protection of human and minority rights, family welfare, public administration, education and labour, as well as one member from among the representatives of CSOs dealing with issues of asylum, migration or protection of human rights, and that the president of the Asylum Commission and the secretary be appointed from the Ministry responsible for judiciary.
86. This composition of the second-instance authority would overcome the problem of issues of fairness, efficiency, and expertise in regards to international refugee and human rights laws. The issue of reorganizing the Administrative Court and forming a special Department that will deal with the protection of human rights remains open, which is one of the first conditions for the realization of full harmonization with the EU *acquis*.
87. All cases of reported abuse, including information received from asylum seekers or migrants regarding abuse by police officers, are investigated by the Internal Control Sector of the Ministry

of the Interior upon order of the Public Prosecutor's Office, in accordance with the Instructions on the Methodology for Conducting Investigations in Cases of Abuse by the Police.

88. In the reporting period, only 1 asylum seeker was extradited, but only after the asylum procedure was legally terminated with reaching a negative decision. There are currently 5 extradition cases pending, with the decision being delayed until a decision is made on the asylum application.

89. The RS, in cooperation with the IOM, is implementing the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme as the most preferred option for persons whose stay cannot be regulated. Participation in the Programme is based on a voluntary, informed decision. In addition, AVRR advisors assess conditions in the country of origin, security, access to rights and the possibility of reintegration, and inform potential returnees accordingly. The basic prerequisite for inclusion in the Programme is safety in the country of origin. Although the numbers are not large, it is important that every person has the opportunity to return to their country in a dignified manner, if the conditions for such a return exist, and to be informed about this.

90. In the period from 1 January 2022 until the end of August 2025, a total of 368 people returned to their countries of origin through the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme.

91. When deciding on extradition requests, the guarantees provided are taken into account.

92. The statistical data on the number of decisions on the termination of short-term stay, decisions on return, approval of temporary stay for humanitarian reasons, and statistical data from the scope of competence of the Asylum Office are provided in Annex 6 to this Report.

93. Regarding the implementation of the Committee's decision in the case of *Cevdet Ayaz v. Serbia*, we would like to inform you that we have no additional information in relation to the information we provided to you in our letter of 10 November 2020.

94. Since July 2011, the RS has no more persons indicted by ICTY for war crimes who are at large. During the period of cooperation with the ICTY, the RS had handed over 45 of the 46 persons indicted for war crimes to the Tribunal whose surrender was requested from Serbia by the Tribunal, while one person indicted for war crimes had passed away before surrender.

95. Following the inclusion of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (hereinafter: "IRMCT"), which began submitting its requests in 2016, and in particular the dissolution of the ICTY in December 2017, IRMCT requests were regularly submitted to the Ministry of Justice. So far, more than 2,000 documents spanning thousands of pages have been submitted to IRMCT.

- None of the requests from the Office of the Prosecutor and the defence of the defendants to access the archives were rejected.
- All witnesses in respect of whom the Office of the Prosecutor and the defence requested to be exempted from the obligation of confidentiality, in order to enable them to give their testimony in proceedings before the ICTY/IRMCT, have been exempted from the obligation of confidentiality.

- All requests from the ICTY/IRMCT for the service of court summons and other documents to persons on the territory of the RS have been complied with.
- All requests from the ICTY/IRMCT to provide protection to witnesses located in the territory over which the RS authorities have jurisdiction have been complied with.
- The conditions under which the defendants were released on provisional release were respected without fail, and in all cases the defendants were returned to the ICTY/IRMCT in accordance with the decisions of the trial chambers.
- Finally – the most important thing is that all proceedings before the IRMCT have been completed, and that all judgments of the ICTY/IRMCT have been entered into the criminal records in the RS.

96. The obligation of the RS to surrender those accused of contempt of court, as well as any other criminal offence that might be provided for in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, is not prescribed by either the ICTY Statute nor by the Law on Cooperation of the RS with the ICTY. The obligation to arrest and surrender persons refers to criminal offences of serious violations of international humanitarian law, which are expressly provided for as such by the ICTY Statute. Article 29, paragraph 1 of the Statute stipulates that States must cooperate with the ICTY in the investigation and prosecution of persons accused of committing serious violations of international humanitarian law. These obligations have so far been fully complied with by the RS. For the aforementioned reason, the Higher Court in Belgrade had decided in 2016 that there were no legal grounds for the arrest and surrender of the following individuals (Jović and Radeta), because the national law on cooperation with the Hague Tribunal provides for the obligation to surrender those accused of war crimes, but not for contempt of court.

97. The RS, through its judicial authorities, has intensive cooperation with the IRMCT through cases formed on the basis of evidence transferred to the national judiciary by the IRMCT, which cases are being heard before the competent War Crimes Department of the Higher Court in Belgrade.

98. During 2022, the Office of the Prosecutor of the IRMCT had submitted to the PPOWC investigative files on two persons suspected of war crimes, based on which investigations were initiated in two cases. For the purposes of working on these cases, a Working Group was formed consisting of representatives of the PPOWC and the Office of the Prosecutor of the IRMCT, within which several working meetings were held. In one of the cases, the investigation was suspended due to the death of the suspect.

99. The field of human rights is represented in several teaching subjects and professional modules at the Ministry of the Interior, among which the subject "Community Policing, Human Rights and the Code of Police Ethics" occupies a special role.

100. Teaching contents related to the protection of human rights and freedoms is also covered within the subject: Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Police officers: rights, obligations and duties, as well as by professional modules: Crime Suppression and Application of Police Powers and Use of Coercive Means.

101. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Interior have concluded a Cooperation Agreement, signed on 31 October 2024, with the aim of strengthening and improving the right to health of

brought and detained persons. In accordance with the said Agreement, the Ministry of Health has accredited the first category course "Strengthening the protection of the right to health of persons deprived of liberty". The course was attended by 400 participants, including physicians and police officers, and was implemented in the period May/June 2025. The drafting of an Annex to the aforementioned Agreement is in progress, which will extend its application to reception centres for foreigners in order to strengthen the right to health of beneficiaries and better insight and control of diseases on the territory of the RS from an epidemiological point of view.

102. The AEPS Centre for Professional Training and Development continuously conducts training in accordance with the curriculum. Training is regularly conducted for trainees and members of all ranks in the security service. An integral part of regular training for members of the security service is familiarization with international conventions, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the European Prison Rules, as well as domestic regulations governing this matter.
103. The Centre for Professional Training and Development has developed a Manual for the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in institutions and for conducting efficient investigation and documentation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the Guidelines for the conduct of employees in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions in cases of allegations of abuse were developed, which detail international standards in this area, as well as domestic legislation, including procedures for action in such institutions and the obligation to inform the Public Prosecutor's Office of any abuse *ex officio*. Trainings for multidisciplinary teams on the implementation of the aforementioned manuals and guidelines are held regularly.
104. All penal correctional institutions provide continuous training for security guards on the prevention of torture based on the manual developed by the Training Centre, titled "Prevention of torture and the use of coercive measures, conditions and procedures for the correct application of coercive measures and special training for verbal techniques on how to calm down violent and agitated convicts", skills that enable the minimal use of coercive measures, prevention techniques and escalation skills.
105. The plan of the AEPS Centre for Professional Training and Development for 2025/2026 is based on the continuation of basic, professional and continuous training of security service employees in all penal correctional institutes, and will include new employees and employees who are taking the exam for promotion in the service.
106. A Manual for the work of healthcare workers in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions has been drafted, which enables the standardization of procedures and the implementation of unified records and protocols in all such institutions. The Manual contains both legal and medical standards regarding monitoring specific indicators in prisons such as: performing the first medical check-up, medical check-up after the application of coercive measures, self-harm, suicide attempts, violence between persons deprived of liberty, psychological and physical torture, isolation, fixation, etc. Training was held on the implementation of the Manual for the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in institutions and for conducting efficient investigation and documentation of torture and

other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Manual for the work of healthcare workers for administrators, heads of services and physicians in penal correctional institutions.

107. As part of the project "Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in the RS", Phase II, in 2022, the MLEVSA, in cooperation with the Office of the Council of Europe in Belgrade, had organized training for employees of social welfare institutions on the treatment of persons placed in residential homes. The trainings were organized in Veliki Popovac, Stara Moravica and Starnica. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the general standards of the Council of Europe regarding the protection of the rights of persons held in these institutions, the compliance of domestic regulations with international standards, the recommendations of the CPT, the mandate and methodology of the work of the NPM, and its recommendations addressed to social welfare institutions of residential type.
108. More detailed information on training programmes for police officers, prison security officers and KIRS officers on the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is provided in Annex 7 to this Report.
109. In order to prevent torture of citizens administered by police officers, the Ministry of the Interior has formed a Commission for the Implementation of Standards of Police Treatment in the Field of Torture Prevention.
110. The Commission has a mandate identical to that of the CPT, with the task of, in accordance with the obligations assumed by the RS by ratifying the Convention against Torture and other international legal instruments, implementing the recommendations of international bodies in respect of the practice of the MoI, exercising control and supervision of cases with elements of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment carried out by police officers, proposing teaching content and participating in the implementation of trainings, exercising supervision over the implementation of the act regulating the treatment of brought and detained persons, and carrying out other activities in order to promote and protect the rights of arrested, detained and brought persons and minors.
111. As part of the CoE project "Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in the RS", in which the Ministry of the Interior has been participating since 2017, the existing electronic records of brought and detained persons were improved during the reporting period, an Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health was adopted, and a "Manual for collecting information and conducting hearings in pre-investigation procedures" was drafted, in connection with which, in cooperation with the CoE, several seminars on the topic "Interrogation in pre-investigation procedures" were organized in 2025 for those police officers who will be trainers for other police officers in the implementation of this topic in their organizational units in the coming period.
112. Based on the recommendations of the CPT and the NPM, the MoI and the SPPO are considering the possibility of introducing the practice of audio/video recording of interrogations of suspects (Article 236 of the CPC), not only for criminal offenses under Article 162 of the CPC (offenses for

which a special law stipulates that the public prosecutor's office with special jurisdiction shall act), but also for other criminal offenses.

113. In all institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions, detainees are separated from convicted persons, minors from adults, as well as men from women.

114. Detailed statistical data on the occupancy of prison facilities are provided in Annex 8 to this Report.

115. By building new and rehabilitating the existing facilities of penal correctional institutions, the capacity for accommodating persons deprived of their liberty has been expanded to 11,951 units, while there are currently 11,230 persons deprived of their liberty in penal correctional institutions. Therefore, overcrowding has been significantly reduced and the living conditions for persons deprived of their liberty have been improved. In addition to the results achieved in terms of developing the system of alternative sanctions, as well as expanding the capacities for accommodating persons deprived of their liberty, it is important to emphasize that solving the problem of overcrowding was also influenced by more efficient implementation of programmes regarding the treatment of convicted persons, the introduction of new specialized treatment programmes, as well as by conditional release of convicted persons.

116. In addition to the fact that, in quantitative terms, the capacities exceed the current needs, in terms of the total number of persons deprived of their liberty, there is still an uneven workload which is reflected in the higher occupancy of closed-type institutions compared to other types of institutions. In this sense, this type of penal correctional institutions is on the priority list for the adaptation of existing and construction of new facilities, in accordance with the AP.

117. In terms of improving the implementation of alternative sanctions and measures in the observed period, progress was achieved in the technical segment, organizational structure and administrative capacities of the Department for the Treatment and Enforcement of Non-Custodial Sanctions and Measures.

118. In order to improve the Department's technical capacities, a total of 3,000 electronic monitoring units were purchased. Within the new unified information system at AEPS, significant progress has been made in terms of records and file management of convicted persons in the area of enforcement of non-custodial sanctions and measures.

119. Individual and group work is applied to juvenile perpetrators through specialized programmes: general cognitive behavioural programme, programme for perpetrators of violent crimes, and programme for drug and alcohol addicts. Piloting of new treatment programmes (life skills, assertiveness training, and prevention of self-aggressive behaviour) is in progress. The following educational workshops are being implemented: prevention of drug addiction, communication skills, resisting negative peer pressure, anger management, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and contraception, housing, clothing and nutrition culture, preparation for the post-penal period (job search, preparation of personal documents and information about individuals and institutions that can provide assistance in this process), prevention of alcoholism. Juveniles are constantly available

to educators who implement the planned programme of treatment, which has a positive impact on creating a relationship of trust and the successful implementation of the programme.

120. Regular educational activities for minor wards take place in all departments of the Correctional Home. Classes are held daily and without interruptions in the Intensive Work Department, in accordance with the organization of life and work in that department. Teaching is conducted according to the curriculum for functional primary education of adults, divided into three cycles so that the student completes primary school in three years. After completing primary school, the wards are allowed to continue their education through secondary education. The wards attend high school as part-time students, i.e. through online classes.

121. Sports and recreational activities are carried out inside the pavilion and outside. A gym is also available to the wards. Work is also organized in sections, in accordance with the interests of the wards: arts, literary and chess sections. Tournaments are also organized through competitions in sports disciplines and board games. A post-educational life preparation programme is implemented in respect of wards who are in the final phase of implementing the educational measure, which includes training for practical life situations they will encounter upon release from the juvenile home.

122. The Law on Juvenile Perpetrators of Criminal Offences and Criminal Protection of Minors prohibits the placement of minors in solitary confinement. A disciplinary measure that may be imposed on a minor is the isolation of two or more minors in a separate room for a maximum period of 7 days. Regular educational activities intended for wards take place during the enforcement of this measure through holding regular classes, exam preparation, and facilitating the taking of exams.

123. In accordance with the provisions of the LECS, a convicted woman who has a child may keep the child until the end of her sentence, and at the latest until the child reaches the age of two, after which the child's parents decide, by mutual agreement, whether to entrust the child to the father, other relatives or other persons for care. A special department for maternity and mothers with children has been organized at the penal correctional institution for women. Women with children are provided with daily assistance and support within the said institution. The institution has made it possible for children, with the consent of their parents, to stay during the day in a preschool institution within the local self-government.

124. For the elderly, special attention is paid to accommodation conditions that are adequate to their health needs, as well as to special programmes that are adapted to their capacities and needs.

125. In order to improve the treatment of the LGBT population in penal correctional institutions, training was organized for employees with the aim of recognizing specific needs, preventing violence, and providing protection measures for this category of persons. Convicted persons in penal correctional institutions are allowed to participate in a gender reassignment programme implemented within the Clinical Centre of Serbia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

126. Convicted persons are provided with access to various types of education, professional development, and training for multiple professional occupations. The Administration has concluded contracts with several educational institutions to provide certified training for various trades. Based

on successful cooperation with the Ministry responsible for education, convicted persons are enabled to partake in functional primary and secondary adult education programmes. During this period, the number of employed convicted persons had also increased, given that there is great interest, although work represents only the right, but not an obligation, of the convicted person. Convicted persons are employed while serving their sentence in various workshops (tailoring, carpentry, auto mechanics, metalworking, etc.).

127. The AEPS, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and in accordance with the Strategy for the Development of the System of Enforcement of Penal Sanctions in the RS, implements measures and activities aimed at improving health care in prisons. Rehabilitations and adaptations have been carried out in part of the space intended for providing health care in penal correctional institutions. The procurement of medicines and medical equipment was organized in cooperation with the National Health Insurance Fund. Persons deprived of their liberty are guaranteed the right to health care in accordance with the Law governing general health care. Health care is provided within the penal correctional institution itself, the Special Prison Hospital, as well as within specialized healthcare institutions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. Training for healthcare professionals in the system of enforcement of penal sanctions has been organized and, in accordance with funding opportunities, the number of healthcare personnel is increasing.
128. A Manual for the work of healthcare workers in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions has been drafted, which enables the standardization of procedures and the implementation of unified records and medical protocols in all such institutions. The Manual includes protocols, from the first medical check-up after admission to the medical check-up before discharge from the penal correctional institution, and contains forms for maintaining health records, in accordance with international standards.
129. In accordance with the Law on Personal Data Protection, data from the medical records of detained persons are considered as sensitive data, so medical documentation is not included in the case files of the detained person, but is handed over to the detained person.
130. The Strategy prescribes the improvement of the infrastructure intended for health care in the system of enforcement of penal sanctions, with the aim of further humanizing the conditions of enforcement of prison sentences, primarily for persons who face mental disorders in prison or have been sentenced to the security measure of mandatory psychiatric treatment and custody in a healthcare institution. In this regard, a feasibility study was prepared for the construction of a new prison hospital in Padinska Skela, along with a conceptual design for this penal correctional institution, in accordance with European standards.
131. The disciplinary measure of solitary confinement is imposed in exceptional cases, only for serious disciplinary offences, and cannot last longer than 15 days. A medical check-up is mandatory prior to enforcement of the disciplinary measure of solitary confinement, so it cannot be carried out on persons with psychological or intellectual difficulties if such a measure would worsen their health condition. During the enforcement of the disciplinary measure of solitary confinement, the convicted person may read and write, and has the right to stay outside the room in the fresh air for at least one hour a day, the medical check-up of the convicted person is mandatory at least once a day, and the warden of the penal correctional institution and the educator are obliged to visit the

person in solitary confinement at least once a week. The warden of the penal correctional institution shall suspend the enforcement of the disciplinary measure of solitary confinement if he assesses that the disciplinary measure has achieved its purpose even before its expiration. The warden of the penal correctional institution must terminate the enforcement of the disciplinary measure of solitary confinement if, according to a written opinion of a prison physician, continued solitary confinement would endanger the health of the convicted person. The average duration of solitary confinement is 7 days.

