

**Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity****Core Commitment 1**

Greece, as a strong supporter of the Intergovernmental Process on Strengthening Compliance with International Humanitarian Law ( IHL), based on Resolution 2 of the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, has actively participated in all meetings held within this Process.

In addition, Greece supports initiatives at the international and regional level which are aimed at the promotion and dissemination of IHL. In this context, Greece participated in a Regional IHL Conference for States in Central and South-Eastern Europe, organized in Bucharest, in March 2018, by the Romanian National IHL Commission and the ICRC, for the purpose of discussing IHL issues of common concern and fostering peer-to-peer cooperation.

**Core Commitment 2**

At the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council of UN (March 2018), Greece along with a core group of countries namely Brazil, China, Russian Federation, Cyprus, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Congo successfully submitted its initiative that is to say the Resolution A/HRC/RES/37/18 “Promoting human Rights through sports and the Olympic ideal”.

**Political Leadership to prevent and end conflicts****Core Commitment 4**

In 2018 ,Greece initiated inter-ministerial consultations on the development of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), in order to coherently incorporate the fundamental principles and priorities of the UNSC Resolution 1325/2000 into its national policy. The National Action Plan on WPS is currently in the drafting process, which is inclusive and participatory, involving all competent public institutions, national human rights mechanisms and academia as well as substantial consultation with civil society.

### **C. Fighting against racism/xenophobia**

Among the measures which are currently implemented to increase the effectiveness of the investigation of racist crimes are the following: prosecution ex officio of the crimes punished under the anti-racism legislation, exemption of victims of such offense from the payment of a fee when submitting a criminal complaint or participating as a civil party in a criminal procedure, provision of free legal aid for all victims with low income, granting of a residence permit on humanitarian grounds to third –country nationals who are victims or material witnesses of racist acts until a judgment has been delivered or the case has been closed. Exemption from return procedures of undocumented migrants, if they are a victim or a substantial witness of racist criminal acts (articles 81 A of the Criminal Code and 1 and 2 of Law 927/1979) and submit a complaint or report of the incident to the competent police authorities, until the competent prosecutor has issued an act (designating the foreigner as a victim).

Data collection with regard to racism has significantly improved and is expected to further improve. Relevant circulars have been issued by the Supreme Court Prosecutor and the President of the Supreme Court. The above mentioned data are also provided regularly by the Hellenic Police.

Furthermore, 24 special prosecutors have been appointed for the investigation of racist crimes.

With a view to developing anti-racist policies which could have an horizontal effect to government policy and public administration , an “Agreement on inter-agency cooperation on addressing racist crimes in Greece” was signed on 6 June 2018, facilitated by OSCE/ODIHR.

The National Council against Racism and Intolerance, an advisory body chaired by the Secretary General for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights , composed of representatives of different stakeholders in the fight against racism, meets on a regular basis and is working towards the identification of gaps and actions required to better combat racism and intolerance , as well as hate crimes and hate speech. To this end, it has prepared and circulated an information leaflet for civil servants to raise awareness on hate crimes and victims” support and has produced an awareness-raising tv-, radio and web spot and social message concerning refugee children’s integration in national education.

Among the tasks of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance is the drafting of a National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance , which is currently being elaborated.

In addition , uninsured citizens and persons belonging to vulnerable social groups have the right to free access to the public health system as far as nursing and medical care are concerned.

### **Leaving no one behind: a commitment to address forced displacement**

#### **Integration of migrants and refugees**

Migrants and asylum seekers are especially vulnerable to exploitation and to trafficking in human beings (THB). From January to December 2018, Greece has taken initiatives to prevent THB among different vulnerable groups, including migrants and asylum seekers, and to protect and rehabilitate victims of THB. In terms of legislative activities, the Council of Europe’s “Istanbul Convention” was ratified by Greece on April 2018 (Law 4351/2018). Based on this Law, forcing into marriage is now included among the forms of human trafficking criminalized by the Penal Code.

Concerning the protection of unaccompanied minors against any risk including human trafficking, the Laws 4538/18 and 4540/2018 foresee that unaccompanied minors may benefit from the National foster care system. The General Secretary of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Solidarity will be responsible to follow up those foster care cases. An additional Law 4554/2018 brings in positive changes for the Guardianship system concerning unaccompanied minors; specifically, it foresees the establishment of a State Network of professional Guardians, providing individualized support to this population, facilitating access to legal protection and basic social services as well as ensuring the assessment and determination of unaccompanied children’s best interest and thus increasing their protection from trafficking exploitation risk. These Guardians will receive specialized training on taking care of children victims of human trafficking and children at risk for human trafficking.

By the aforementioned Law No 4540/18 (May 2018), the Greek Legislation was adapted according to the Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection. According to this Law, only vulnerable people including victims of trafficking are considered to have special reception needs and thus benefit from the specific support provided. Moreover, it is set out that the competent authorities are obliged to report to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as soon as victims of THB are detected.