132. Solitary confinement, as well as accommodation under enhanced supervision, are subject to independent oversight mechanisms by the NPM and the judge for the enforcement of criminal sanctions.
133. Numerical data on the enforcement of non-custodial sanctions and measures, the data on investments by the Ministry of the Interior and the AEPS (construction, expansion and rehabilitation of facilities for accommodation of detainees and prisoners), as well as the data on the capacities of the Ministry of the Interior for accommodation of persons in police custody are provided in Annex 9 to this Report.
134. In any case, where there are grounds to suspect that the death of a detained person is a consequence of a possibly committed criminal offence, the competent public prosecutor is obliged to initiate criminal prosecution and, during the investigation, take all evidence gathering actions and measures that enable the collection and provision of evidence of a possibly committed criminal offence, in accordance with the CPC and the Methodology for Conducting Investigations in Cases of Abuse by the Police.
135. The Public Prosecutor's Office orders an autopsy in all cases where death had occurred in prison. If, following a conducted autopsy, there are grounds to suspect that a death in prison had occurred as a consequence of commission of a criminal offence, the Public Prosecutor's Office shall initiate proceedings *ex officio*.
136. In cooperation with the Council of Europe, the AEPS has developed a Manual for the work of healthcare workers in prisons, which includes a multidisciplinary approach in the part related to monitoring specific indicators in prisons, such as: prevention of suicide, self-harm, deaths, isolation, fixation, etc. The aforementioned Manual provides for procedures to be undertaken following the death of a person deprived of liberty, and introduces an obligation for the institution to obtain an autopsy report from the Public Prosecutor's Office that ordered the autopsy, in order to conduct an internal analysis of the cause of death of a person deprived of liberty. The AEPS Centre for Professional Training and Development had immediately organized additional training for employees of the penal correctional institution on the following topics: "Guidelines for the conduct of employees in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions in the event of allegations of abuse" and "Prevention of abuse and the use of coercive measures in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions". The aim of the training is to train employees to recognize victims of all forms of violence, and to convey a clear message to employees that abuse in any form is prohibited by law and punishable.

137. In accordance with the measures prescribed by the Strategy, and based on the recommendation of the CPT, the AEPS had conducted training for heads of security services and treatment services in penal correctional institutions on the topic "Conduct of employees in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions in cases of allegations of abuse (causes and measures for preventing excessive use of coercive measures and violence among persons deprived of their liberty)".

138. With the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, AEPS has developed Guidelines on the conduct of employees in case of allegations of abuse, which regulate the procedures in the penal correctional institution in the event of reporting allegations of torture and the obligation to initiate proceedings *ex officio* if there are indications of possible abuse in the institution. The said Guidelines refer to the investigation of allegations of abuse, which may be made by a prisoner, lawyer, physician, visitor, but also to the situation when no one has made allegations of abuse, but there are indications that physical or psychological torture by officials or other persons deprived of their liberty has occurred. Allegations of abuse committed by an employee are examined in the same way as abuse by another person deprived of liberty, with the proviso that, in the latter case, it must also be examined whether the official took all the necessary measures to prevent the abuse from occurring.

139. A multidisciplinary approach is applied in work, the employee training on the prevention of violence in penal correctional institutions includes the basics of dynamic security, necessary treatment work, the role of the healthcare service and mandatory actions of institution employees in cases of possible violence. A multidisciplinary approach to solving the problem of violence between prisoners also includes representatives of the treatment service who implement introductory treatment programmes for perpetrators of violent acts and aggressive behaviour control programmes.

140. The Administration conducts training on the implementation of the Guidelines on the conduct of employees in the event of allegations of abuse, the Manual for the work of healthcare workers in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions, and the Manual for the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol for the investigation and documentation of cases of torture, for wardens, treatment officers, and physicians. Special workshops for wardens were held with the aim of regularly monitoring and responding to indications of possible occurrence of violence in prisons, as well as for determining, in each specific case of inter-prisoner violence, whether there was a failure in the actions of employees and initiating disciplinary proceedings, i.e. criminal proceedings.

141. Bearing in mind the actions taken in connection with the decision of the Committee against Torture in the case of *Jasmina Čubrilov and Others v. the RS*, the Ministry of the Interior had acted in accordance with item 9(c) of the Decision, and on 6 June 2022., the decision of the UN Committee was published on the website of the Ministry of the Interior, with all police officers having been informed about it. In relation to item 9(b) of the aforementioned Decision, in order to document all facts that are important for the efficient protection of all rights of brought and detained persons during 2022, the electronic record of brought and detained persons has been improved in the part relating to the entry of mandatory facts into the Record of Detention of Persons, primarily regarding the time of notification of the defence counsel, the time of access of the defence counsel to the official premises and the time when the defence counsel was allowed to interview the detained person.

142. Numerical data on the place, cause and year of death of a person deprived of its liberty, on conflicts between persons deprived of their liberty in prisons and penal correctional facilities, as well as the data on deaths during police custody are provided in Annex 10 to this Report.

143. In the RS, the law does not provide for asylum seekers to be detained during the asylum procedure, except in cases where asylum seekers are in the process of extradition, in accordance with a request from the country of origin or a third country, or if they have committed a criminal offence on the territory of the RS, in accordance with a decision of the competent court. Bearing in mind that the facilities intended for the accommodation and reception of asylum seekers in the RS are not of closed-type, asylum seekers enjoy complete freedom of movement.

144. Based on the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, an asylum seeker's movement may be restricted in exceptional cases when it is necessary for:

- establishing the asylum seeker's identity or citizenship;
- establishing essential facts, evidence and circumstances on which the asylum application is based, which cannot be established without restricting the asylum seeker's movement, especially if there is a risk of absconding;
- ensuring the presence of the asylum seeker in the asylum procedure when it can be reasonably assumed that the asylum application was submitted in order to avoid deportation;
- protection of the security of the RS and public order in accordance with the law;
- deciding, within the asylum procedure, on the asylum seeker's right to enter the territory of the RS.

145. Movement restrictions are implemented:

- by prohibiting leave from the asylum centre, a specific address, or a specific area;
- by regularly reporting at a specified time to the local police department, or police station, according to the place of residence;
- by ordering a stay at a reception centre for foreigners, established in accordance with the law regulating the stay of foreigners, under increased police supervision;
- by determining residence in a social welfare institution for minors, with enhanced supervision;
- by temporary seizure of a travel document.

146. The measure referred to in item 3), which involves staying at a reception centre for foreigners under increased police surveillance, may be imposed only if it is determined, through an individual assessment, that other, milder measures cannot achieve the purpose of movement restriction.

147. The restriction of movement of an asylum seeker may last for a maximum of 3 months, and in exceptional cases may be extended for an additional 3 months. An appeal against the decision on restriction of movement may be filed with the competent higher court within eight days from the date of serving the decision.

148. When an asylum seeker is suspected of having a vulnerability related to victims of torture, a specific multi-sectoral procedure for identification, protection and support is initiated, which involves early identification - vulnerability can be revealed when expressing the intention to seek asylum, during stay in an asylum centre/reception centre or during an interview in the asylum procedure. The entities who can recognize indicators of torture are: police, KIRS, Asylum Office, Centres for Social Work, NGOs and international organizations. The indicators include: visible physical injuries (scars, injuries, burns, damage to teeth, hearing, etc.) and psychological changes and conditions (anxiety, depression, irritability, sudden attacks of panic and fear, post-traumatic stress disorder).

149. If an asylum seeker is found to be a victim of torture, he/she may be granted asylum if there is a risk of re-victimization in his/her country of origin. The asylum procedure is conducted with special procedural guarantees: re-victimization is avoided, the interview is conducted under special conditions (e.g., adjusted terms, longer and more frequent breaks) and the case is considered as a priority.

150. During the asylum procedure, the competent authorities act in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the minor, as well as in accordance with the principle of family unity.

151. The legislative framework does not prescribe the possibility of depriving a child, or any other person, of liberty solely because of their migration status or the status of their parent.

152. During 2022, 5 decisions were made on the restriction of movement (Iran 1, Kyrgyzstan 1 and Syria 3); during 2023, 1 decision was made on the restriction of movement (Afghanistan); while during 2024, 6 decisions were made on the restriction of movement (Afghanistan 2, Russian Federation 1, Syria 1, Turkey 1, Sweden 1); during 2025 (in the period from 1 January until 1 August) there were no decisions on the restriction of movement. All decisions concerned adult males.

153. There are five Centres for Mental Health (CMH) in the RS for community-based rehabilitation services and outpatient care programmes, while the planning of the network of CMHs for the RS is in progress.

154. In the RS, the only regulation that applies is the Rulebook on Conditions for the Application of Physical Restraints and Isolation of Persons with Mental Disabilities Treated in Psychiatric Institutions.

155. In the RS, the following is non-existent and is not applied: "coercive medical treatments and medical interventions, including forced sterilization, on persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities without their free, prior and informed consent".

156. In January 2022, at the proposal of the MLEVSA, the Government had adopted the Strategy for deinstitutionalization and development of community-based social welfare services 2021-2026. The Strategy should contribute to the improvement of the social welfare system through a harmonized system of measures, conditions and public policy instruments that the RS should implement in order

to reduce the number of citizens using residential care services, as well as to enable the development of community-based services, which will contribute to ensuring that beneficiaries of the social welfare system, who need more intensive support, meeting most of their needs in the natural environment. It is primarily aimed at persons with intellectual and mental disabilities, who are at the greatest risk of institutionalization and social exclusion.

157. In relation to the regulatory framework, based on Article 35 of the Law on Social Welfare, the beneficiary has the right to participate in the assessment of his/her condition and needs and in deciding whether to accept the service, as well as to receive all the information he/she needs in a timely manner, including the description, purpose and benefits of the proposed service, as well as information about available alternative services and other information of importance for the provision of the service. No service may be provided without the beneficiary's consent, except in cases specified by law.

158. Social welfare institutions have mandatory prescribed procedures for filing complaints by beneficiaries, defined mandatory procedures for applying restrictive procedures and measures towards beneficiaries, and have established an internal team of employees responsible for dealing with cases of violence against beneficiaries.

159. In order to prevent abuse and neglect of beneficiaries of social welfare services, the Rulebook on Prohibited Actions of Employees in Social Protection, as well as the Instruction on Actions in Incidental Situations, are still in force. In a social welfare institution, i.e. at social welfare service provider, an employee is prohibited from any form of violence against a beneficiary, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, exploitation of a beneficiary, abuse of trust or power enjoyed in relation to a beneficiary, neglecting a beneficiary and other actions that violate the health and dignity of the beneficiary and the development of the child. Acting contrary to these prohibitions is considered a breach of the employee's official duty within the meaning of the law regulating labour. The Rulebook on Prohibited Actions of Employees defines in more detail what is considered a prohibited action within the meaning of this Law.

160. Social welfare institutions for accommodation of beneficiaries with intellectual and mental disabilities have adopted an internal procedure for implementing procedures and measures for restricting movement, isolation or controlling the behaviour of beneficiaries. The institution prescribes a procedure, designates a person (an institution's physician or a specialist physician from a healthcare institution) responsible for approving restrictive procedures and measures, and keeps records of their implementation in accordance with the Law on Protection of Persons with Mental Illness. The competent Ministry, through the control mechanism, the Department for Inspection Supervision, also supervises the work of institutions in part concerning the acting in accordance with the internal procedure, in order to protect the rights and interests of accommodated beneficiaries. Any deviation and gross violation of rights of beneficiaries may lead to revoking the licence of the service provider, by which the permission to perform social welfare activity is granted. The Ministry, with the aim of supervising and improving the system, carries out expert supervision and inspection supervision, while social welfare institutions provide supervisory support for the adoption of new, more modern concepts and assist in resolving specific, professionally demanding situations in which a social welfare institution may find itself. Social welfare institutions for the accommodation of beneficiaries provide health care services under the conditions and with the

application of standards established in accordance with the law regulating health care. The procedure for prescribing and dispensing medicine, including psychiatric therapy, is regulated by the Health Insurance Act and the Rulebook on the Method of Prescribing and Dispensing Medicine. The head of the healthcare sector (a physician from the institution) is responsible for implementing and complying with healthcare regulations and procedures, as well as for strictly adhering to the procedure for prescribing psychiatric medications by a specialist psychiatrist from the referring healthcare institution responsible for diagnosing and treating a specific beneficiary, if the institution does not have an employed psychiatrist.

161. The regulatory framework in this area has been further strengthened by the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation in Social Welfare Institutions.

162. In 2023, the implementation of two projects under IPA 2020 had commenced, focusing on the deinstitutionalization and transformation of social welfare institutions. One of the results of IPA 2020 will be the General Plan for the Transformation of Social Welfare Institutions, as well as five pilot plans for the transformation of institutions for accommodation of persons with disabilities. Some of the results will be: a developed capacity building programme, consisting of trainings for strengthening local capacities for establishing housing support services for people with disabilities and foster care for adults as alternatives to residential care, educational activities with a focus on personal planning, concepts of deinstitutionalization, restoring work capacity and regulating the legal status of beneficiaries, launched national and local campaigns aimed at increasing social awareness of deinstitutionalization, training for the implementation of the General Plan for the Transformation of other residential institutions not covered by this project, etc. The project shall run until 2026, and activities will also aim to improve the performance of the social welfare system in order to create a supportive environment for high-quality community-based social services and improve their availability throughout the country, non-institutional support and the active inclusion of vulnerable groups in the labour market.

163. Statistical data on persons to whom institutionalization measures were applied are provided in Annex 11 to this Report.

164. All of the aforementioned issues will be covered by the new Law on Juvenile Perpetrators of Criminal Offences and Criminal Protection of Minors. The public hearing phase has been completed. The text will also be submitted to the European Commission for its opinion. A further legislative procedure will then be carried out in order to adopt the law. We would like to emphasize that this is not the final text, and that it is subject to change in accordance with the comments of the European Commission. The law is scheduled to be adopted by the end of the year.

165. The measure of detention against a minor, pursuant to the provision of Article 67 of the Law on Juvenile Perpetrators of Criminal Offences and Criminal Protection of Minors (hereinafter: "LJ") applies exceptionally, while the duration of detention in the preliminary proceedings is limited to a maximum of 2 months, while after the completion of the preliminary proceedings, from the submission of a proposal for the imposition of a criminal sanction, the detention in respect of an older minor may last for a maximum of 6 months, and in case of a younger minor for a maximum of 4 months, and from the imposition of an educational measure of referral to a correctional home

and from the imposition of a sentence of juvenile detention, detention for a minor may last for a maximum of 6 months. The assumption for imposing a detention measure in respect of a minor is that the purpose for which the detention was imposed cannot be achieved by the measure of temporary placement of the minor under Article 66, paragraph 1 of the LJ, which provides for placement in a shelter, educational or similar institution, placement under the supervision of a guardianship authority or placement in another family. These legal provisions are consistently applied in practice, and special attention is paid to international standards in this area, including the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) and the UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines). Within this framework, special importance is given to the goals of juvenile justice as stipulated in the Beijing Rules, namely the promotion of the well-being of juveniles and the principle of proportionality, so that the imposition of detention is a measure of last resort and applied only in exceptional cases. Accordingly, in the last four years, a constant and particularly careful assessment of all circumstances which may influence the decision to detain a minor has been carried out. In this sense, the focus has been placed on the extremely restrictive application of this measure towards minors, and it is precisely this approach that has yielded noticeable results in terms of the number of cases of imposing detention on minors and the length of its duration in the last four-year period.

166. In recent years, concrete progress has been made in improving the rights of children who come into contact with the justice system and social welfare.
167. The RISP has implemented a project related to improving the implementation of diversion orders with the aim of improving the practice of implementing diversion orders, by respecting the standards and procedures for their implementation and by establishing better cooperation in this area at the local level.
168. In the Register of Accredited Training Programmes maintained by the RISP, there are three programmes whose content relates to diversion orders and which are intended for the training of professional workers in their implementation. One of them is directly aimed at improving the competencies of professional workers in the application of standards and procedures for the implementation of diversion orders: "The role of CSWs and other providers of social welfare services in the implementation of diversion orders". The other two programmes are thematically close to this area and indirectly contribute to a more efficient implementation of diversion orders: "Findings and opinions of guardianship authorities in criminal proceedings against minors" - this programme has been attended by 232 professionals so far. Guidelines under the same title have also been printed, and are available on the RISP website in electronic form. "Empowering professionals in Centres for Social Work for work with children and youth in conflict with the law" - this programme does not directly deal with the implementation of diversion orders, but is closely related to this area and sensitizes professionals for work with children and youth with behavioural problems and who are in conflict with the law. This programme has been attended by 277 professionals from the CSWs so far.
169. The "Reintegration of juveniles into the social environment" programme was created and accredited, within which the Intensive Model of Juvenile Reintegration was presented with a special emphasis on the formation of a community-based support team. This programme's target group

includes not only children in conflict with the law, but also all minors returning to the social environment from institutional placement.

170. In the Register of Accredited Programmes, there is a programme titled "Training programme for taking statements from children and young victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings" intended for this target group. The said programme contributes to improving knowledge and skills, reducing secondary victimization of children, and understanding the position of children in criminal proceedings.

171. The RISP has thus far implemented a number of other projects aimed at the beneficiary group of children in conflict with the law:

- "Non-institutional treatment of children and youth with behavioural disorders"
- "Improving the implementation of diversion orders"
- "Strengthening competences for the implementation of diversion orders and improving cooperation between social welfare and the judiciary in working with children and youth in conflict with the law"
- "Organization of trainings for professionals in the field of juvenile justice"
- "Piloting standards and procedures for the implementation of diversion orders"

172. In cooperation with the UNICEF Mission to Serbia and the Child Rights Centre, an Analysis of the Implementation of Diversion Orders in the RS in the period from 2017-2022 was conducted, which was promoted in 2024. This Analysis had shown that the public prosecutor for juveniles applies diversion orders most often in respect of the following offences: light bodily injury, theft, unauthorized possession of narcotics, destruction and damage to other people's property, and violent behaviour. Juvenile court judges apply diversion orders most often in respect of the following criminal offences: theft, unauthorized possession of narcotics and violent behaviour.

173. The most common diversion orders are: involvement in humanitarian work, settlement with the aggrieved party, regular school attendance, and inclusion in individual or group treatment in an appropriate healthcare facility or counselling centre, while undergoing appropriate testing and detoxification from addiction caused by the use of alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs was only applied once in the six years observed.

174. Given that one of the planned results of the Deinstitutionalization Strategy, which is also included in the objectives of Chapter 23 within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance of Serbia to the EU, is the establishment of centres for children, youth and families as a desired end result of the transformation of residential institutions into community-based services, the MLEVSA, in cooperation with UNICEF, has developed the Concept of Centres for Children, Youth and Families, which will be implemented as a pilot project in four homes for accommodation of children without parental care. Implementation will be carried out through the IPA Project 2024/2027. The purpose of the Centres is to provide support to children, youth and families with the aim of preventing the separation of children and facilitating reintegration in cases where placement in formal care was in the best interests of the child. These institutions would act as a model and example of good practice that could later be replicated across the country.

175. The Centre is designed to function as part of the social welfare system, with the idea of developing partnerships and networking with all relevant systems and stakeholders in the community in order to provide children, youth and families with comprehensive and timely support in meeting their needs and overcoming crises. The Centre shall provide various services for different target groups of children, youth and families.

176. The Centre for Children, Youth and Families can also provide services for a target group of children and youth who are in conflict with the law, parents, school or community who are often recognized, in practice and system reports, as children with behavioural problems/challenges, as well as for their families.

177. Numerical data on detention measures imposed on juveniles and data on specialized training for representatives of the judiciary in the field related to juveniles are provided in Annex 12 to this Report.

178. Criminal prosecution for the criminal offences referred to in Articles 136 and 137 of the Criminal Code is undertaken *ex officio* and the competent public prosecutor is obliged to initiate criminal prosecution when there are grounds to suspect that an act of torture or abuse has been committed and, during the investigation, to undertake all actions that make the investigation effective.

179. Based on the General Mandatory Instruction of the Supreme Public Prosecutor of 15 March 2024, in order to achieve legality, efficiency and uniformity in the actions of all holders of the public prosecutorial function, a public prosecutor has been appointed in all Basic Public Prosecutor's Offices – a contact point for proceedings in criminal cases related to criminal offences under Article 136 and Article 137, paragraph 3, in conjunction with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Criminal Code. In this way, the specialization of public prosecutors for handling cases of abuse and torture has been ensured.

180. In cases where there are indications that abuse by MoI officials has occurred, the competent Public Prosecutor's Office and the Internal Control Sector act upon reports in accordance with the Methodology for Conducting Investigations in Cases of Abuse by the Police. When unlawful conduct by police officers towards persons against whom police powers have been applied is determined, the disciplinary proceedings are initiated, *inter alia*, for violations of official duties prescribed by the Police Law (Articles 206 and 207), and the head of the organizational unit is authorized to issue a decision against such police officer on his temporary suspension from work until the completion of the disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the provisions of Article 217 of the Law on Police.

181. In accordance with the recommendations of the CPT, provided following a visit to the RS in March 2023, the Ministry of the Interior has developed a Plan for Improving the Treatment of Police Officers Towards Citizens, in Order to Prevent Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Punishments or Procedures, the implementation of which commenced in 2024. In addition to this Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, SPPO, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, and the Protector of Citizens also participate in the implementation of the aforementioned Plan.

182. The aforementioned Plan was updated in the first half of 2025, after which its implementation continued with the aim of improving the treatment of police officers towards citizens in the exercise of police powers, including the application of legal provisions prescribing the provisions for collecting information, questioning suspects and detaining persons.

183. Numerical data on filed criminal charges for the criminal offence under Article 137 of the Criminal Code are provided in Annex 13 to this Report.

184. AEPS is obliged to register any possible case of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to immediately establish the facts, and initiate disciplinary proceedings against the employee and file criminal charges with the competent Public Prosecutor's Office without delay, if there are grounds to suspect that the actions of the employees contain elements of a criminal offence.

185. The LECS stipulates that a convicted person may directly file a confidential complaint with the judge for the execution of criminal sanctions at the higher court in the place of execution of the detention measure or prison sentence, if he/she believes that his/her right to life or bodily integrity has been seriously threatened, as well as with the Protector of Citizens in a sealed envelope, thus ensuring an effective independent investigation, in addition to the procedural possibilities of initiating proceedings within the AEPS and filing criminal charges with the competent Public Prosecutor's Office.

186. The AEPS has developed Guidelines on the conduct of employees in the event of allegations of abuse, which regulate the procedures in the institution in the event of reporting allegations of torture and the obligation to initiate proceedings *ex officio* if there are indications of possible abuse, both by officials and by other persons deprived of their liberty, as well as the obligation to report to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office. All management personnel in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions are trained in the implementation of the Guidelines.

187. At the level of the Military Police, a mechanism of internal control of the work of the Military Police and handling complaints regarding the work of the Military Police has been established, while in the previous period, no complaints were recorded regarding the work of authorized officials of the Military Police in terms of exceeding their authority and abuse of persons.

188. In the event of a report of suspicion of torture, abuse or misconduct, as well as in the event of initiating proceedings on its own initiative, the KIRS cooperates with the Protector of Citizens and makes available all the available information on the basis of which the facts can be established. In case of suspicion of commission of a criminal offence, the competent Public Prosecutor's Office undertakes investigative actions. Both mechanisms are independent of the governing body.

189. In the field of social welfare, the Law on the Rights of Users of Temporary Accommodation Services in Social Protection has been in force in the RS since the beginning of 2022. This law additionally regulates protection from abuse, exploitation and neglect for persons using social protection accommodation services.

190. The Law explicitly stipulates that the beneficiary has the right to protection from any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and that professional

workers, professional associates, healthcare workers, associates and other persons engaged in the institution, or with the service provider, are obliged to ensure that the beneficiary is not abused by other beneficiaries, employees of the institution or at the service provider, or by third parties, and are obliged to report this to the responsible person and competent authorities.

191. Social welfare institutions, i.e. service providers, are obliged to establish a functional and accessible team for the prevention of violence, in accordance with the law, i.e. a regulation based on the law.

192. A beneficiary, a trusted person or a member of their immediate family who believes that the service provider is violating the beneficiary's rights, or is not satisfied with the quality of service provision, actions or behaviour of the service provider or another person, may file a complaint with the responsible person at the institution or at the service provider, the competent CSW and other competent authorities, in accordance with the law and regulations adopted on the basis of the law. A complaint can be submitted in writing or orally on the premises of the institution or service provider, of which the employee who received the complaint is obliged to make a record. The complaint cannot be dismissed as untimely.

193. The beneficiary who files a complaint will be protected from any negative consequences due to filing a complaint in accordance with the law. The decision on the complaint determines whether there is a violation of the rules of conduct of the institution, i.e. the service provider, or in regards to the behaviour of the employee. If a violation is found, the decision shall state the individual measure that will be undertaken in order to correct such violation in the specific case relating to the complainant. The response to the complaint shall be delivered no later than 30 days from the date of submission, in an understandable and accessible manner, which, in addition to adapting the text, may also include other methods of information accessibility. In the response to the complaint, the complainant is informed about the available legal remedies and which authorities he/she can address in the event of dissatisfaction with the response to the complaint.

194. A system for submitting complaints to the Protector of Citizens as an independent body has been established. In accordance with Article 30 of the Law on the Protector of Citizens, persons deprived of their liberty have the right to submit a complaint in a sealed envelope, while appropriate envelopes must be provided in a visible and public manner in all institutions where persons deprived of their liberty are held, which is ensured by the administrations of these institutions, as well as by the ministry responsible for justice. In practice, this legal obligation is adhered to, and all persons deprived of their liberty are allowed to submit a complaint to the Protector of Citizens confidentially and in a sealed envelope.

195. Numerical data on filed and dismissed criminal charges, initiated pre-investigation or investigative procedures, indictments and convictions regarding criminal offences under Article 137 of the Criminal Code committed by members of the AEPS; on criminal offences under Article 136 of the Criminal Code committed by police officers and on criminal offences under Article 137 of the Criminal Code committed by police officers are provided in Annex 14 to this Report.

196. The Revised Prosecution Strategy for the Investigation and Prosecution of War Crimes in the RS, valid until 2026, was adopted by the Collegium of the Prosecutor's Office on 27 December 2022, along with an Action Plan for its implementation.

197. The first and primary goal of the Strategy is to increase the efficiency of investigations and prosecutions of all serious, massive and systematically committed war crimes, in accordance with the priorities that are now defined clearly and in detail by the Strategy. Priority in processing is given to cases with serious consequences, including a large number of victims and multiple acts of commission; with elements of sexual violence; in which the perpetrators at the time of the commission of the criminal act were high-ranking or higher-ranking persons in the military, police or civil authorities; cases taken over from regional Prosecutor's Offices; cases that can be prosecuted due to the availability of evidence, suspects, witnesses and victims; category "II" cases and cases in which evidence has been forwarded by the ICTY/IRMCT.

198. In order to further direct resources to priority war crimes cases and reduce the number of cases at the PPOWC, a Working Group for the selection of cases by priority was established in 2022.

199. During the reporting period, two indictments were filed for war crimes, with elements of sexual violence. In the criminal proceedings under one of these indictments, a first-instance judgment was reached, by which the defendant was found guilty and was sentenced to a non-final sentence of 7 years of imprisonment, while the main trial under the second indictment is in progress.

200. In the same period, the PPOWC had filed indictments against 35 individuals. In recent years, there has been a trend of increase in the number of indictments involving complex events and high-ranking defendants, which has been confirmed in reports by international organizations monitoring war crimes prosecution. Of the total number of defendants in the reporting period, five are high-ranking and one is mid-ranking.

201. Although bilateral treaties on extradition between the RS and Bosnia and Herzegovina, or the RS and the Republic of Croatia, do not provide for the extradition of their own citizens accused of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, punishment is achieved through the transfer and assumption of criminal prosecution, as well as through other forms of international legal assistance.

202. The best example is provided by cooperation with the judicial authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from which assumption of criminal prosecution has been conducted in 45 cases so far. In all of these cases, the indictments were previously confirmed before the competent courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Public Prosecutor's Office for War Crimes acts promptly and without delay upon requests for assistance and letters rogatory sent by regional prosecutors' offices and courts. A detailed statistics on the exchange of requests for assistance and the execution of letters rogatory are available within the quarterly reports on the implementation of the National Strategy for War Crimes Prosecution (2021-2026), which are publicly available on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

203. Cooperation with regional prosecutors' offices also took place through multilateral and bilateral meetings. In accordance with the agreement reached at the regional meeting of prosecutors in

Sarajevo in 2023, at which the participants agreed to appoint contact points for direct communication, the contact points for cooperation between the Public Prosecutor's Office for War Crimes and the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina were appointed in 2023, and for cooperation with the Special State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro in 2024.

204. Given the importance of witness testimony for the success of criminal proceedings in war crimes cases and the inevitable regional cooperation in this regard, two Memoranda on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of support for witnesses, aggrieved parties and victims were concluded in the previous period, in accordance with the obligation from the National Strategy for War Crimes Prosecution (2021-2026). On 3 November 2022, a Memorandum was concluded with the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on 6 December 2024, with the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro. One of the points of these Memoranda is to facilitate the collection of data necessary for the exercising of property claims of the aggrieved parties.

205. In the second half of 2023, a detailed notification was sent to public prosecutors in the PPOWC with the aim of improving the position of aggrieved parties in criminal proceedings and timely resolving the issue of property claims of aggrieved parties, as well as consistent implementation of the provision of the CPC that prescribes the role of the public prosecutor to collect evidence in the pre-investigation and investigation proceedings, including in the part concerning property claims.

206. Several representatives of the Prosecutor's Office have participated in the Round Table held on 20 March 2024, titled "Deciding on the property claim of the aggrieved party as part of the judgment in war crimes cases", organized by UNDP and the Judicial Academy

207. During 2023, a special notification was sent to public prosecutors containing guidelines aimed at improving the position of victims in criminal proceedings for war crimes with elements of sexual violence. This document emphasizes that victims of wartime sexual violence are extremely vulnerable and traumatized, and recommends that, whenever possible, they be granted the status of a particularly vulnerable witness, or that a proposal be submitted to the court for the determination of such status, which would ensure privileged examination in accordance with Article 104 of the CPC and thus avoid secondary victimization as much as possible. Prosecutors are recommended to closely cooperate with the Information and Support Service for Victims and Witnesses at the PPOWC in communicating with the aggrieved parties – victims.

208. In the reporting period, the new Law on High Judicial Council and the Law on Judges have entered into force, which reduced political influence in the process of selecting judges and the composition and decision-making of the High Judicial Council, thereby contributing to strengthening the independence of the judiciary.

209. On 9 February 2022, the National Assembly of the RS promulgated the Act amending the Constitution of the RS, which significantly improved the normative framework and mechanisms for protecting the independence and integrity of judges.

210. The Law on High Judicial Council changed the composition of this body, which consists of 11 members, of which 6 are the judges elected by judges, 4 are prominent lawyers elected by the National Assembly and one is the President of the Supreme Court as an *ex officio* member, so that,

unlike the previous legal solution, the members of the High Judicial Council are no longer the Minister of Justice, nor the President of the competent committee of the National Assembly, as representatives of the political segment, nor are the judge members of this body elected by the National Assembly, but directly by other judges. Another significant innovation is that the President of the High Judicial Council is elected from among the elected judge members of the Council.

211. The Law on Judges stipulates that the High Judicial Council elects judges and court presidents and decides on the termination of their judicial office, unlike the previous legal solution according to which the president of the court and a judge who is elected for the first time were elected by the National Assembly, which reduced political influence in the election process. Another significant change is that the judicial office is permanent, with the exception of judges elected for the first time, for a period of three years, thus strengthening the independence of judges.
212. With regard to the termination of judicial office, the independence of judges is further ensured by the Constitutional Amendments by prescribing the reasons for the termination of judicial office in the text of the Constitution itself, while preventing these reasons from being expanded or changed by law. The Constitution guarantees external independence to judges in the RS and prohibits any inappropriate influence on a judge in the performance of his or her judicial office.
213. As of May 2024, the High Prosecutorial Council, by adopting a total of 18 by-laws, had completed the legal framework and enabled the implementation of new legal solutions presented by constitutional amendments and new laws on the High Prosecutorial Council and the Public Prosecutor's Office.
214. At the end of 2023, the High Prosecutorial Council had also adopted the Rules of Procedure of the High Prosecutorial Council regarding inappropriate influence on the work of the public prosecutor and the Public Prosecutor's Office. This document regulates the actions of the Commissioner for Independence. Complaints about the existence of undue influence are presented in the Commissioner's annual report, available on the Council's website. Based on the recommendations of the Commissioner, at a special session held on 7 May 2025, the Council had adopted four decisions on the existence of undue influence on the work of holder of public prosecutor's function or the Public Prosecutor's Office.
215. In the case and content management software "LURIS" used by the State Attorney's Office of the RS, the received lawsuits are recorded according to the legal grounds of the dispute that are predefined in the application's drop-down menu, so lawsuits related to some type of damage are recorded with the grounds of the dispute "compensation of non-pecuniary damage", "compensation of pecuniary damage" and "compensation of damage due to unjustified deprivation of liberty", but without the possibility of providing a factual and detailed description that would indicate what caused the damage. The Supreme Court is also unable to provide the aforementioned data, given that the courts do not keep special records regarding proceedings that have, as their subject matter, the compensation and damages that specifically relate to victims of torture or abuse.
216. According to the data of the Department for Representation of the RS before the European Court of Human Rights, this department has received several applications from the Court in which the

applicants complained about the violation of Article 3 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

217. Since the beginning of its acting in cases against the RS, the European Court has, as of 26 August 2025, passed a total of 38 judgments/decisions regarding the aforementioned right (20 judgments - 18 by the Chamber and 2 by the Committee, and 18 decisions - 7 by the Chamber and 11 by the Committee).
218. In all cases in which it found a violation of Article 3 of the Convention (15 in total), non-pecuniary damage was also awarded and paid within the left deadline.
219. We would also like to point out that the judgments of the European Court relating to the conduct of police officers contrary to the prohibition of torture under Article 3 of the Convention are under enhanced supervision before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (*Stanimirović* group of cases), and that there are currently four cases pending in the aforementioned group.
220. The provision of Article 16 of the CPC stipulates that court decisions may not be based on evidence which is, directly or indirectly, in itself or by the manner in which it was obtained, in contradiction to the Constitution, this Code, other law or generally accepted rules of international law and ratified international treaties, except in court proceedings in connection with the obtaining of such evidence.
221. The provision of Article 84, paragraph 1 of the CPC stipulates that evidence collected contrary to Article 16, paragraph 1 of this Code (unlawful evidence) may not be used in criminal proceedings.
222. The SPPO does not have specific statistical data on the number of cases in which defendants claimed that their confessions were obtained through torture (the Annual Report on the Work of Public Prosecutor's Offices contains summary statistical data for criminal offences under Article 136 of the Criminal Code and Article 137 of the Criminal Code).
223. In any case where a "convincing accusation" is made during criminal proceedings that the defendant has been abused or if the public prosecutor himself concludes that there are grounds to suspect that the defendant or witness has been abused, the competent public prosecutor is obliged to conduct an investigation, in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code and the Methodology for Conducting Investigations in Cases of Abuse.
224. The protection of media representatives is implemented through specific security and legal mechanisms of the Ministry of the Interior, implemented through coordination with the Public Prosecutor's Office and media representatives, which contributes to a faster response and better communication.
225. Following reported attacks or threats against media representatives, the Public Prosecutor's Office is notified for the purpose of further verifying the allegations under such report and agreeing on further action, with the Ministry of the Interior, as a member of the Permanent Working Group for the Safety of Journalists, being obliged to provide a risk assessment for individual cases. Attacks on media representatives are treated as a particularly aggravating circumstance, with the possibility of expedited proceedings, and threats are treated as a criminal offence, which allows for a prompt

police response. At the same time, the Analytics Department of the Police Directorate has established a methodology for monitoring reported attacks, threats, or harassment of journalists, in respect of which reports are compiled on a monthly basis. In addition, in the event of a risk assessment, the Ministry provides police protection to media representatives, both in connection with their professional activities and in their private spaces, as well as coordinating, with the judiciary and Public Prosecutor's Office, an urgent investigation of attacks or threats and identifying the perpetrator.