In July 2018, the fourth European Directive 2015/849/EU on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist, was transposed into national law (Law 4557/18). In compliance with the Directive the national legal framework provides for measures to tackle money laundering related

to proceeds derived from acts constituting criminal activities described as “predicated offenses”, including Trafficking in Human beings (art.323A of the Greek Penal Code) and Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation (art.351 G.P.C.). In Greece, victims of trafficking have free access to all medical and psychosocial services available to every citizen, in addition to specialized services provided to victims of violence (e.g. secure shelters, specialized psychosocial support, compensation, free legal aid, etc.). Thus, when a presumed victim of trafficking is identified by a professional (either of public or private sector), the latter will refer the victim to the Hellenic Police and/or to social protection services (depending on the presumed victim’s will) in order for the presumed victim to receive all necessary protection and support. Protection, medical and psychosocial support are offered by State agencies (e.g. National Centre of Social Solidarity, General hospitals, General Secretariat for Gender Equality), NGOs and International Organizations carrying out activities in Greece.

Nevertheless, in order to handle the large number of migrants and refugees arriving in the Greek islands, specialized procedures were developed to attend all vulnerable persons among those populations, including victims of trafficking. Thus, all third-country nationals who enter Greece through the Greek islands and through the Greek-Turkish borders at the north of the country, go through medical and psychosocial assessment at RICs. Since December 2017, the Disease Control and Prevention Center (KEELPNO), Ministry of Health, applies a Vulnerability Assessment to all migrants and asylum seekers registered in RICs; among the vulnerability indicators, THB indicators are also included.

The General Secretariat for Gender Equality, Ministry of Interior: The services provided to the victims by the 62 structures either run or coordinated by the GSGE (SOS helpline 15900, 40 Counselling Centres and 21 Shelters) include psychosocial support, legal counselling as well as counselling in labour issues, emergency shelter and, where necessary, legal aid in cooperation with local Bar Associations. Networking with local agencies and relevant associations is also provided. All structures are established and formed under strict terms to support people with physical disabilities.

The National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA). EKKA operates one (1) emergency shelter in Attica for women and girls – victims of violence, as well as two (2) short – term shelters in Attica and Thessaloniki (part of which operates also as an emergency shelter for the region). The two latter are funded by the National Structural Fund, in cooperation with the Region of Attica and Central Macedonia, respectively, as well as the General Secretary of Equality of Sexes.

Many NGOs provide to victims of trafficking safe shelters, psychosocial support, legal aid, counselling in labour issues. However, only A21 provides safe shelter exclusively for victims of human trafficking.

Greece prioritizes professionals' training on first-level identification of victims of THB and proactively broadens the professional sectors participating in such an attempt. Thus, during the reporting period, a number of training courses addressing different professionals was organized.

Institutionalized training on issues related to THB has been established in the Police Academy, the Academy for Judges, and the Academy for Diplomatic Staff. In late 2018, the Labour Inspectorate announced that THB-related modules will be included in the Labour Inspectors' official training. The ONR has discussed with the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Solidarity on the establishment of institutionalized training on THB issues for the Unaccompanied minors' professional Guardians, expected to start during 2019. All aforementioned institutionalized trainings are funded by the State.

Periodical training: As training of professionals on first-level identification is an intrinsic part of Greece's anti-trafficking policy, the ONR steps up efforts to facilitate capacity-building activities through a strategic partnership with the State Institute of Training (National Centre of Public Administration & Local Government) for the implementation of annual anti-trafficking seminars. With the initiative of the ONR, a specialized intensive course on first-level identification of victims of THB has been approved and will be implemented by the National Centre of Public Administration & Local Government to address Labour Inspectors and Health Professionals working at the General Hospitals. All trainings provided by the National Centre of Public Administration & Local Government are funded by the State. The lectures are organized and delivered by academics and professional experts.

Occasional and on-demand trainings: The ONR's staff was invited to deliver trainings for UNHCR's staff working either at the UNHCR's structures or deployed to structures belonging to the Council of Athens. The ONR's staff was also invited by the UNHCR to deliver training to professionals working at the Social Services Centre of the Council of Andravida (close to Manolada village). The functional costs of the trainings were covered by the UNHCR. The ONR staff is paid by the government.

In June 2018, the ONR organized a seminar for front-line professionals on first-level identification of victims of trafficking in the context of the "hot spot approach" in collaboration with the OSCE. The seminar was partly funded by the OSCE and partly by the Greek government.

An International Conference titled "Putting Chowdury into practice: Challenges and opportunities in relation to the execution of the judgement by the ECtHR in "Chowdury and others vs Greece" was held on 30 November 2018, in Athens in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Conference was jointly organized by the ONR (Office of National Rapporteur on THB), the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court and the Human Rights General Secretariat, Ministry of Justice, under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The Conference aimed at informing participants on the general measures to be adopted for the

implementation of the judgement and enhanced awareness and operational readiness of prosecutorial, judicial, law enforcement, labor inspection and social welfare bodies in addressing challenges related to human trafficking for labor exploitation.

A training seminar on THB for labor exploitation, addressed to Labour Inspectors, was co-organized by the Hellenic Labour Inspectorate and the ONR (Office of the National Rapporteur on THB). The seminar took place in Athens on December 27. Representatives of ILO and UNODC contributed to the training

On November 7, Diplomatic staff of foreign missions in Greece attended a workshop aiming at raising awareness on THB focusing on victims' repatriation process. The workshop took place in Athens and it was co-organized by IOM, the ONR (Office of the National Rapporteur) and the Human Rights General Secretariat, Ministry of Justice.

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