226. An Agreement on Cooperation and Measures to Improve the Safety of Journalists was concluded on 26 December 2016 between the Ministry of the Interior, SPPO, the Journalists' Association of Serbia, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia, the Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, the Association of Independent Electronic Media, the Media Association, and the Online Media Association. The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina had acceded to the said Agreement on 18 January 2017.
227. In accordance with the Agreement, a Permanent Working Group has been established that holds regular quarterly meetings and discusses issues of importance for the safety of journalists in connection with their work. The Permanent Working Group holds regular meetings four times a year, and if necessary, extraordinary meetings are organized in order to discuss matters of particular importance to the media community.
228. Even before the conclusion of the Agreement, the Supreme Public Prosecutor had issued an Instruction of 22 December 2015, which, *inter alia*, determined the keeping of special records in the Appellate, Higher and Basic Public Prosecutor's Offices in relation to criminal offences committed against journalists, and in such cases urgent action is required. In addition, Public Prosecutor's Offices were ordered to submit quarterly reports to the SPPO with data contained in special records. Accordingly, special records of criminal offences to the detriment of the safety of journalists, in connection with the work they perform, have been kept in Public Prosecutor's Offices since 1 January 2016.
229. The Agreement stipulates the establishment of a cooperation mechanism between the parties by designating a contact point for coordination of actions in cases of criminal offences to which journalists may be exposed, and who will be in constant contact. At the first meeting of the Permanent Working Group held on 18 January 2017, a cooperation mechanism was established, with the parties to the Agreement designating contact points for coordination and action in cases of criminal offences against the safety of journalists, who will be in constant contact.
230. On 24 December 2020, the Supreme Public Prosecutor issued a new General Mandatory Instruction to facilitate the work of Public Prosecutor's Offices in the area of ensuring the safety of journalists.
231. The new General Mandatory Instruction obliged the Appellate Public Prosecutor's Offices to submit to the SPPO monthly reports of regional Public Prosecutor's Offices on acting in cases concerning the risk to safety of journalists, based on the data from special records on criminal offences in this area.

232. In accordance with the new Instruction, the previously established mechanism of contact points in the Public Prosecutor's Offices has been significantly improved by establishing a new network of contact points in Public Prosecutor's Offices, consisting of a total of 112 public prosecutors, of which 88 public prosecutors have been designated as primary contact points (4 prosecutors in Appellate Public Prosecutor's Offices, 25 in Higher Public Prosecutor's Offices, 58 in Basic Public Prosecutor's Offices and 1 prosecutor in the Special Public Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime), while 24 public prosecutors have been designated as secondary contact points. A list of contact points with the necessary information has been provided to all members of the Permanent Working Group. The said list was also published on the portal <http://bezbedninovinari.rs/>.

233. In the event of a criminal offence to the detriment of the safety of journalists, an early warning mechanism established through a network of contact points in Public Prosecutor's Offices and the police is activated, with the aim of urgently taking adequate and timely actions and measures in order to prosecute the perpetrators of criminal offences to the detriment of the safety of journalists.

234. The public prosecutor designated as the contact point is on constant alert 24/7, during which he/she acts urgently in the aforementioned cases and is obliged to cooperate with the authorized contact points of the signatory parties to the Agreement.

235. The Agreement provides for the organization and implementation of training for journalists, representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the police. In this regard, and with the aim of improving cooperation between contact points and increasing the efficiency of the work of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the police in cases concerning the risk to safety of journalists, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the SPPO, had organized a series of trainings and meetings intended for contact points and other representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office, police, journalist and media associations.

236. The Strategy for the Development of Public Information System in the RS for the period 2020 – 2025 is in force, one chapter of which is dedicated to reinforcing the safety of journalists and strengthening their socio-economic position. This public policy document includes measures to improve the security conditions for the work of journalists and media workers, as well as measures to create conditions for an adequate level of protection of journalistic sources of information.

237. Numerical data on recorded attacks on media workers by the police, statistical data from the SPPO on actions taken in cases concerning the risk to safety of journalists and media workers, as well as data on training on the safety of journalists conducted by the Judicial Academy, are provided in Annex 15 to this Report.

238. In accordance with the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Instruction from December 2015, special records are provided for hate crimes (Article 54a of the Criminal Code), which, in addition to the data collected for other criminal offences, also contain data on the motives for committing the criminal offence. In accordance with this Instruction, the Appellate Public Prosecutor's Offices submit to the SPPO a summary quarterly record of regional Public Prosecutor's Offices, thus regularly updating the consolidated records kept by the SPPO.

239. In order to achieve legality, effectiveness and uniformity in the conduct of public prosecutors in criminal cases for hate crimes, within the meaning of Article 54a of the Criminal Code, the Supreme Public Prosecutor had issued a General Mandatory Instruction in September 2018, which provides for the appointment of prosecutors as contact points for hate crimes, within the meaning of Article 54a of the Criminal Code, in all Appellate, Higher and Basic Public Prosecutor's Offices.

240. In cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Guidelines for the Prosecution of Hate Crimes in the RS have been issued. Training on the application of the aforementioned Guidelines is conducted continuously.

241. Statistical data on the actions of the competent Public Prosecutor's Offices in criminal offences with elements of hate crimes, as well as on training on this topic conducted by the Judicial Academy, are provided in Annex 16 to this Report.

242. From the perspective of the Ministry of Justice, the Criminal Code and the corresponding criminal offences related to terrorism are harmonized with all international documents. Amendments to the Criminal Code are in progress, which, *inter alia*, include amendments to Articles relating to the criminal offence of Terrorism. The public hearing has been completed, the text will be sent to the European Commission for comments, and after that, a national procedure will be carried out for the adoption of these amendments, which are planned by the end of the year.

243. In the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 July 2025, activities aimed at preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism were carried out in the RS, as follows:

- In December 2024, the National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and the National Risk Assessment on Financing of Terrorism, the Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism in the Digital Assets Sector, and the Risk Assessment on Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction were adopted;
- The Law on Freezing of Assets with the Aim of Preventing Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was amended in 2024;
- a planning document was adopted, which defines measures and activities for improving the system in the field of prevention of money laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction for the period until 2029.

244. In accordance with the results of National Risk Assessments, as well as when identifying new trends and typologies, the list of indicators for recognizing suspicions in respect of money laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is updated.

245. Significant progress has been made in preventing the misuse of non-profit organizations for the purpose of financing of terrorism through multiple workshops and training for non-profit organizations and donors on the risks of misuse for the purpose of financing of terrorism.

246. In June 2023, the National Database for the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism was established and put into commission.

247. In the reporting period, a total of five (5) persons were convicted of terrorism-related crimes in the RS. No complaints have been recorded regarding non-compliance with international standards in the implementation of counter-terrorism measures.

248. By the end of 2025, the RS will adopt a strategic document for prevention and countering of terrorism and violent extremism for the period from 2025 - 2030, with an accompanying Action Plan for its implementation for the period from 2025 - 2027. The goal of the aforementioned document is to establish an efficient, coordinated and sustainable system for predicting, preventing, protecting and responding to radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism, with the aim of preserving democratic values, social resilience and security in the RS.

249. The RS has harmonized its regulations with international standards (FATF) and European Union regulations, including regulations related to the application of targeted financial sanctions.

250. The RS has National Risk Assessments which consider threats, vulnerabilities and consequences and provide recommendations for risk management, including in the area of preventing the financing of terrorism.

251. It has a system of coordination and cooperation between the competent authorities through the Coordination Body for the Prevention of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

252. The measures taken by the RS have been positively assessed by the MONEYVAL Committee.

253. Based on the National Risk Assessment, the RS has also established a new National Strategy, namely the Strategic Operational Plan for the Prevention of Money Laundering, Financing of Terrorism and Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction for the period 2025-2029.

254. Training of officers of the Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering is carried out within the Egmont Group, CEPOL, OPDAT, OSCE, as well as through various projects for combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.

255. Numerical data on court proceedings and imposed sanctions, data on professional development of the members of MoI, and trainings conducted by the Judicial Academy are provided in Annex 17 to this Report.

256. The Ministry of the Interior is currently working on the Draft Law on Internal Affairs. In order to find the best solutions and ensure compliance with the accepted international standards in the field of police conduct and the application of police powers, all recommendations made by the CPT in this area are taken into account and have been implemented to the greatest extent possible in the part that covers the subject matter of the Draft Law.

## ANNEX

**to the Fourth Periodic Report of the Republic of Serbia on the implementation of the Convention  
against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

**Official Gazettes in which the regulations of the Republic of Serbia, referred to in the Fourth Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, have been published**

- Criminal Code – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 85/05, 88/05 - corr., 107/05 - corr., 72/09, 111/2009, 121/12, 104/13, 108/14, 94/16, 35/19 and 94/24
- Criminal Procedure Code – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 72/11, 101/11, 121/12, 32/13, 45/13, 55/14, 35/19, 27/21 - CC Decision and 62/21 - CC Decision
- Law on Police – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 6/16, 24/18 and 87/18
- Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 55/14 and 35/19
- Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 94/16 and 10/23 - other law
- Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection - "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 24/2018
- Law on Foreigners - "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 24/18, 31/19 and 62/23
- Law on Border Control - "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 24/18
- Air Transport Law – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 73/10, 57/11, 93/12, 45/15, 66/15 - other law, 83/18, 9/20, 62/23 and 19/25
- Law on Social Welfare – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 24/11 and 117/22 - CC Decision
- Law on the Rights of Users of Temporary Accommodation Services in Social Protection – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 126/21
- Law on Protection of Persons with Mental Illness – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 45/13
- Law on Juvenile Perpetrators of Criminal Offences and Criminal Protection of Minors – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 85/05
- Law on the High Judicial Council and Law on Judges - "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 10/23
- Law on Personal Data Protection – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 87/18
- Strategy for the Development of the Criminal Sanctions Execution System 2022-2027 with the Action Plan - "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 142/22
- Strategy for deinstitutionalization and development of community-based social welfare services 2021-2026 – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 12/22
- Code of Police Ethics – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 85/23
- Rulebook on Police Powers - "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 41/19 and 93/22
- Rulebook on the Complaint Handling Procedure within the Ministry of the Interior – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 90/19
- Rulebook on Conditions for the Application of Physical Restraints and Isolation of Persons with Mental Disabilities Treated in Psychiatric Institutions - "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 94/13
- Rulebook on Prohibited Conduct of Staff at Social Welfare Institutions – "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 8/12

**Statistical data on visits carried out by the NPM to detention facilities**

**Visits carried out by NPM (statistics):**

- In 2022, a total of 87 visits were conducted, 29 reports were prepared, and 204 recommendations were made.
- In 2023, a total of 90 visits were conducted, 32 reports were prepared, and 234 recommendations were made.
- In 2024, a total of 74 visits were conducted, 32 reports were prepared, and 193 recommendations were made.
- In 2025 (until August), a total of 47 visits were conducted, 15 reports were prepared, and 80 recommendations were made.

**NPM Recommendations and Follow-up:**

- The percentage of follow-up on recommendations is consistently high: 88,46% (2022), 97,98% (2023), 93% (2024).

**Complaints by persons deprived of their liberty (statistics):**

- In 2022, a total of 196 cases were considered.
- In 2023, a total of 242 cases were considered.
- In 2024, a total of 201 cases were considered.
- In 2025 (until August), a total of 104 cases were considered

Data classified by age, gender and ethnicity are not available.

**Statistical data on visits by NMP to places under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior:**

- during 2022, there were 15 visits to 12 police departments, covering 24 PSs, 2 TPDs and 2 Reception Centres for Foreigners;
- during 2023, there were 9 visits to 7 police departments, covering 42 PSs, 1 TPD and 1 Reception Centre for Foreigners;
- during 2024, there were 15 visits to 10 police departments, covering 42 PSs, 1 TPD, 1 airport and 2 Reception Centres and
- during 2025, there were 5 visits to 3 police departments, covering 12 PSs and 2 Reception Centres for Foreigners.

**Statistical data on filed criminal charges for criminal offences with elements of violence against women**

The total number of criminal charges for the reporting period is 16,238, as follows:

- During 2022, the number of criminal charges amounted to 4,762,
- During 2023, the number of criminal charges amounted to 4,869,
- During 2024, the number of criminal charges amounted to 4,320, and
- In the period from 1 January to 31 July 2025, the number of criminal charges amounted to 2,287.

**Classified by criminal offences:**

Aggravated Murder - 48, Attempted Aggravated Murder - 20, Murder - 35, Attempted Murder - 57, Serious Bodily Harm - 262, Stalking - 458, Rape - 74, Attempted Rape - 15, Sexual Intercourse with a Helpless Person - 11, Sexual Intercourse with a Child - 61, Sexual Intercourse through Abuse of Position - 8, Prohibited Sexual Acts - 54, Sexual Harassment - 77, Pimping and Procuring - 1, Mediation in Prostitution - 7, Showing, Procuring and Possessing Pornographic Material and Minor Person

Pornography - 32, Inducing a Child to Attend Sexual Acts - 2, Neglecting and Abusing a Minor - 214, Domestic Violence - 14,739, Failure to Provide Maintenance - 93, Violation of Family Duty - 37, Incest - 5, Trafficking in Human Beings - 15.

#### **Classified by years:**

**During 2022, the number of criminal charges for criminal offences:**

Aggravated Murder - 15, Attempted Aggravated Murder - 5, Murder - 11, Attempted Murder - 14, Serious Bodily Harm - 80, Stalking - 142, Rape - 23, Attempted Rape - 8, Sexual Intercourse with a Helpless Person - 3, Sexual Intercourse with a Child - 23, Sexual Intercourse through Abuse of Position - 5, Prohibited Sexual Acts - 18, Sexual Harassment - 32, Mediation in Prostitution - 5, Showing, Procuring and Possessing Pornographic Material and Minor Person Pornography - 9, Inducing a Child to Attend Sexual Acts - 2, Neglecting and Abusing a Minor - 43, Domestic Violence - 4,311, Failure to Provide Maintenance - 27, Violation of Family Duty - 14, Incest - 1, Trafficking in Human Beings - 3.

#### **During 2023, the number of criminal charges for criminal offences:**

Aggravated Murder - 14, Attempted Aggravated Murder - 4, Murder - 11, Attempted Murder - 19, Serious Bodily Harm - 78, Stalking - 119, Rape - 20, Attempted Rape - 1, Sexual Intercourse with a Helpless Person - 4, Sexual Intercourse with a Child - 11, Prohibited Sexual Acts - 15, Sexual Harassment - 19, Showing, Procuring and Possessing Pornographic Material and Minor Person Pornography - 9, Neglecting and Abusing a Minor - 84, Domestic Violence - 4,432, Failure to Provide Maintenance - 34, Violation of Family Duty - 12, Incest - 2, Trafficking in Human Beings - 5.

#### **During 2024, the number of criminal charges for criminal offences:**

Aggravated Murder - 12, Attempted Aggravated Murder - 9, Murder - 6, Attempted Murder - 19, Serious Bodily Harm - 69, Stalking - 118, Rape - 17, Attempted Rape - 5, Sexual Intercourse with a Helpless Person - 4, Sexual Intercourse with a Child - 19, Sexual Intercourse through Abuse of Position - 2, Prohibited Sexual Acts - 17, Sexual Harassment - 18, Pimping and Procuring - 1, Mediation in Prostitution - 2, Showing, Procuring and Possessing Pornographic Material and Minor Person Pornography - 10, Neglecting and Abusing a Minor - 63, Domestic Violence - 3,920, Failure to Provide Maintenance - 21, Violation of Family Duty - 9, Trafficking in Human Beings - 3.

**During 2025, in the period from 1 January to 31 July 2025, the number of criminal charges for criminal offences:** Aggravated Murder - 7, Attempted Aggravated Murder - 2, Murder - 7, Attempted Murder - 5, Serious Bodily Harm - 35, Stalking - 79, Rape - 14, Attempted Rape - 1, Sexual Intercourse with a Child - 8, Sexual Intercourse through Abuse of Position - 1, Prohibited Sexual Acts - 4, Sexual Harassment - 8, Mediation in Prostitution - 0, Showing, Procuring and Possessing Pornographic Material and Minor Person Pornography - 4, Neglecting and Abusing a Minor - 24, Domestic Violence - 2,076, Failure to Provide Maintenance - 11, Violation of Family Duty - 2, Incest - 2, Trafficking in Human Beings - 4.

Emergency measures under the LPDV	Total emergency measures ordered	Measure I Removal of the perpetrator from the apartment	Measure II Prohibiting approach and communication	Extended urgent measures by the court	No. of urgent measures violated
1 January 2022 - 31 July 2025	111.222	33.930	77.292	77.873	4.627

Total number of incidents and types of violence, 1 January 2022-31 July 2025	Physical	Economic	Psychological	Sexual
100.375	37.994	3.413	64.091	762

Victims of incidents with elements of domestic violence, classified by gender and age

Victims of domestic violence	Male	Female
	35.819	82.582
Total	118.401	

Victims of violence by age	minor victim	adult victim	up to 14 years of age	age 15-17	age 18-20	age 21-30	age 31-40	age 41-50	age 51-60	age 61-70	over 71 years of age
	12.835	105.562	9.057	3.778	4.896	17.930	23.438	22.017	15.447	12.693	9.141

**Statistical data of the Supreme Public Prosecution Office on the criminal offence of domestic violence under Article 194 of the Criminal Code:**

	No. of filed criminal charges	No. of dismissed criminal charges	Number of initiated pre-investigation proceedings or investigations	No. of convictions	Number of convictions
2022	7.787	4.699	7.718	2.885	2.451
2023	8.103	4.445	7.402	3.241	2.681
2024	7.097	4.003	7.375	2.840	2.415

**Please note:**

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

**Data on training of judicial authorities to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women**

During 2024 and 2025, the Judicial Academy had organized numerous training courses aimed at preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, including:

a) 3 one-day seminars on the topic: "Sexual violence – challenges in proving and understanding the position of the victim"

- 16 May 2024 at the Hotel "Mona Plaza" in Belgrade (28 participants: 24 females / 4 males)
- 17 May 2024 at the Hotel "Sheraton" in Novi Sad (23 participants: 16 females / 7 males)
- 13 September 2024 at the UN House in Belgrade (31 participant: 24 females / 7 males):

Judges	Public prosecutors	Judicial assistants	Public prosecutor's assistants	Lawyers	Police officers	Others	Total	Females	Males
6	23	4	20			29	82	64	18

b) 5 two-day seminars on the topic: "Gender equality and gender-based violence"

- 30-31 May 2024 at the Hotel "Sunce" in Sokobanja (33 participants: 27 females / 6 males)
- 6-7 June 2024 at the Hotel "Tonanti" in Vrњачка Banja (32 participants: 25 females / 7 males)
- 16-17 September 2024 at the Misdemeanour Court in Belgrade (20 participants: 18 females / 2 males)
- 3-4 October 2024 at the Hotel "Premier Aqua" in Vrdnik (30 participants: 21 females / 9 males)
- 17-18 October 2024 at the Hotel "Izvor" in Aranđelovac (33 participants: 29 females / 4 males):

Judges	Public prosecutors	Judicial assistants	Public prosecutor's assistants	Lawyers	Police officers	Others	Total	Females	Males
47	59	8	14			20	148	120	28

c) 4 one-day seminars on the topic: "Procedure in cases of femicide"

- 9 September 2024 at the Higher Court in Novi Pazar (17 participants: 5 females / 12 males)
- 26 September 2024 at the Higher Court in Belgrade (20 participants: 18 females / 2 males)
- 1 November 2024 at the Appellate Court in Belgrade (27 participants: 16 females / 11 males)
- 3 February 2025 at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade (29 participants: 21 females / 8 males):

Judges	Public prosecutors	Judicial assistants	Public prosecutor's assistants	Lawyers	Police officers	Others	Total	Females	Males
13	5	25	17			23	83	58	25

d) 1 one-day conference on the topic: "Domestic violence - an institutional response to the phenomenon of coercive control in family-partner relationships"

- 27 November 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Belgrade (87 participants: 76 females / 11 males):

Judges	Public prosecutors	Judicial assistants	Public prosecutor's assistants	Lawyers	Police officers	Others	Total	Females	Males
9	12	1	4		17	44	87	76	11

e) 5 one-day seminars on the topic: "Preventable femicide and protectable children of femicide victims"

- 24 January 2025 at the Appellate Court in Novi Sad (27 participants: *14 females / 13 males*)
- 30 January 2025 at the Misdemeanour Court in Belgrade (31 participants: *26 females / 5 males*)
- 31 January 2025 at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade (27 participants: *21 females / 6 males*)
- 6 February 2025 at the Regional Office of the Judicial Academy in Kragujevac (27 participants: *22 females / 5 males*)
- 7 February 2025 at the Appellate Court in Niš (23 participants: *16 females / 7 males*):

Judges	Public prosecutors	Judicial assistants	Public prosecutor's assistants	Lawyers	Police officers	Others	Total	Females	Males
9	27	1	6		38	54	135	99	36

### Attachment 3

#### Data of the Supreme Public Prosecution Office:

	No. of filed criminal charges	No. of dismissed criminal charges	Number of initiated pre-investigation proceedings or investigations	Gender of aggrieved persons		Age of aggrieved persons		No. of charges	No. of convicted persons
				male	female	adult	minor		
2022	48	9	36	9	31	30	10	29	11
2023	52	14	37	9	19	12	16	33	13
2024	42	3	34	13	21	12	19	43	19

Statistical data of the Supreme Public Prosecution Office on the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings under Article 388 of the Criminal Code.

Please note:

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

#### Data of the Ministry of the Interior:

	388
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1 January 2022 - 31 July 2025	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS			
	No. of offences	No. of criminal charges	No. of perpetrators	No. of aggrieved persons
	75	70	127	111

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - number of criminal offences, criminal charges, perpetrators and aggrieved persons, recorded on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

	388			
	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS			
	No. of offences	No. of criminal charges	No. of perpetrators	No. of aggrieved persons
Republic of Serbia	75	70	127	111
2022	17	17	31	24
2023	21	20	37	39
2024	23	20	42	28
2025	14	13	18	20

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - number of perpetrators of a criminal offence classified by gender and age structure, recorded on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

	No. of perpetrators	388		
		TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS		
		No. of perpetrators	M	F
Republic of Serbia	127	97	30	
2022	Perpetrator's age unknown			
	Perpetrators up to 13 years of age			
	Perpetrators aged 14 and 15	1	1	
	Perpetrators aged 16 and 17	1	1	
	Perpetrators aged 18, 19 and 20	4	3	1
	Perpetrators aged 21 to 30	11	8	3
	Perpetrators aged 31 to 40	4	4	
	Perpetrators aged 41 to 50	5	4	1
	Perpetrators aged 51 to 60	4	4	
	Perpetrators over 60 years of age	1	1	
2023	Perpetrator's age unknown			
	Perpetrators up to 13 years of age			
	Perpetrators aged 14 and 15			
	Perpetrators aged 16 and 17			
	Perpetrators aged 18, 19 and 20	3	2	1
	Perpetrators aged 21 to 30	13	9	4
	Perpetrators aged 31 to 40	9	6	3
	Perpetrators aged 41 to 50	8	8	
	Perpetrators aged 51 to 60	2	1	1
	Perpetrators over 60 years of age	2	2	
2024	Perpetrator's age unknown			
	Perpetrators up to 13 years of age			
	Perpetrators aged 14 and 15			
	Perpetrators aged 16 and 17			
	Perpetrators aged 18, 19 and 20	4	3	1

2025	Perpetrators aged 21 to 30	15	11	4
	Perpetrators aged 31 to 40	10	7	3
	Perpetrators aged 41 to 50	8	7	1
	Perpetrators aged 51 to 60	4	1	3
	Perpetrators over 60 years of age	1	1	
	Perpetrator's age unknown			
	Perpetrators up to 13 years of age			
	Perpetrators aged 14 and 15			
	Perpetrators aged 16 and 17	2	2	
	Perpetrators aged 18, 19 and 20	2	2	

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - citizenship of perpetrators of a criminal offence, registered on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, in the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

No. of perpetrators		388	
		TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	
Republic of Serbia	BULGARIA	1	
	CHINA	1	
	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	125	
2022	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	31	
2023	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	37	
2024	BULGARIA	1	
	CHINA	1	
	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	40	
2025	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	18	

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - number of aggrieved persons classified by gender and age structure, recorded on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

No. of aggrieved persons		388		
		No. of aggrieved persons	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	
Republic of Serbia			M	F
2022	Age unknown			
	Up to 6 years of age			
	Age 7 to 11	1	1	
	Age 12 to 14	3	2	1
	Age 15 to 17	3		3
	Age 18 to 20	1		1
	Age 21 to 30	3		3
	Age 31 to 40	8	3	5
	Age 41 to 50	4	1	3
	Age 51 to 60	1		1
	Over 60 years of age			
2023	Age unknown			
	Up to 6 years of age	3	1	2
	Age 7 to 11	5	1	4
	Age 12 to 14	3		3
	Age 15 to 17	9	4	5
	Age 18 to 20	7	2	5
	Age 21 to 30	6	2	4
	Age 31 to 40	3	1	2
	Age 41 to 50	1		1
	Age 51 to 60	2	2	
	Over 60 years of age	1	1	

2024	Age unknown	1	1	
	Up to 6 years of age	5	1	4
	Age 7 to 11	6	4	2
	Age 12 to 14	2		2
	Age 15 to 17	7	2	5
	Age 18 to 20	5	1	4
	Age 21 to 30	1		1
	Age 31 to 40	1		1
	Age 41 to 50			
	Age 51 to 60			
	Over 60 years of age	1	1	2
	Age unknown	3	1	
2025	Up to 6 years of age	1	1	
	Age 7 to 11	5	2	3
	Age 12 to 14	2		2
	Age 15 to 17	2		2
	Age 18 to 20	1	1	
	Age 21 to 30	2		2
	Age 31 to 40	2		2
	Age 41 to 50	1		1
	Age 51 to 60			
	Over 60 years of age			
	Age unknown			

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - citizenship of the aggrieved persons, registered on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

	No. of aggrieved persons	388	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
Republic of Serbia	INDIA	2	
	CHINA	2	
	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	103	
	UKRAINE	2	
	UZBEKISTAN	1	
	MONTENEGRO	1	
2022	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	24	
	INDIA	2	
	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	36	
2023	UKRAINE	1	
	CHINA	2	
	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	24	
2024	UKRAINE	1	
	MONTENEGRO	1	
	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	19	
2025	UZBEKISTAN	1	

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - number of perpetrators of a criminal offence classified by gender and age structure, recorded on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

No. of perpetrators	No. of perpetrators	388	
		M	F
No. of perpetrators	127	97	30
Perpetrator's age unknown			
Perpetrators up to 13 years of age	1	1	
Perpetrators aged 14 and 15	3	3	
Perpetrators aged 16 and 17	13	10	3
Perpetrators aged 18, 19 and 20	42	29	13
Perpetrators aged 31 to 40	26	19	7

Perpetrators aged 41 to 50	24	22	2
Perpetrators aged 51 to 60	12	8	4
Perpetrators over 60 years of age	6	5	1

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - citizenship of perpetrators of a criminal offence, registered on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, in the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

No. of perpetrators	388	
	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	
BULGARIA	1	
CHINA		1
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	125	

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - number of aggrieved persons classified by gender and age structure, recorded on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

No. of aggrieved persons	388		
	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS		
No. of aggrieved persons	M	F	
No. of aggrieved persons	111	38	73
Age unknown	1	1	
Up to 6 years of age	6	2	4
Age 7 to 11	8	4	4
Age 12 to 14	16	5	11
Age 15 to 17	20	8	12
Age 18 to 20	12	2	10
Age 21 to 30	17	5	12
Age 31 to 40	18	5	13
Age 41 to 50	8	2	6
Age 51 to 60	5	3	2
Over 60 years of age	1	1	

**Please note:** The total number of aggrieved persons does not represent a simple sum of persons classified by age because the same person can suffer injury multiple times and therefore belong to different age intervals.

Article 388 of the Criminal Code - citizenship of the aggrieved persons, registered on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the period: from 1 January 2022 until 31 July 2025

No. of aggrieved persons	388	
	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	
INDIA	2	
CHINA		2
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	103	
UKRAINE	2	
UZBEKISTAN		1
MONTENEGRO	1	

During 2023, the **Judicial Academy** had organized 4 one-day seminars on the topic: Protection of victims of human trafficking in criminal proceedings, namely:

- 10 May 2023 in Novi Sad, in the hall of the Appellate Court (24 participants / 16 females and 8 males)
- 10 October 2023 in Kragujevac, Palace of Justice, courtroom 1 (13 participants / 7 females and 6 males)
- 13 September 2023 in Belgrade, Hotel "Zira" (17 participants / 17 females)
- 26 September 2023 in Niš, in the hall of the Judicial Academy (11 participants / 9 females and 2 males).

b) In 2024, 10 trainings have been implemented on the topic: Conducting training for police officers and public prosecutors - contact persons for handling cases of human trafficking for the implementation of the Council of Europe guidelines "Hearing Child Victims of Exploitation and Trafficking and Children at Risk".

A total of 85 judges, 8 public prosecutors, 86 judicial assistants, 69 public prosecutor assistants and 153 police officers underwent training.

In 2024, 4 trainings were implemented on the topic: Conducting training for judges and public prosecutors

- contact persons for handling cases of human trafficking, on the implementation of the Guidelines for improving court practice in compensation proceedings for victims of serious crime in criminal proceedings, adopted by the Supreme Court. (link to activity 1.5.1. AP for National Strategy for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses).

The following persons underwent training: 38 misdemeanour court judges, 11 judicial assistants, 15 public prosecutors and 31 public prosecutor assistants.

d) In addition, during 2024 and 2025, 5 one-day seminars were organized on the topic: "Application of the principle of impunity for victims of human trafficking", namely:

- 4 October 2024 at the Regional Office of the Judicial Academy in Kragujevac (24 participants: 18 females / 6 males)
- 8 November 2024 at the Appellate Court in Novi Sad (25 participants: 21 females / 4 males):
- 22 November 2024 at the Hotel "Zira" in Belgrade (36 participants: 28 females / 8 males):
- 6 December 2024 at the Appellate Court in Niš (27 participants: 15 females / 16 males):
- 30 May 2025 at the Regional Office of the Judicial Academy in Kragujevac (16 participants: 13 females / 3 males):

Judges	Public prosecutors	Judicial assistants	Public prosecutor's assistants	Lawyers	Police officers	Others	Total	Females	Males
40	20	11	34			24	128	95	37

#### Attachment 4

During 2022, out of a total of 110 cases of extradition from the Republic of Serbia, in one case the risk was recognized that the requested person, if extradited, could be subjected to torture, which is why the court in charge, taking into account the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms from 1950 and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, made a decision to refuse extradition. Such negative decision was made despite the guarantees provided by the requesting state in that specific case.

During 2023, out of a total of 164 cases of extradition from the Republic of Serbia, in three cases, which met the conditions to be considered under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the extradition was refused.

During 2024, out of a total of 118 cases of extradition from the Republic of Serbia, extradition was refused in one case due to suspicion that the requested person's right to a fair trial was violated when making the

decision for the execution of which his extradition was requested, and that during the proceedings he expressed fear that, if he were to be extradited, he would be subjected to torture and inhuman treatment. In the aforementioned proceedings, a request for asylum in the Republic of Serbia was also filed. In addition to the aforementioned case, there are currently five other extradition proceedings in which individuals have filed a request for asylum in the Republic of Serbia; in one case, the Minister of Justice himself made a decision on extradition, but its enforcement has been suspended until a final decision on asylum is made.

In 2025, a total of 103 cases of extradition were registered, of which only one met the conditions to be considered for the purposes of this report, and that case is still in the judicial decision-making phase. In order to decide on the extradition request, the court in question has requested additional guarantees from the requesting state, and only after they have been received will the request be considered.

#### Attachment 5

Regarding the measures taken to ensure that all relevant police officers at the first line of control are adequately trained on international refugee law, with a special emphasis on the Principle of Non-Refoulement, the Asylum Office continuously conducts training in the form of problem-based lessons every year for police officers of the Border Police Directorate, as well as for other police officers who are on the first line of contact with asylum seekers, on the topic "Implementation of the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection". The lessons are designed to provide training participants with basic theoretical knowledge, but also to enable them to acquire skills in dealing with these categories of persons through case studies and practical exercises. During each year, the officers at Asylum Office train around 100 police officers on average. In addition to training conducted by the Asylum Office, international and EU organizations also conduct trainings on access to territory and refugee law. In this regard, the most significant trainings are conducted by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and UNHCR.

In accordance with the Professional Development Programme for Police Officers of the Ministry of the Interior, within the framework of mandatory classes in the field of "Theoretical Teaching", the topic "Functioning of the Asylum System in the Republic of Serbia" was implemented, which was attended by 30,335 police officers in 2022.

In accordance with the Course Programme for the Detection, Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking in 2024, training was implemented for 15 police officers.

Also, problem-based lessons were implemented on the following topics:

- "Standard Operating Procedures for dealing with irregular migrants and foreigners who express intention to apply for asylum" attended by 342 police officers in 2022, 4 police officers in 2023, 340 police officers in 2024 and 8 police officers in 2025;
- "Implementation of the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection" attended by 14 police officers in 2023, 84 police officers in 2024 and 17 police officers in 2025;
- "Standard Operating Procedures for profiling, search and registration of irregular migrants" attended by 15 police officers in 2024 and 8 police officers in 2025;

As part of the professional development for police officers implemented outside the Ministry of the Interior, the following training courses were implemented:

- "Arrangements for the reception of migrants, as well as assistance to migrants and asylum seekers", attended by 2 police officers in 2022;
- "Vulnerable groups in the asylum procedure", attended by 2 police officers in 2022 and 1 police officer in 2023;
- "Procedure in mixed patrols, Implementation of the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection", which was attended by 105 police officers in 2022;
- "Access to the asylum procedure" attended by 2 police officers in 2023;
- "Support to representatives of the Asylum Office and other organizational units of the Border Police Directorate in contact with asylum seekers and refugees" attended by 1 police officer in 2023;

In addition to the aforementioned, the following programme contents were adopted for the implementation of problem-based lessons:

- "Respect and protection of human rights in the integrated border management system";
- "Suppression of migrant smuggling".

KIRS, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and UNDP have developed the project **Promoting evidence-based migration management to strengthen the development potential of migration**, aimed at strengthening capacities for data collection and providing trainings, which is funded by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for migration. Eleven curricula in the field of migration management were developed or revised through the said project. One of the new curricula is *Introduction to Mixed Migrations* developed by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo. The core modules of the course relate to international refugee law, international human rights law, international law on stateless persons, and international humanitarian law as a basis for sensitive protection of different categories of migrants who make up mixed migration flows. The Institute's experts have trained eight trainers who will be able to implement courses in respect of civil servants and other interested participants in Serbia. The first course intended for civil servants, which was held in June 2025 at the Commissariat's Training Centre in Plandište, was attended by 16 participants. The course will be accredited by the National Academy of Public Administration as part of the Special Training Programme for Persons Performing Tasks of Importance for Migration Management for 2026, thus becoming part of regular trainings.

#### Attachment 6

In 2022, the following were submitted:

- 320 asylum requests (nationalities: Burundi 180, Cuba 40, Russian Federation 20, Syria 14, Afghanistan 8 and other nationalities 25) of which:
  - 198 adult males;
  - 29 male minors;
  - 63 adult females;
  - 30 female minors.

A total of 10 decisions were made on the recognition of refugee status, i.e. asylum (nationalities: Burundi 1, Afghanistan 4, Iran 3, Libya 1 and Ukraine 1) of which:

- 2 adult males;
- 1 male minors;
- 5 adult females;
- 2 female minors.

20 decisions were made on granting subsidiary protection (nationalities: Cameroon 1, Afghanistan 2, DR Congo 2, Cuba 1, Niger 1, Syria 10 and Ukraine 3) of which:

- 7 adult males;
- 7 male minors;
- 3 adult females;
- 3 female minors.

1,115 decisions were made on granting temporary protection (citizens of Ukraine), of which:

- 205 adult males;
- 140 male minors;
- 632 adult females;
- 138 female minors.

In 2023, the following were submitted:

- 196 asylum requests (nationalities: Russian Federation 34, Burundi 34, Cuba 27, Syria 22, Pakistan 14 and other nationalities 65) of which:

- 132 adult males;
- 17 male minors;
- 32 adult females;
- 15 female minors.

A total of 7 decisions were made on the recognition of refugee status, i.e. asylum (nationalities: Burundi 1, India 1 and Cuba 5) of which:

- 3 adult males;
- 2 male minors;
- 2 adult females.

2 decisions were made on granting subsidiary protection (nationalities: DR Congo 1 and Syria 1) of which:

- 1 adult male;
- 1 male minor;

403 decisions were made on granting temporary protection (citizens of Ukraine), of which:

- 129 adult males;
- 31 male minors;
- 207 adult females;
- 36 female minors.

743 decisions were made on extending temporary protection, of which:

- 162 adult males;
- 79 male minors;
- 420 adult females;
- 82 female minors.

In 2024, the following were submitted:

- 219 asylum requests (nationalities: Syria 35, Turkey 30, Cuba 27, Russian Federation 22, Burundi 13, other nationalities 92) of which:

- 142 adult males;
- 15 male minors;
- 44 adult females;
- 18 female minors.

4 decisions were made on the recognition of refugee status, i.e. on asylum (nationalities: Burundi 1, Iran 1, Republic of Congo 1 and Ukraine 1) of which:

- 2 adult males;
- 2 adult females.

3 decisions were made on granting subsidiary protection (nationalities: Syria 3) for 3 adult males.

375 decisions were made on granting temporary protection (citizens of Ukraine), of which:

- 126 adult males;
- 40 male minors;
- 184 adult females;
- 25 female minors.

710 decisions were made on extending temporary protection, of which:

- 187 adult males;
- 61 male minors;
- 390 adult females;

- 72 female minors.

During 2025 (from 1 January to 31 July), the following were submitted:

- 83 asylum requests (nationalities: Russian Federation 21, Pakistan 8, Burundi 7, Syria 6, Cuba 4, other nationalities 37) of which:
  - 63 adult males;
  - 3 male minors;
  - 15 adult females;
  - 2 female minors.

2 decisions were made on the recognition of refugee status, i.e. on asylum (nationalities: Afghanistan 1 and Cameroon 1) of which:

- 1 adult male;
- 1 adult female.

5 decisions were made on granting subsidiary protection (nationalities: Afghanistan 1, Burundi 1 and Syria 3) of which:

- 4 adult males;
- 1 female minor.

164 decisions were made on granting temporary protection (citizens of Ukraine), of which:

- 58 adult males;
- 10 male minors;
- 85 adult females;
- 1,172 female minors.

818 decisions were made on extending temporary protection, of which:

- 231 adult males;
- 78 male minors;
- 439 adult females;
- 76 female minors.

## DECISIONS ON CANCELLATION OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE AND DECISIONS ON RETURN

In the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, a total of 993 decisions on cancellation of residence with entry ban and 11,246 decisions on return were issued.

In the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, a total of 1,783 decisions on cancellation of residence with entry ban and 8,232 decisions on return were issued.

In the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, a total of 1,693 decisions on cancellation of residence with entry ban and 12,405 decisions on return were issued.

In the period from 1 January 2025 to 01 August 2025, a total of 673 decisions on cancellation of residence with entry ban and 4,032 decisions on return were issued.

## DECISIONS ON APPROVED TEMPORARY RESIDENCE FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS

Number of foreign nationals who were granted temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia on humanitarian grounds:

1. as of 31 December 2022 - 100
2. as of 31 December 2023 - 77
3. as of 31 December 2024 - 76
4. as of 1 August 2025 - 66

When it comes to assisted voluntary return, good cooperation continued with the IOM Office, under which 20 foreign nationals were returned to their country of origin, as follows: Nepal - 6, Bangladesh - 6, India - 4, PR China - 1, Russian Federation - 1, Sri Lanka - 2).

The Office of the Protector of Citizens is regularly informed about the removal of foreigners from the reception centres to the border crossing, for the purpose of handing them over to neighbouring border authorities (application of the Readmission Agreement), or for the purpose of independent return to their country of origin.

During 2022, representatives of the Office of the Protector of Citizens have supervised the forced removal of a total of 23 foreign nationals on five occasions.

During 2023, representatives of the Office of the Protector of Citizens have supervised the forced removal of foreigners from the reception centres for foreigners on three occasions, as follows:

- Reception Centre for Foreigners in Dimitrovgrad - supervision over the removal of 18 foreign nationals (implementation of the Readmission Agreement) and
- Reception Centre for Foreigners in Padinska Skela - supervision over the removal of 2 foreign nationals (the persons were escorted from the reception centre for foreigners to the border crossing and have voluntarily returned to their country of origin).

During 2024, representatives of the Office of the Protector of Citizens have supervised the forced removal procedure, i.e. the readmission procedure, in respect of a total of 23 persons (22 Syrian, 1 Moroccan) on four occasions at the Reception Centre for Foreigners in Dimitrovgrad.

During 2025, a representative of the Office of the Protector of Citizens has supervised the forced removal procedure of 2 Israeli nationals at the Reception Centre for Foreigners in Padinska Skela.

#### Attachment 7

During 2022, the **Judicial Academy** had conducted a total of 6 one-day seminars on the topic: *"Conducting investigations in cases of abuse by the police"*

- 20 May 2022 at the Judicial Academy in Kragujevac (22 participants)
- 27 May 2022 at the Judicial Academy in Niš (26 participants).
- 17 June 2022 at the Judicial Academy in Belgrade (32 participants)
- 1 July 2022 at the Appellate Court in Novi Sad (24 participants)
- 4 November 2022 at the Judicial Academy in Kragujevac (23 participants)
- 25 November 2022 at the Judicial Academy in Niš (24 participants).

During 2024, the Training and Professional Development Centre at the Administration for the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions of the Ministry of Justice had implemented basic, supplementary, professional and continuous training for members of the security service in institutions.

- The basic training and professional examination for the rank of commander in the security service were implemented for 197 candidates over three decades, which also includes the area of torture prevention and the lawful use of coercive measures.
- Professional training was implemented for 26 members of the security service for taking the exam and obtaining the professional title of supervisor, as well as for 14 members of the security service for taking the exam and obtaining the title of junior commander.

In accordance with the Professional Development Programme for Police Officers of the Ministry of the Interior, the following topics were implemented within the mandatory teaching area "Theoretical Teaching":

- "Commission for the Implementation of Standards of Police Conduct in the Field of Torture Prevention", which was attended by 30,365 police officers in 2022, 28,679 police officers in 2023, 27,865 police officers in 2024 and 14,022 police officers in 2025;

- "Protection of Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Their Liberty and Police Officers", which was attended by 22,032 police officers in 2022, 15,642 police officers in 2023, 27,842 police officers in 2024 and 14,022 police officers in 2025.

Optional classes were implemented for police officers of the Internal Control Sector on the topic:

- "Implementation of Standards of Police Conduct in the Field of Torture Prevention", which was attended by 48 police officers in 2024.

As part of professional development implemented outside the Ministry, the following trainings were held:

- "Respect and protection of human rights in border control operations", which was attended by 1 police officer in 2022;

- "Protection of human rights in border control operations as part of the project "Support to effective border management IPA-2016", which was attended by 1 police officer in 2022;

- "The rights of victims and presentation of the Mandatory Instructions of the MoI for treating victims when providing information and assessing the risk of vulnerability and the need for protection and support measures", which was attended by 63 police officers in 2022;

- "Protection of human rights", which was attended by 1 police officer in 2022, 5 police officers in 2023 and 2 police officers in 2024;

- "Application of police powers to protect the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty and police officers", which was attended by 789 police officers in 2023;

- "Strengthening the protection of the right to health of persons deprived of their liberty", which was attended by 3 police officers in 2025;

- "Interrogation in the pre-investigation proceedings", which was attended by 12 police officers in 2025,

In addition to the aforementioned, in 2025, a Course Programme for Trainers on the Treatment of Brought In and Detained Persons was adopted.

Seminars have also been established on the following topics:

- "Treatment of brought in and detained persons" and
- "Interrogation in the pre-investigation proceedings", which was attended by 12 police officers in 2025.

Since 1 January 2022, employees and contractors of KIRS have attended 101 training courses in the field of reception and international protection, which were conducted independently by the Commissariat, other competent authorities, specialized Civil Society Organizations, international organizations, EUAA, the Council of Europe, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, and the UN University in Maastricht. During 2022, 20 trainings were conducted for 261 participants; in 2023, 24 trainings were conducted for 335 participants; in 2024, 34 trainings were conducted for 304 participants; and by 31 August 2025, a total of 23 trainings were conducted for 223 participants. Of this number, 11 trainings for 113 participants were on the topic of international human rights law; 11 trainings for 159 participants were on the topic of employee conduct and protecting the welfare of beneficiaries; while 4 trainings for 17 employees were on the topic of gender-based violence.

#### **Attachment 8**

**Table: Number and capacity per institute**

#	Name of the institution	Institution type	Number of prisoners as of 1 August 2025	Capacity
1.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Požarevac – Zabela</b>	institution of closed type, with special security	1,517	1426
2.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Sremska Mitrovica</b>	institution of closed type	2012	1885
3.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Niš</b>	institution of closed type	1682	1415
4.	<b>Special Prison Hospital in Belgrade</b>	institution of closed type	860	624
5.	<b>Juvenile Correctional Facility in Valjevo</b>	institution of closed type	212	416
6.	<b>Juvenile Correctional Facility in Kruševac</b>	juvenile correctional facility of semi-open type	181	320
7.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Ćuprija</b>	institution of open type	171	230
8.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Šabac</b>	institution of open type	136	140
9.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Sombor</b>	institution of open type	116	130
10.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Belgrade – Padinska Skela</b>	institution of open type	186	300
11.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Požarevac</b>	institution of semi-open type	269	415
12.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Belgrade</b>	institution of closed type, with special security	277	444
13.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Pančevo</b>	institution of closed type	436	602
14.	<b>Penal Correctional Institution in Kragujevac</b>	institution of closed type	414	592
15.	<b>District Prison in Belgrade</b>	institution of semi-open type	1.068	1.200
16.	<b>District Prison in Novi Sad</b>	institution of semi-open type	464	428

17.	<b>District Prison in Leskovac</b>	institution of semi-open type	231	380
18.	<b>District Prison in Zaječar</b>	institution of semi-open type	107	202
19.	<b>District Prison in Zrenjanin</b>	institution of semi-open type	204	170
20.	<b>District Prison in Subotica</b>	institution of semi-open type	143	190
21.	<b>District Prison in Vranje</b>	institution of semi-open type	64	75
22.	<b>District Prison in Kraljevo</b>	institution of semi-open type	49	70
23.	<b>District Prison in Kruševac</b>	institution of semi-open type	50	58
24.	<b>District Prison in Prokuplje</b>	institution of semi-open type	69	85
25.	<b>District Prison in Užice</b>	institution of semi-open type	49	65
26.	<b>District Prison in Čačak</b>	institution of semi-open type	46	70
27.	<b>District Prison in Novi Pazar</b>	institution of semi-open type	61	70
28.	<b>District Prison in Negotin</b>	institution of semi-open type	23	50
29.	<b>District Prison in Smederevo</b>	institution of semi-open type	122	94

Convicted persons, persons serving security measures, persons convicted of misdemeanours and detained persons by age, gender, and division into citizens of the Republic of Serbia and foreign nationals as of 31 December 2022

Age	Convicted persons				Persons serving a security measure				Persons convicted of a misdemeanour				Detained persons			
	Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals	
	Male s	Female s	Male s	Female s	Male s	Female s	Male s	Female s	Male s	Female s	Male s	Female s	Male s	Female s	Male s	Female s
Age 14 to 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Age 16 to 18	1	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	1	2	0
Age 18 to 21	30	0	2	0	14	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	86	3	10	0
Age 21 to 25	351	7	22	1	31	2	0	0	18	0	4	0	201	10	23	2
Age 25 to 30	1044	27	38	2	77	7	0	0	32	0	2	0	282	22	42	1
Age 30 to 40	2356	86	49	2	173	11	1	0	92	0	2	0	615	43	54	2
Age 40 to 50	1955	89	34	0	173	12	4	0	70	0	2	0	483	15	32	1

	Age 50 to 60	723	41	16	0	106	10	0	0	53	0	1	0	186	9	20	1
Age 60 to 70	316	28	9	0	77	7	2	0	19	0	1	0	0	80	4	11	0
Age 70 to 80	73	5	1	0	20	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	22	3	1	1
Age 80 and up	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6865</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1916</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>8</b>	
Total per category:														<b>311</b>			
														<b>739</b>			
														<b>7324</b>			
														<b>2203</b>			

Convicted persons, persons serving security measures, persons convicted of misdemeanours and detained persons by age, gender, and division into citizens of the Republic of Serbia and foreign nationals as of 31 December 2023

Age	Convicted persons				Persons serving a security measure				Persons convicted of a misdemeanour				Detained persons			
	Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Age 14 to 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 16 to 18	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	45	1	2
Age 18 to 21	86	1	11	0	13	2	0	0	7	0	62	0	146	6	36	0
Age 21 to 25	473	9	29	3	26	2	0	0	26	1	56	0	261	11	38	2
Age 25 to 30	1276	38	32	0	53	2	1	0	39	1	69	0	439	25	63	2
Age 30 to 40	2298	94	59	0	153	12	0	0	69	1	52	1	629	43	54	5
Age 40 to 50	1915	100	40	1	208	19	0	0	66	0	16	2	444	16	35	0
Age 50 to 60	764	38	19	1	115	8	0	0	59	3	1	0	181	12	15	0

Age 60 to 70	272	27	8	2	79	8	0	0	18	0	1	0	81	3	4	0
Age 70 to 80	75	2	1	0	21	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	19	4	1	0
Age 80 and up	14	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7175</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2158</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>10</b>
Total per category:													<b>563</b>			
													<b>731</b>			
													<b>7692</b>			
													<b>2518</b>			

Convicted persons, persons serving security measures, persons convicted of misdemeanours and detained persons by age, gender, and division into citizens of the Republic of Serbia and foreign nationals as of 31 December 2024

Age	Convicted persons				Persons serving a security measure				Persons convicted of a misdemeanour				Detained persons			
	Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals		Serbian nationals		Foreign nationals	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Age 14 to 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Age 16 to 18	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	1	0
Age 18 to 21	28	0	1	0	11	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	77	3	6	0
Age 21 to 25	452	15	27	1	28	5	0	0	18	1	2	0	198	6	21	4
Age 25 to 30	799	35	34	2	61	5	1	0	26	0	7	0	297	14	43	2
Age 30 to 40	2181	110	88	2	168	12	0	1	55	3	2	0	644	20	76	6
Age 40 to 50	2338	109	54	2	202	12	2	0	69	3	3	0	562	32	41	1
Age 50 to 60	858	41	30	2	116	6	2	0	33	2	0	0	223	12	14	2

Age 60 to 70	347	28	11	0	87	7	0	0	18	0	0	0	81	5	16	0
Age 70 to 80	116	2	3	0	17	2	0	0	7	0	0	0	27	2	0	0
Age 80 and up	22	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7161</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2135</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>16</b>
Total per category:		7760			752				256				2464			

**Age structure of minors serving the educational measure of placement in a home and serving a sentence in Juvenile Detention Facility as of 31 December 2024**

<i>Age</i>	31 December 2022	31 December 2023	31 December 2024
Age 14 to 15	0	2	0
Age 15 to 16	7	7	7
Age 16 to 17	22	18	18
Age 17 to 18	45	33	32
Age 18 to 21	64	110	121
Age 21 to 23	27	22	19
Age 23 to 25	1	3	3
Age 25 to 27	2	0	0
Age 27 and up	0	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>200</b>

**Attachment 9**

As of 31 December 2024, there were 2,819 persons serving sanctions and measures outside Penal Correctional Institutions, which accounts for 19.6% of the total number of penal sanctions under the jurisdiction of the Administration for the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions (AEPS). A slight increase in the imposition of house arrest measure is observed, so that in 2024, as of 31 December 2024, there were 494 persons under house arrest, or 16.7% of the total number of detained persons (2,464 persons were under detention in Penal Correctional Institutions), compared to 419 persons under house arrest, or 14.2% in 2023 (2,518 persons were under detention in Penal Correctional Institutions).

During 2024, a total of 6,718 court decisions on the enforcement of sanctions and measures outside Penal Correctional Institutions were submitted to the AEPS, which represents a significant increase compared to 2021 (5,423), 2022 (6,337) and 2023 (6,623).

During the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of the System of Enforcement of Penal Sanctions 2022-2027, in the reporting period, we highlight the following investments: a closed-type prison was built in Kragujevac in October 2022, with a capacity for 500 prisoners;

construction of a closed-type facility for housing 228 convicts in the Women's penitentiary in Požarevac was completed in December 2025 (the open and semi-open type facilities in this prison were built in 2019, to accommodate 160 convicts); in the District Prison in Belgrade, in March 2024, a complete rehabilitation of this prison was completed, which includes 12 accommodation blocks. In the reporting period, preparatory work, project development, and selection of the most favourable bidder for the implementation of works on the construction of new facilities within the Penal Correctional Institutions have continued in accordance with the Action Plan developed with the Strategy. During 2025, construction began on a new pavilion in order to accommodate 216 convicted persons at the Penal Correctional Institution Požarevac-Zabela, as well as on a pavilion for accommodating 200 convicted persons at the Penal Correctional Institution Sremska Mitrovica.

The Ministry of the Interior has 213 detention facilities in use, with a capacity for 325 people, which are used to detain persons for up to 12, 24, or 48 hours. Of that number, 145 detention facilities, with a capacity for accommodating 233 people, are in accordance with the Regulation on the conditions that detention facilities should meet and the CPT standards, while 68 detention facilities partially meet the conditions and will be adapted in the coming period in accordance with the Regulation.

In the period from 2022 until the end of July 2025, 41 detention facilities with a capacity of 45 people were adapted in 13 police departments by using funds from the Ministry's budget, while the adaptation of 7 detention facilities in 2 police stations is underway. The greatest progress in improving the conditions in detention facilities was made during 2020 and 2021, when 63 detention facilities, with a capacity for 128 people, in 30 PSs within 14 police departments were renovated with funds from a donation from the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, as part of the project "Norwegian Call - 2018".

#### Attachment 10

##### No. of registered deaths of persons deprived of their liberty in the course of the year

	Deaths	In 2022	In 2023	In 2024
Persons died of natural causes	At the Penal Correctional Institution	24	29	22
	In hospitals of Penal Correctional Institutions	5	8	3
	At the Special Prison Hospital	26	39	35
	In hospitals outside Penal Correctional Institutions	15	13	28

	Outside the Penal Correctional Institution	6	6	5
Alcohol/drug abuse		3	0	0
Suicide		3	8	8
Murder		0	0	1
Accident at the Penal Correctional Institution		2	0	0

#### Conflicts between persons deprived of their liberty in the course of the year

In the course of the year	No. of conflicts	No. of participants	Persons with minor bodily injuries	Persons with serious bodily injury
2022	842	1909	535	34
2023	910	1931	605	28
2024	917	2067	646	30

In the reporting period, a total of 4 deaths of persons in police custody were recorded:

- in 2022: A male person, born in 1984, detained at the Police Station Temerin, Police Department in Novi Sad, had passed away;

- in 2024: in the detention room of the Police Station Surčin, the Police Department of the City of Belgrade, a detained male person, born in 1981, had passed away; in the detention room of the Criminal Police Department, the Police Department in Bor, a detained male person, born in 1984, had passed away; in the detention room of the Police Station Srbobran, the Police Department in Novi Sad, a detained male person, born in 1978, had committed suicide,

In all 4 cases, the Higher Public Prosecutor's Offices were notified, an investigation was carried out, and orders for a forensic medical examination of the corpse were issued by the higher public prosecutors. In relation to the aforementioned cases, the conduct of police officers in specific events was monitored and it was determined that in all cases the persons died of natural causes.

#### Attachment 11

Based on data from the RISP from regular annual reports on the work of accommodation institutions, all social welfare institutions have internal teams for dealing with cases of violence against beneficiaries. According to the latest available data for 2022, a total of 36 complaints of

violence against beneficiaries were reported to internal teams in institutions housing persons with disabilities, 34 for physical violence, one complaint of sexual violence and one for economic exploitation. A total of 28 complaints were forwarded to the referring guardianship authorities. 12 criminal charges were filed against the perpetrators of violence - 11 beneficiaries and one employee of the institution. In 2022, restrictive measures were applied in three institutions for a total of 104 beneficiaries. Restrictive procedures and measures against users whose behavior endangers themselves, other users, staff, visitors or property are applied exclusively on the basis of planned, monitored, supervised and time-limited interventions, in accordance with a special regulation. To restrict the movement, isolate or control the behavior of users, the service provider prescribes procedures, designates a person responsible for approving restrictive procedures and measures and keeps records of their application, in accordance with a special regulation. The service provider is obliged to conduct an internal evaluation of the quality of the services provided at least once a year, which includes a survey of the satisfaction of users, i.e. their representatives. In 14 out of a total of 16 institutions, health care for users is organized within the institution. When it comes to institutions for the accommodation of elderly users, 52 cases of violence against users were recorded in 2022. The victims of violence were equally women and men, 26 women and 26 men. The Center for Social Work, as the guardianship authority, forwarded 30 reports of violence. Of the total number of recorded cases of violence, 67% were reports of physical violence, and 19% were reports of psychological violence. Neglect as a form of violence was recorded in 8% of cases, and sexual violence in 7%. Violence was committed by 45 users, five employees of the institution, and two perpetrators were persons outside the institution. 17 criminal charges were filed against the perpetrators of violence. 13 criminal charges were filed against other users, eight for physical violence, one for sexual violence, three for emotional violence, and one for economic violence. Three criminal charges were filed against employees of the institution, all three for neglect as a form of violence. One criminal complaint, for physical violence, was filed against a person outside the institution. In the period from 2022 to 2025, the Social Welfare Inspectorate handled 218 complaints related to the work of social welfare service providers.

According to data from the Republic Institute for Social Protection and based on reports from institutions for the accommodation of beneficiaries, as of 31 December 2024, the total number of beneficiaries in social welfare institutions was 23,452, while the share of adult beneficiaries was 97.3%, i.e. 22,830 adult beneficiaries. The share of elderly beneficiaries is 70.7%, adult beneficiaries - 24.8%, youth - 1.9%, and children - 2.7%. Of the total number of adult beneficiaries accommodated in social welfare institutions, 17,492, i.e. 76.6%, are accommodated in institutions for the accommodation of adults and the elderly, while 3,982 beneficiaries, i.e. 17.4%, are accommodated in institutions for the accommodation of persons with disabilities.

In the population of adult beneficiaries with disabilities in residential care, beneficiaries with multiple disabilities (27.1%) and mental difficulties (26.5%) are predominant. The number of adults with disabilities who used day care services in 2024 was 1,480, which represents an increase of 10.9% compared to 2020. In 2024, 11,441 adults with disabilities have used the help at home service. In 2024, 446 adult beneficiaries have used the personal assistant service. The number of beneficiaries had increased by 23.9% compared to 2023. In 2024, 25 beneficiaries have used the supported housing service for people with disabilities.

Based on available data in 2024, out of the total number of beneficiaries whose level of support was assessed (23,360), the largest number of them belonged to the first level of support – 8,274 persons (35.4%). This category includes beneficiaries who require intensive support, i.e. those who are unable to care for themselves and perform daily activities independently, and therefore require physical presence and continuous assistance of another person with 24-hour supervision. In the second level of support, there are 7,492 beneficiaries (32.1%), as persons who can take care of themselves with the physical presence and constant help of another person, but still require a higher level of support. The third level of support, which includes 5,298 persons (22.7%), refers to beneficiaries who are capable of taking care of themselves, but with occasional supervision and support, which indicates partial independence. The fewest number of beneficiaries, 2,296 persons (9.8%), are in the fourth level of support, which refers to persons who function independently, but need occasional reminders or guidance. The predominant presence of beneficiaries in the first and second levels of support confirms that residential care facilities are mainly intended for persons who require significant or continuous assistance in daily functioning.

In 2024, there were 392 children with developmental disabilities placed in institutions. In 2024, 265 children have used the day care service for people with disabilities. A total of 3,995 children have used the personal companion service in 2024. Compared to the five-year period, an increase of 106.8% was recorded as a result of the increase in the number of licensed service providers. The number of licensed service providers who are actively providing services has increased by 100% in five years. In 2024, 159 children have used the help at home service, which represents 1.3% of the total number of service beneficiaries. The share of children using this service is continuously low, with a five-year average of 0.9%. Only 18 providers out of the total number of providers of this service had child beneficiaries. In 2024, 68 children have used the respite care service, accounting for 26.5% of the total number of beneficiaries.

In the period from 2017 to 2023, the number of municipalities providing social welfare services had increased from 103 to 153, representing an increase of 48.4%. The most widespread service was help at home, present in 133, i.e. 82.6% of municipalities. The personal companion service was present in 120, i.e. 74.5% of municipalities, day care for people with disabilities in 57, i.e. 35.4% of municipalities, and personal assistant in 33, i.e. 20.4% of municipalities.

The **community day care services** are the most common type of services, among which the most developed service is **help at home** with 137 licensed service providers in 2023. In the period from 2014 to 2018, the number of help at home service providers has been growing significantly every year, with a high growth index exceeding 140%.

The **child's personal companion** service, with 62 licensed service providers, had experienced the most intense growth of 138% in 2023. The personal companion service is present in 120, i.e. 74.5% of municipalities.

**Day care for people with disabilities** had also recorded significant growth in the period between 2014 and 2018, with a growth index of over 150%. Day care for people with disabilities is available in 57, i.e. 35.4% of municipalities in Serbia.

The first **day care centre for adults and elderly persons who need full-time supervision and support** began operating in 2020 and remains the only licensed institution of that kind to date.

**Support services for independent living**, such as supported housing and personal assistance, are underrepresented in the social welfare system. Data shows that the **supported housing service**, one of the least developed services, will see only one new provider in 2023, after two years of stagnation. Out of a total of eight licensed service providers, only six are actively providing the service. The number of **personal assistant** service providers has been recording a significant increase, from 21 service providers in 2022 to 26 service providers in 2023. A personal assistant is present in 33, i.e. 20.4% of municipalities.

**Accommodation services**, including shelters and respite care, are being licensed at a slower pace. In 2023, there were 16 licensed **shelter** service providers, including three for children and youth, six for adults and the elderly, six for victims of violence, and one for victims of human trafficking. Shelters are available to beneficiaries throughout Serbia. The **respite care service (daily, weekend or multi-day)**, for which licensing began in 2019, had only three licensed service providers in 2023 (in Belgrade, Niš and Šabac).

The list of all licensed social welfare service providers is publicly available on the website of the Ministry Social Welfare Sector | Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs (minrzs.gov.rs).

The State, i.e. the national budget, through **earmarked transfers** helps local budgets in less developed LSUs to establish and develop community services. An average of approximately RSD 600 million (approximately EUR 5 million) is allocated on an annual level for these purposes.

#### Attachment 12

#### Figures on detention measures imposed on minors

In 2022, detention was ordered in 39 cases in the Department for Juveniles of the Higher Court in Belgrade, with the following duration of detention:

up to 1 month - in 7 cases	up to 5 months - in 2 cases
up to 2 months - in 14 cases	up to 6 months - in 2 cases
up to 3 months - in 7 cases	up to 7 months - in 1 case
up to 4 months - in 6 cases	

In 2023, detention was ordered in 24 cases in the Department for Juveniles of the Higher Court in Belgrade, with the following duration of detention:

up to 1 month - in 9 cases	up to 7 months - in 1 case
up to 2 months - in 7 cases	up to 8 months - in 2 cases
up to 3 months - in 3 cases	up to 10 months - in 1 case
up to 5 months - in 1 case	

In 2024, detention was ordered in 20 cases in the Department for Juveniles of the Higher Court in Belgrade, with the following duration of detention:

up to 1 month - in 3 cases	up to 5 months - in 1 case
up to 2 months - in 5 cases	up to 7 months - in 2 cases
up to 3 months - in 5 cases	up to 8 months - in 2 cases
up to 4 months - in 2 cases	

In the period from 1 January 2025 to 28 August 2025, detention was ordered in 13 cases in the Department for Juveniles of the Higher Court in Belgrade, with the following duration of detention in 6 completed proceedings:

up to 2 months - in 4 cases
up to 4 months - in 1 case
up to 5 months - in 1 case, while the proceedings in the remaining 7 cases is ongoing.

The above data shows that in 2022, the number of cases where detention lasted up to 2 months was 54%, while the number of cases where detention lasted up to 3 months in respect of minors was 72% of the total number of cases where detention in respect of minors was ordered.

In 2023, the number of cases where detention lasted up to 2 months was 67%, while the number of cases where detention lasted up to 3 months in respect of minors was 80% of the total number of cases where detention in respect of minors was ordered.

In 2024, the number of cases where detention lasted up to 2 months was 40%, while the number of cases where detention lasted up to 3 months in respect of minors was 65% of the total number of cases where detention in respect of minors was ordered.

According to the above statistics, the following trends are clearly evident: 1) a constant decrease in the number of cases in which detention is imposed on minors and 2) a reduction in the duration of detention to the shortest possible period of time.

#### **Information on specialized training for representatives of the judiciary in the field related to minors**

In the period from 1 January 2022 to 1 September 2025, numerous specialized training courses were held for judges in the field related to minors:

In 2022 a) 37 one-day seminars on the topic "Minors as perpetrators of criminal offences and minors injured by a criminal offence"

b) 2 one-day seminars on the topic "Educational orders and extra-institutional educational measures"

In 2023 31 one-day seminar "Minors as perpetrators of criminal offences and minors injured by a criminal offence"

Judge s	Public prosecuto rs	Judicial assistan ts	Public prosecutor 's assistants	Lawyer s	Police officer s	Other s	Total	Female s	Male s
110	16	90	35	454	299	42	104 6	485	561

In 2024 33 one-day seminars "Minors as perpetrators of criminal offences and minors injured by a criminal offence"

Judge s	Public prosecuto rs	Judicial assistan ts	Public prosecutor 's assistants	Lawyer s	Police officer s	Other s	Total	Female s	Male s
95	9	87	69	552	244	0	1056	459	597

In 2025 16 one-day seminars "Minors as perpetrators of criminal offences and minors injured by a criminal offence"

Judge s	Public prosecuto rs	Judicial assistan ts	Public prosecutor 's assistants	Lawyer s	Police officer s	Other s	Total	Female s	Male s
50	13	40	40	252	0	87	482	264	218

In 2022, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a new General Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence, which aims to ensure systematic continuous prevention of all forms of violence against children and to ensure effective, intersectoral protection measures when there is suspicion or knowledge of violence involving children. The new protocol is more comprehensive than the previous one, among other things because it includes areas implemented by the private sector and the sports sector. In accordance with the obligation under the General Protocol, the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs adopted a new Special Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence in the Field of Social Welfare in October 2024, which was distributed to all social work centers and all service providers working with children with an order for further action.

In order to better coordinate and act more effectively in protecting children from various forms of violence, the Government of the Republic of Serbia established the National Platform for the Prevention of Violence Involving Children "I Protect You" in March 2021. The platform integrates all necessary aspects of prevention and tools for combating violence involving children in one place. The platform provides information material and educational content, as well as an electronic form for reporting violence involving children. Thanks to the integration of 7 state bodies, the connection of over 2,700 institutions and more than 118,000 active users, the platform has been recognized as a pioneering solution that contributes to a rapid response and the safety of children throughout the Republic of Serbia. The platform connects all social work centers in Serbia, all primary and secondary schools, police stations, departmental inspectorates, basic and higher public prosecutor's offices, social welfare institutions for the placement of children, the Center for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, and healthcare institutions, thus improving coordination and enabling a faster and more efficient response by institutions.

#### **Attachment 13:**

During the reporting period, the Internal Control Sector had filed criminal charges with the competent Public Prosecutor's Offices against several police officers, as follows:

- 2022 - 5 criminal charges against seven police officers due to reasonable grounds to suspect that they committed a criminal offence under Article 137 of the Criminal Code;
- 2023 - 3 criminal charges against seven police officers due to reasonable grounds to suspect that they committed a criminal offence under Article 137 of the Criminal Code;
- 2024 - 3 criminal charges against four police officers due to reasonable grounds to suspect that they committed a criminal offence under Article 137 of the Criminal Code; and
- 2025 (until 1 September) - 2 criminal charges against two police officers due to reasonable grounds to suspect that they committed a criminal offence under Article 137 of the Criminal Code.

#### **Attachment 14:**

**Statistical data of the Supreme Public Prosecution Office on the criminal offence of ill-treatment and torture under Article 137 of the Criminal Code, committed by members of the Administration for the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions:**

	No. of filed criminal charges	No. of dismissed criminal charges	Number of initiated pre-investigation proceedings or investigations	No. of charges	Number of convictions
2022	40	7	40	6	1
2023	28	15	22	1	1
2024	23	10	18	0	0

**Please note:**

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

**Statistical data of the Supreme Public Prosecution Office on the criminal offence of extortion of confession under Article 136 of the Criminal Code committed by police officers:**

	No. of filed criminal charges	No. of dismissed criminal charges	Number of initiated pre-investigation proceedings or investigations	No. of charges	Number of convictions
2022	9	3	6	0	0
2023	13	6	6	0	0
2024	6	3	8	0	0

**Please note:**

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

**Statistical data of the Supreme Public Prosecution Office on the criminal offence of ill-treatment and torture under Article 137 of the Criminal Code committed by police officers:**

	No. of filed criminal charges	No. of dismissed criminal charges	Number of initiated pre-investigation proceedings or investigations	No. of charges	Number of convictions

2022	245	154	107	12	3
2023	319	261	174	16	12
2024	295	227	210	7	0

**Please note:**

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

**Attachment 15:**

In the reporting period, a total of 101 assaults on media representatives while performing their professional activities (41 physical and 60 verbal assaults) and 56 threats via telephone and social media were registered, namely:

- in 2022, 10 physical and 20 verbal assaults were recorded, with one person suffering minor bodily injuries (Belgrade). Criminal charges were filed for 10 criminal offences (7 - endangerment of safety, 2 - destruction and damage to another person's property and 1 - minor bodily injury), while motions for initiating misdemeanour proceedings were filed in respect of 7 misdemeanours. A total of 15 reports were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office. Four persons were brought in, five were detained, and one was arrested. In addition to the aforementioned, 13 threats via telephone and social media were registered. Criminal charges were filed for 2 criminal offences (both endangerment of safety). A total of 10 reports were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office. Two people were brought in, detained and arrested (Belgrade).

- in 2023, 13 physical and 16 verbal assaults were recorded, with one person suffering serious bodily injuries (Pančevo) and 2 persons suffering minor bodily injuries (Čačak and Belgrade). Criminal charges were filed for 10 criminal offences (3 - endangerment of safety, 3 - destruction and damage to another person's property, 2 violent behaviour, 1 - stalking and 1 - serious bodily injury), while motions for initiating misdemeanour proceedings were filed in respect of 6 misdemeanours. A total of 11 reports were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office. In addition to the aforementioned, 23 threats via mobile phones and social media were registered. Criminal charges were filed for 2 criminal offences (both endangerment of safety), while a motion for initiating misdemeanour proceedings was filed in respect of the first misdemeanour. A total of 18 reports were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office.

- in 2024, 5 physical and 8 verbal assaults were recorded, with one person suffering minor bodily injuries (Belgrade). Criminal charges were filed for 3 criminal offences (endangerment of safety, aggravated theft and insult), while motions for initiating misdemeanour proceedings were filed in respect of 5 misdemeanours. A total of 6 reports were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office. In addition to the aforementioned, 12 threats via mobile phones and social media were registered. Criminal charges were filed in respect of 1 criminal offence (inciting national, racial and religious hatred and intolerance). A total of 11 reports were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office.

- in 2025 (January-July), 13 physical and 16 verbal assaults were recorded, with three people suffering minor bodily injuries (Kraljevo, Čačak, Užice). Criminal charges were filed for 10 criminal offences (4 - endangerment of safety, 2 - insult, 2 - violent behaviour at a sports event or public gathering, 1 - causing panic and disorder and 1 - attempted aggravated theft), the motions for initiating misdemeanour proceedings were filed in respect of 6 misdemeanours under the Law on Public Order and Peace, and in 12 cases reports were submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Four persons were brought in, three were detained, and two were arrested. In addition to the aforementioned, 8 threats via mobile phones and social media were also reported. Criminal charges were filed for 1 criminal offence (insult), while in the remaining cases, reports were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office.

In the period from 1 January until 31 December 2022, the Public Prosecutors' Offices, based on filed criminal charges/reports, have opened 87 cases related to events to the detriment of 96 aggrieved parties, i.e. 82 individual persons performing tasks of public importance in the field of information, of which 44 aggrieved parties were male (53.66%), and 38 were female (46.34%).

Of the total number of cases, 46 cases were opened in the Special Public Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime, which represents 52.87% of the total number of cases. These cases were opened in connection with events to the detriment of 43 aggrieved parties, i.e. 37 individual persons performing tasks of public importance in the field of information, of which 19 aggrieved parties were male (51.35%), and 18 were female (48.65%).

In all opened cases, as of 30 June 2025, the following actions were taken:

- a conviction was reached in 10 cases
- acquittals were reached in 3 cases
- in 12 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal charges
- in 25 cases, an official note was issued stating that there was no reason to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 3 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court, based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 3 cases, the procedure for international legal assistance in criminal matters is ongoing
- in 14 cases a request was submitted for collecting the necessary information
- in 17 cases, even after measures were taken in the pre-investigation proceedings, the potential perpetrator was not identified

In the period from 1 January until 31 December 2023, the Public Prosecutors' Offices, based on filed criminal charges/reports, have opened 77 cases related to events to the detriment of 76 aggrieved parties, i.e. 57 individual persons performing tasks of public importance in the field of information, of which 38 aggrieved parties were male (66.67%), and 19 were female (33.33%).

Of the total number of cases, 39 cases were opened in the Special Public Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime, which represents 50.65% of the total number of cases. These cases were opened in connection with events to the detriment of 37 aggrieved parties, i.e. 28 individual persons performing tasks of public importance in the field of information, of which 19 aggrieved parties were male (67.86%), and 9 were female (32.14%).

In all opened cases, as of 30 June 2025, the following actions were taken:

- a conviction was reached in 12 cases
- in 1 case, the indictment of the Public Prosecutor's Office was rejected by a court decision
- in 14 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal charges
- in 14 cases, an official note was issued stating that there was no reason to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 4 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court, based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 5 cases a request was submitted for collecting the necessary information
- in 26 cases, even after measures were taken in the pre-investigation proceedings, the potential perpetrator was not identified
- in 1 case, information collected during the pre-investigation proceedings are being considered for the purpose of reaching a decision

During 2024, the Public Prosecutors' Offices, based on filed criminal charges/reports, have opened 64 cases related to events to the detriment of 66 aggrieved parties, i.e. 49 individual persons performing tasks of public importance in the field of information, of which 22 aggrieved parties were male (44.9%), and 27 were female (55.1%).

Of the total number of cases, 44 cases were opened in the Special Public Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime, which represents 68.75% of the total number of cases. These cases were opened in connection with events to the detriment of 41 aggrieved parties, i.e. 28 individual persons performing tasks of public importance in the field of information, of which 9 aggrieved parties were male (32.14%), and 19 were female (67.86%).

In all opened cases, as of 30 June 2025, the following actions were taken:

- a conviction was reached in 1 case
- in 1 case, the perpetrator was sanctioned by imposing an obligation stipulated under the Criminal Procedure Code regarding deferral of criminal prosecution (opportunity principle), which was fully fulfilled
- in 1 case, the court had rejected the proposal to impose a security measure of mandatory psychiatric treatment and suspended the criminal proceedings
- in 6 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal charges
- in 11 cases, an official note was issued stating that there was no reason to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 3 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court, based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 2 cases, evidence gathering procedures are ongoing
- in 26 cases a request was submitted for collecting the necessary information
- in 2 cases, information collected during the pre-investigation proceedings are being considered for the purpose of reaching a decision
- in 11 cases, even after measures were taken in the pre-investigation proceedings, the potential perpetrator was not identified

During 2022, the **Judicial Academy** held a total of 5 two-day seminars on the topic: "Protection and safety of journalists", which was attended by a total of 78 police officers, 17 judges, 13 public prosecutors, 4 judicial assistants and 3 public prosecutor assistants.

In addition, a HELP course on the same topic was organized, which was successfully completed by 4 judges, 12 public prosecutors, 5 judicial assistants and 2 public prosecutor assistants.

**Attachment 16**

**Statistical data of the Supreme Public Prosecution Office on the handling of hate crimes:**

**- 2022**

Criminal offence	No. of registered persons	Dismissal of criminal charges (by person)	No. of investigations/ evidence gathering actions	No. of charges	Judgments	
					Number of convictions	Number of acquittals
317 CC	41	24	11	4	5	5
387 CC	7	5	2	1	1	0
128 CC	27	24	8	1	0	0
174 CC	11	10	7	1	0	0

**Please note:**

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

**- 2023**

Criminal offence	No. of registered persons	Dismissal of criminal charges (by person)	No. of investigations/ evidence gathering actions	No. of charges	Judgments	
					Number of convictions	Number of acquittals
317 CC	26	15	14	3	2	0
387 CC	6	5	1	0	0	0
128 CC	6	5	1	0	0	0
174 CC	6	3	3	1	0	0

**Please note:**

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

- 2024

Criminal offence	No. of registered persons	Dismissal of criminal charges (by person)	No. of investigations/evidence gathering actions	No. of charges	Judgments	
					Number of convictions	Number of acquittals
317 CC	28	13	6	15	9	0
387 CC	12	6	3	1	2	0
128 CC	2	3	5	0	0	0
174 CC	3	6	3	0	0	0

Please note:

All the statistical data shown refer to the number of persons, and not to the number of cases.

In accordance with the consolidated data on the application of Article 54a of the Criminal Code by 31 December 2024, the Public Prosecutor's Offices **have applied the provision of Article 54a of the Criminal Code in 47 cases**. Based on the submitted bills of indictment, in accordance with Article 54a of the Criminal Code, the courts have rendered **judgments in 20 cases (all judgments were convictions)**, of which in three cases the courts found that the criminal offences were not committed out of hatred and that there was no legal basis for the application of Article 54a of the Criminal Code. Also, in 4 cases, an indictment has been filed and court proceedings are ongoing, while the investigation is ongoing in two cases.

As regards the motivation to commit a criminal offence:

- **24 cases relate to the sexual orientation of the victim.** Based on the submitted bills of indictment, in accordance with Article 54a of the Criminal Code, the courts have rendered **judgments in 10 cases (all judgments were convictions)**, of which in two cases the courts found that the criminal offences were not committed out of hatred and that there was no legal basis for the application of Article 54a of the Criminal Code. Also, an indictment has been filed in 2 cases, while an investigation is ongoing in 1 case.

- **11 cases relate to the victim's nationality.** Based on the submitted bills of indictment, in accordance with Article 54a of the Criminal Code, the courts have rendered final judgments in 5 cases (all judgments were convictions), while an indictment was filed in 1 case.

- **7 cases relate to the ethnic origin of the victim.** Based on the submitted bills of indictment, in accordance with Article 54a of the Criminal Code, the courts have rendered final judgments in 2 cases, but in 1 of those cases it found that the criminal offence was not committed out of hatred and that there was no legal basis for the application of Article 54a of the Criminal Code. An investigation is ongoing in 1 case.

- **3 cases relate to the religious affiliation of the victim.** Based on the submitted bills of indictment, in accordance with Article 54a of the Criminal Code, the courts have rendered final judgments in 2 cases, while an indictment was filed in 1 case.

- **2 cases relate to the gender identity of the victim.** Based on the submitted bill of indictment, in accordance with Article 54a of the Criminal Code, the court had rendered a final judgment in 1 case.

In the period from 2022 to 2025, **the Judicial Academy** had organized trainings for law enforcement officers in the field of hate crimes.

In 2022

a) 3 two-day seminar on the topic "Hate crime - training for contact persons" (159 participants / 133 females and 26 males)

b) 5 one-day seminars on the topic "Preventing hate crimes" (133 participants / 87 females and 46 males)

In 2024

1 one-day seminar on the topic "Criminal prosecution of hate crimes in the Republic of Serbia" (17 participants: *13 females / 4 males*)

In 2025

1 two-day workshop on the topic: "Criminal prosecution of hate crimes in the Republic of Serbia" (15 participants: *11 females / 4 males*)

#### Attachment 17

For the period from **1 January 2022 to 1 August 2025**, the data for the listed criminal offences are as follows:

- for the criminal offence of Public Inciting to Commission of Terrorist Offences under Article 391a of the Criminal Code, **4 final decisions were made, in relation to 4 persons**, as follows:

- **3 convictions, in relation to 3 persons**, who were sentenced to prison sentences (4 years of imprisonment, 3 years and 6 months of imprisonment, and 1 year of imprisonment, respectively);

- **1 decision, against 1 person**, who was imposed with the security measure of mandatory psychiatric treatment and detention in a healthcare institution.

For the aforementioned criminal offence, 1 criminal proceedings are ongoing against 1 person.

- for the criminal offence of Terrorist Association under Article 393a of the Criminal Code

- 1 criminal proceedings are ongoing against 1 person.

As regards the measures against terrorism and ensuring that they are in full compliance with international law, the Judicial Academy has organized several trainings.

In 2023, on the topic: "Preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in Serbia - processing the cases of money laundering as an independent criminal offence", 1 (one) two-day workshop was held:

- 28-29 September 2023 at the Hotel "Vila Breg" in Vršac (23 participants: 14 females / 9 males):

Judge s	Public prosecuto rs	Judicial assistan ts	Public prosecutor 's assistants	Lawye rs	Police officer s	Other s	Total	Female s	Male s
9	6	1	2		5		23	14	9

On the topic: "Preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in Serbia - Use of electronic evidence in cases of money laundering", 1 (one) two-day workshop was held:

- 13-14 November 2023 at the Hotel "Vila Breg" in Vršac (24 participants: 15 women / 9 men):

Judge s	Public prosecuto rs	Judicial assistan ts	Public prosecutor 's assistants	Lawye rs	Police officer s	Other s	Total	Female s	Male s
9	6	2	2		5		24	15	9

In 2025, on the topic: "Money laundering and financing of terrorism - Key findings of the National Risk Assessment of money laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation financing 2024 and their Significance for Internal Policies", 1 two-day and 3 one-day workshops were held:

- 29-30 January 2025 at the Hotel "Zira" in Belgrade (66 participants: 43 females / 23 males)
- 20 March 2025 at the Hotel "Tonanti" in Vrnjačka Banja (27 participants: 15 females / 12 males)
- 27 May 2025 at the Hotel "Sheraton" in Novi Sad (37 participants: 17 females / 20 males)
- 10 June 2025 at the Hotel "Tami Residence" in Niš (35 participants: 21 females / 14 males):

Judge s	Public prosecuto rs	Judicial assistan ts	Public prosecutor 's assistants	Lawyer s	Police officer s	Other s	Total	Female s	Male s
28	50	10	24		12	41	165	96	69

As part of professional development implemented outside the Ministry of the Interior, the following trainings were held during the reporting period:

- Workshop for developing a training curriculum - Strengthening the capacity for recognizing the first signs of radicalization and preventing violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism,

- "Identification of foreign terrorist fighters when crossing the state border",
- Within the framework of the CEPOL WB PaCT regional project "Forensic and Operational Intelligence Analysis", the workshop "Investigation Challenges in Counter-Terrorism" and the workshop for the launch of Counter-Terrorism Support Network (CTSN),
- Training regarding the Plan for dealing with repatriated foreign terrorist fighters and their families,
- "Partnership in the fight against crime and terrorism of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)",
- Online course in the field of money laundering and financing of terrorism,
- "Protection of critical infrastructure and public places against terrorist threats on the WB and 15. Workshop "Risk of Abuse of Non-Profit Organizations for the purpose of financing of terrorism in the WB" within the project Countering Serious Crime in the WB (IRA - 2019 CSC WB),
- "Strengthening the capacity for recognizing the first signs of radicalization and preventing violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism",
- "New EU supervision model in the field of preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism: expectations versus feasibility,"
- Case study of terrorism prosecution: USA v. El Shafee Elsheikh-a2,
- Video conference "Modern transformation of extremism among the youth, ideology of terrorism and other information threats - issues in countering extremism and terrorism",
- "Detecting and preventing the financing of terrorism through non-profit organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey",
- The Negotiation Team of the Ministry of the Interior, as part of the implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Course at the Military Police Training Centre,
- Workshop for finalizing the recommendations of the Expert Team for the implementation of activities from the Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism 2020-2024,
- "Keeping uniform records on cases of money laundering and financing of terrorism by using a web application,
- Actions of police officers in the event of AMOK situations and suicide terrorism,
- Within the framework of the project "Partnership in the Fight against Crime and Terrorism (CEPOL WB PaCT)", regional training on the topic "Investigations of polycriminal groups involved in migrant smuggling", followed by training "Digital skills in organized crime investigations", Third and fourth workshops of the Counter-Terrorism Support Network (CTSN), First Annual Conference on Combating the Financing of Terrorism,

- "Prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism in Serbia" - Round table on the topic "Amendments to the Law on Organisation and Competence of State Authorities in Suppression of Organized Crime, Terrorism and Corruption and Next Steps",
- National exercise on the topic "Misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes in the Republic of Serbia" within the project "Strengthening national capacities for combating the misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes",
- "Combating corruption/financing of terrorism",
- Course on the topic "Advanced summer programme in the field of terrorism, counter-terrorism and the Rule of Law",
- Regional workshop "Improving first response to terrorist attacks"
- Regional course on the topic "Countering terrorism",
- Workshop on the topic "Combating organized crime and terrorism and the 3D printing of firearms, misuse of drones and modern technologies".

In addition to the aforementioned, the following programme contents were adopted for the implementation of problem-based teaching:

- "Strengthening the capacity for preventing terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism."