



**AD HOC QUERY ON 2019.54 Identifying and counteracting gender-based violence against female asylum seekers**

**Requested by EMN NCP Sweden on 10 May 2019**

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway (24 in Total)**

Disclaimer:

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**1. Background information**

Several forms of gender-based violence increase in war, during flight and on arrival, for example conflict-related sexual violence, forced/underage marriage, trafficking and/or sexual exploitation/survival sex. Women and girls who have experienced forced displacement may have unmet needs when they arrive in Europe and apply for asylum. A lack of knowledge and cultural norms may prevent them from seeking assistance, and if they do, this can generate additional risks, such as for example honor-related violence.

The Swedish Government's national strategy for preventing and combating men's violence against women states that female applicants and new arrivals often have very little knowledge of both Swedish legislation and their rights in this regard in Sweden. The Migration Agency made a survey among its caseworkers in 2017, which confirmed this.

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The Migration Agency has made the assessment that it is important to inform applicants about what gender-based violence is, Swedish law, and what types of assistance that are available regarding protection and assistance. Brief information is therefore communicated verbally and in writing at different occasions during and after asylum procedures to promote self-identification among the applicants.

As it is not easy to reach out to this group, we are interested in your best practices.

## **2. Questions**

- 1. Does your country take any measures to identify women in need of help? For example, are case officers trained to talk to asylum-seeking women about gender-based violence or do female applicants have to tell (self-identify)? If yes, which measures have you taken?**
- 2. Do you have any concrete measures in place to counteract men's violence against women or are there any plans to introduce such measures? If yes, which ones?**
- 3. Do female applicants have a right to request female case-officers and interpreters?**
- 4. What do reception facilities offer in terms of safety measures for women to prevent incidence of sexual violence, harassment and assault?**
- 5. Do you cooperate with other authorities in your country or NGOs (non-governmental organizations)?**

We would very much appreciate your responses by **7 June 2019**.

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### **3. Responses**

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<sup>1</sup> If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

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|   |                    | Wider Dissemination <sup>2</sup> |   |
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|  | EMN NCP<br>Austria | No                               | This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further. |

<sup>2</sup> A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Belgium</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Procedure for international protection: The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) responsible for assessing the applications for international protection has a specific coordinator for applications in which asylum seekers invoke SGBV. The coordinator is backed by a specific team, the gender unit. For several types of vulnerable applicants, such as LGTBI-applicants and applicants claiming having been subjected to (or having a fear of) gender related violence and applicants with psychological problems, specialised protection officers are responsible for handling the applications. All the protection officers have to demonstrate an open attitude and show respect for the individuality, convictions and qualities of the other person. They have to assess every application individually without any prejudices. Personal interests, preferences or feelings have no impact on the decision. All the protection officers are selected on the basis of qualities such as empathy, sense of responsibility, decisiveness, professional commitment and loyalty. On top of the basic training for a protection officer, a number of protection officers are trained to handle applications of specific types of vulnerable applicants. A number of protection officers have received the EASO training module “Interviewing Vulnerable Persons” and/or a specific internal training (such as the training to assess applications based on gender). These protection officers attended several training sessions to enhance their capacity to take into account the vulnerability of specific groups: a training session on traumatic memory to understand the repercussions of a traumatic event on the victim’s psychological functioning and short and long-term memory; and a training session on gender identity with a focus on the life experience and situation of transgender persons. The CGRS also organises a training session “Interpreting gender-related asylum stories” for its interpreters. A participative approach was chosen for this training session. Starting from concrete problems encountered by interpreters when translating gender-related asylum stories, the training session led to greater awareness of gender-related issues, such as sexual orientation and gender identity, female genital mutilation and sexual violence, as well as greater awareness of the difficulty for the applicants concerned to talk about these subjects during their interview. Interpreters received instructions and practical advice for translating such stories. All the above training sessions (for interpreters and protection officers) were made possible with co-financing from AMIF and were given by experts with field-experience regarding the profiles under consideration. CGRS staff also started the EASO Training module on “Gender/Gender Identity &amp; Sexual Orientation”. In addition to the training sessions the protection officers at the CGRS also received a guideline on sexual violence. This guideline offers a theoretical basis (definitions, traumatic consequences, legal framework) and concrete instructions for conducting the personal interview and taking a decision in cases of victims of sexual violence. Furthermore, an additional memo was produced in 2017 to complement the guideline regarding applications based on sexual orientation already applied at the CGRS. This memo contains additional instructions for assessing the</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>risk a homosexual person would face in case of return, and describes the special precautions that have to be taken in function of an individual applicant's profile and possible vulnerability. Furthermore, protection officers who interview vulnerable applicants are in principle also more experienced and have specific experience with interviewing vulnerable applicants. Protection officers can be trained to conduct interviews and to assess the application of a specific type of vulnerable applicants or for several types of vulnerable applicants. The CGRS also published a brochure "Women, girls and asylum in Belgium - Information for women and girls who apply for asylum", intended for female applicants for international protection. The brochure contains information on the asylum procedure and other specific themes such as health, equality between men and women, human trafficking and gender based violence are also dealt with in detail. The brochure is available in 3 languages on the website of the CGRS <a href="https://www.cgrs.be/en/publications">https://www.cgrs.be/en/publications</a>. The CGRS also gives information on gender-related persecution on its website: <a href="https://www.cgrs.be/en/gender-related-persecution">https://www.cgrs.be/en/gender-related-persecution</a>. Furthermore, the CGRS has developed a medical certificate that can be used by women who apply for asylum in Belgium because they are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). It can also be used by parent(s) who claim that their daughter(s) run such a risk. The certificate is available on <a href="https://www.cgrs.be/sites/default/files/formulieren/medical_certificate.pdf">https://www.cgrs.be/sites/default/files/formulieren/medical_certificate.pdf</a>. The CGRS has also put into place a follow-up procedure for girls who are recognised refugees because of a risk of being submitted to FGM. With this procedure, the CGRS sees to it that these girls are still protected after the refugee status has been granted: every year, the parents of the girl(s) concerned have to send a medical certificate to the CGRS proving that their daughter has not been subjected to genital mutilation. You will find more information about the FGM follow-up procedure through the following link: <a href="https://www.cgrs.be/en/female-genital-mutilation">https://www.cgrs.be/en/female-genital-mutilation</a>. Procedure for reception In 2018, the Study and Policy Unit of Fedasil, the Belgian Reception Agency, has developed a tool which will allow social workers of the Arrival Centre to make a first identification of vulnerable applicants for international protection with specific reception needs. It consists of a computerized list with a series of vulnerability and resilience indicators to be completed during a first interview with the applicant. On the basis of this identification, a reception facility that best corresponds to the reception needs of the person concerned can be sought and the designated reception centre can already begin to prepare the most appropriate support in advance of the arrival of the applicant. At the moment the way in which this tool can be integrated into the Fedasil's automated management application, Match-it, is examined. In 2016 Fedasil organized - in collaboration with the International Centre for Reproductive Health (Ghent University) - training sessions on how to recognize and deal with victims of sexual and gender-based violence. The training sessions enabled professionals (social workers, guardians, doctors, nurses and psychologists) to detect, care for and refer victims of sexual gender-based violence. Additional sessions,</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>financed by UNHCR Belgium, were organised in early 2017. Under AMIF 2016-2017, Fedasil opted to fund four projects with a focus on creating a structural approach for applicants for international protection with psycho-social problems (adults and minors). One of these projects is “FGM Global Approach”, which was initiated by the non-profit organisations GAMS Belgium and Intact. In the context of this project, a trajectory was developed to support and refer asylum seeking girls and women who are victims or at risk of female genital mutilation. In 2017, the following activities were implemented: two reference persons were trained per reception centre (one person from the medical service and one from the social service); the trajectory was launched in all collective reception structures; and the trajectory was adapted to be used in the individual reception facilities. Regarding identification of vulnerabilities, Fedasil opted, under AMIF 2018-2019, to subsidise five projects to strengthen the capacity of the reception network with regard to the reception and care of persons with psychological / psychiatric problems (adults and minors). One of these projects is the successor of the ‘FGM Global Approach’ project, implemented by the non-profit organisations GAMS Belgium and Intact under AMIF 2016-2017. The new project, Gender Based Violence (GBV) &amp; Asylum: an integrated approach, coordinated by the non-profit organisation GAMS Belgium, together with the non-profit organisation INTACT and the European Family Justice Centre Alliance (EFJCA) aims at developing a guidance trajectory to support and refer asylum seeking girls and women who are victims of other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The project targets the staff of the social and medical services in the reception facilities, representatives of Fedasil headquarters and of the reception partners who will be working together in a steering group; GBV reference persons within the reception network (Fedasil and partners) and professionals who provide services for victims of SGBV (applicants for international protection, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and refugees). The objective of the project is the identification of and care for persons who have undergone gender-related violence (physical, psychologically and / or sexually).</p> <p>2. The CGRS practice concerning couples applying for international protection together : even if, initially, both man and woman invoke that only the man has had a fear of persecution, if during the asylum procedure, the woman comes to invoke that she is a victim of domestic violence – from her husband – the CGRS will handle the woman’s case separately. Two separate files will be created. If the woman is credible, and depending on the situation in the country of origin, she might be granted international protection regardless the decision that the CGRS makes for the man.</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>3. Yes, female applicants can ask to be interviewed by a female protection officer and interpreter. The applicant must, however, clarify the reasons for this request. The CGRS will try as far as possible to accommodate the wishes of the applicant.</p> <p>4. See also question 1. Minimum standards for reception: On 28 March 2018, the Management Board of Fedasil approved the minimum standards for reception, including specific standards for vulnerable persons. They have been drawn up by the Quality Unit of Fedasil, in close collaboration with the reception centres, the services of the head office of Fedasil and the reception partners. The minimum standards are based on the European directives, national legislation, as well as on good practices on the ground. There are minimum standards on the following themes: material aid, accompaniment (social, legal, daily, medical and psychological), infrastructure, household effects and safety. The minimum standards have been applicable to the reception network since July 2018. Some of these standards are put in place to prevent/diminish the incidence of sexual violence, harassment and assault, such as: there is a range of separate opening hours for the communal relaxation area or there is a space reserved specifically for women; the bedrooms for single men and women are separate; the shower rooms for men and women are separate and lockable; the toilets and washbasins for men and women are located in separate rooms. Internal rules and regulations: Since 1 October 2018, the new internal rules and regulations apply to all reception structures (collective centers and individual residences) in the Fedasil reception network. The ban on sexual and gender-based violence is explicitly included in this new version. The regulations also stipulate that anyone who violates these rules can be subject to a sanction. At the moment the internal rules and regulations are available in 12 languages and is valid for all beneficiaries of reception, regardless of the reception structure where they reside. Upon arrival at the reception structure, the resident is given an explanation about the internal rules and regulations and is then asked to sign the internal rules and regulations. Reporting of incidents: Since April 2016, the template for signalling incidents in the reception facilities also states the category "(attempted) sexual violence". It is currently being investigated whether a category of gender-based violence can be included. Awareness raising among residents and staff: Most reception centres offer information classes on 'norms and manners in Belgium', such as the equality between men and women, the prohibition of any form of violence, the right to dress freely, etc. At the moment Fedasil subsidises, under AMIF 2018-2019, a project to support reception structures to strengthen and deepen the knowledge of applicants for international protection regarding the values and norms of Belgian society. It concerns the development of three training modules for residents on the norms and values of Belgian society and on appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in daily life, consisting of: (i) general values and norms in Belgian society; (ii) sexuality and sexual health and (iii)</p> |
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|   |                             |            | <p>inappropriate sexual behaviour. The staff of the reception centres will receive a training that allows them to better recognise cross-border behaviour and how to respond to it. Furthermore, the project aims to develop policy on values and norms that fits within each reception structure (via reference persons).</p> <p>5. For international protection: The CGRS has regular contact with associations and NGO's working in the field of prevention and protection of women and girls from SGBV : informal exchanges about our practices and about projects initiated by the NGO's; participation of the CGRS in conferences organised by NGO's, ...Cases of serious domestic and gender based violence, as well as cases related to trafficking on human beings are reported by the CGRS to the Federal Prosecutor's OfficeFor reception: See the collaboration with the non-profit organisations specialised in sexual and gender based violence GAMS and Intact and the International Centre for Reproductive Health (Ghent University) as described in question 1. For more information on GAMS Belgium and Intact: <a href="http://gams.be/en/">http://gams.be/en/</a> and <a href="http://www.intact-association.org/nl/">http://www.intact-association.org/nl/</a>. For more information on the International Centre for Reproductive Health (Ghent University): <a href="http://icrhb.org/nl/over-icrh-belgie">http://icrhb.org/nl/over-icrh-belgie</a>Fedasil also collaborates with other organisation which are involved in the care of victims of SGBV, such as SOS Viol for victims of rape, the Centres for General Welfare and the Sexual Assault Care Centres which is a service in a few hospitals where every victim of sexual violence can go to, at any hour, on any day. For the time being these services are only available at University Hospital in Ghent, the University Medical Centre (UMC) Sint-Pieter in Brussels and the UMC in Liège. These centres aim to provide holistic and patient-centred care for victims of sexual violence. The victim can receive the following care:- Medical care: care of injuries and injuries as well as examinations and treatment of all kinds of physical, sexual or reproductive consequences- Psychological care: the first psychological care (both offering a listening ear and explanation about what normal reactions are after a shocking event, advice on how to deal with that) and further guidance from the psychologist- A forensic investigation: determining injuries, investigating traces of the perpetrator, collecting evidence for a possible indictment and legal case- Submit a complaint to the police if desired, with the help of specially trained vice inspectors- Follow-up afterwards: both medical follow-up for possible medication or for injuries, and psychological follow-up during the processing of what happened</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Bulgaria</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. The experts of Staqte Agency for Refugees work with all categories vulnerable persons who seek international protection in Bulgaria, including possible violence victims and women in need of help, taking</p>   |

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|  |  |  | <p>into account their particular situation. SAR's psychologists use a Questionnaire for early identification of asylum-seekers who have gone through traumatic experiences. This tool provides an opportunity to determine the specific needs in order to refer those in need to an adequate psychological and medical care. Since 2008, the State Agency for Refugees has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for individuals who have gone through sexual or gender-based violence. In 2018, the Chairperson of SAR approved the updated version of the SOP on the same issue. With the view to improving the capacity to identify and reduce the risk of gender-based violence, experts from SAR were trained on the EASO training module Interviewing vulnerable persons and other trainings on the following topics: "Risk assessment and support for violence witnesses and/or survivors; crisis intervention and support for people in crisis; development of an understanding for traumas and post-traumatic stress disorder; protection and prevention in cases of sexual violence against children and women"; "Gender based violence among refugees and asylum seekers"; "The prevention of sexual violence and sexual exploitation of children is possible"; "Establishing common regional practices for psychosocial support for refugees and asylum seekers, witnesses or survivors of gender based or other type of violence"; "Stabilization of traumatized children from refugee families"; "Action against gender based violence against women and children migrants and asylum seekers".</p> <p>2. Due consideration is given to the prevention of gender-based violence. The measures and activities include provision of appropriate premises within the reception centres; provision of legal consultation/legal representation; provision of psychologists for women subject to gender based discrimination. The measures and activities include also dissemination of information on methods that prevent violation of rights, including films on trafficking in human beings, brochures on labour exploitation and animated cartoons.</p> <p>3. Yes, an alien who has applied for international protection shall have, at his/her request, the interview conducted by an officer of the interviewing authority or a translator, respectively interpreter, of the same gender.</p> <p>4. According to the Law on Asylum and Refugees, persons seeking international protection are accommodated in a registration-and-reception centre or another type of accommodation facility provided by the State Agency for Refugees. The allocation of foreigners is in accordance with country of origin, religion, sex, health condition and marital status. There is a 24-hour presence of guards in all registrations-and-reception centres of the Agency.</p> |
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|   |                    |     | 5. We cooperate with the other state authorities, with UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs.  |
|  | EMN NCP<br>Croatia | Yes | <p>1. Subjects with the mentioned topic have been assigned in work to the experienced case- officers, who after the request for the international protection has been examined, with particular attention approach circumstances mentioned in the file of the subject. In accordance with the above mentioned, toward such persons have to be used special procedure guarantees, as are for the example the priority in request solving, adjustable set of questions considering the vulnerability of the asylum seeker and the ensuring ex officio that the decision maker and the interpreter have to be female because the possibility of integral and entire explanation of the request.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. Yes. As we mentioned above in question number 1, according to the Law on International and Temporary Protection (Official Gazette No. 70/15 and 127/17.), regarding article 14. paragraph 3., if possible, applicants shall be provided ex officio with a translator/interpreter of the same sex in order to ensure a full account of the reasons for the application or for other justified reasons. Also, article 35. paragraph 5. provide that if is possible, the interview of the applicant shall be conducted by an official of the same sex in order to ensure a full explanation of the application or for other justified reasons.</p> <p>4. Ministry of Interior concluded contract with security service who provide their services in Reception centers 24/7. Accommodation in Reception centers is arranged in manner that single women and families are accommodated separately from single men. In Reception centers there is possibility of receiving psychosocial support from NGOs Croatian Red Cross and MDM (Medicins du Monde). They have their social workers and psychologist working there who are specially trained to work with women victims of gender based and domestic violence. Croatian Red Cross is organizing so called "Safe room for women" which basic purpose is providing information to women about their rights, support they can receive in Reception centers and in Republic of Croatia, cultural differences between county of origin and Croatia and all other necessary support.</p> |

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|   |                                   |            | <p>5. Ministry of Interior cooperates with other authorities and NGOs in our country. As part of the project "Empowering Women and Children of Migrant Populations to Combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence" by NGOs MDM at Local Levels, there are organized co-ordination workshops with the purpose of drawing up guidelines for dealing with cases of sexual violence against children and women refugees and migrants. The aim of the workshop is to strengthen and delimit the activities and to create a network of stakeholders at the local level in the case of dealing with a victim of sexual and gender-based violence and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each particular sector.</p>   |
|    | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Cyprus</p>         | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Case officers are trained to talk to asylum seeker women about gender based violence and to identify women through certain indicators and special questions during the first contact ( interview &amp; special needs form ) with the asylum seekers.</p> <p>2. No, not currently</p> <p>3. Yes. This is arranged before the commencement of the interview.</p> <p>4. At the Kofinou Reception and Accommodation Centre there is a 24hour presence of 4 guards, two of which are patrolling the common areas and main streets of the Centre using the Proxipen system. A report is provided in a daily basis to the Manager of the camp. Also, the Kofinou Police Station is nearby which intervenes upon a call by the Centre's personnel. Additionally, social workers provide guidance to the residents on how to apply properly the rules of the Centre, including the safety issues. Lastly, at the Centre there is a separate zone for women and a separate zone for families.</p> <p>5. We do cooperate with other authorities such as the Social Welfare Services, the anti-trafficking Department of the police, UNHCR and other NGOs.</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Czech Republic</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. There is no special training in place but all officers went through a focused training on conducting of the interview where all possible aspects are included.</p>   |

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|   |                            |            | <p>2. In asylum centres there are so called protected areas where families with children, unaccompanied minors or handicapped persons are accommodated.</p> <p>3. In cases of special regards, on the personal request of an applicant for international protection and if it is in power of the authorities, there may be presented a person (an officer) of the same sex to conduct the interview or other actions (according the Asylum Act).</p> <p>4. In order to prevent incidence of sexual violence, harassment and assault in reception facilities, as well as in residential centres, the possibility of accommodation in the protected zone for women and single mothers is provided. There is a strict ban for men to enter into this zone. As other prevention tool, based on a request of women, we offer specific times (schedule) to use dining rooms, fitness and other activities. If requested, employees of reception facility are always available to guide women (accompany women to walk through the area) and they are always present during the leisure activities. The entire place (common areas only) is monitored by multiple cameras 24 hours a day and employees (reception workers) are present there 24/7 to deal with necessary issues in reception centre.</p> <p>5. All applicants for international protection have an immediate access to the legal or other necessary types of counselling. In every single asylum centre there are specialised social workers who can, if necessary in cooperation with other authorities, ensure the needed help or psychological counselling. Furthermore, workers of NGOs regularly visit asylum centres and provide free legal counselling on international protection proceeding, criminal law or family law. On the issue of sexual violence and harassment, the asylum centres cooperate with a few NGOs, such as „Charita“ and „Bílý kruh bezpečí“. There has been arranged a training course for employees of reception facilities several times focused on the topic of the prevention the incidence of sexual violence, harassment and assault. Of course, cooperation with the police is possible in necessary cases (when there is a suspicion on criminal activities).</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Estonia</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Yes, case officers are trained to establish possible violence victims, in case of any reasonable doubt social workers shall be involved. Interviewing vulnerable persons is a skill obtained by case workers and used</p>  |

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|   |                    |     | <p>widely. Medical help is provided in the reception/detention centres. In certain cases according to the wishes of possible victims police officers will be asked to investigate.</p> <p>2. Domestic violence cases are treated with high priority in Estonia as a general not only among asylum seekers. Hence in case there is reason to believe that there is a victim of domestic violence who for some reason chooses not to turn to the police, the local police officer will conduct visits to the home/reception centre to monitor the situation, talk to the possible victim and/or their spouse, neighbours etc. Also the Penal Code of Estonia contains separate provisions on the domestic violence cases which are processed with more harsh measures than cases of other violence acts.</p> <p>3. Yes, it is stipulated by legislation that in asylum process a person will be examined by a person of the same sex.</p> <p>4. The Police and Border Guard Board and reception facilities take into account special needs of the minors, disabled persons, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence and ensure regular monitoring and care of their situation during whole asylum process. Local police officers conduct regular visits to the center to ensure safety and security of the clients and in case of any threats victims will be removed from the perpetrators (case by case actions).</p> <p>5. Yes, if possible. Cooperation in case of violence victims is essential in order to protect the victim and process the perpetrator however it depends heavily on the willingness of the possible victim to report and get involved in the procedures with for example social services, victim assistance NGOs, police, prosecutor's office etc.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP<br>Finland | Yes | <p>1. Finland does not have a specific standardized procedure for identifying victims of gender-based violence. Identification can take place e.g. by a social worker at the reception centre or by the legal representative or during the asylum interview. The Asylum Unit at the Finnish Immigration Service has a person who is responsible for the topics related to gender-based violence and he/she has contact persons at the regional units in order to spread information and knowledge on the issue as well as to support the work of the case</p>   |

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|  |  |  | <p>officers on this. The Asylum Unit has written instructions on different topics of gender-based violence (forced marriage, FGM and violence in a close relationship) and case officers have received training on these topics. New case officers have also been trained on gender-based violence, and reasons for why the applicant has difficulties bringing these issues up during the asylum interview. Case officers are encouraged to be active in trying to clarify these issues, although the general principle of the applicant to self-identify also the issues relating to gender-based violence in her asylum claim are applied. Information exchange between the authorities is also an important part, e.g. between the Asylum Unit and the reception centers e.g. as the case officer has noticed some signs or vice versa the reception centre personnel. Beside the internal training, all asylum case handlers also take part in the EASO training modules on Gender, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation ja Interviewing Vulnerable Persons. A leaflet on FGM has been produced in cooperation with the Asylum unit and health care workers at the reception centers in order to inform female applicants that FGM might constitute a grounds for asylum.</p> <p>2. Asylum seekers have to take part in a course about the Finnish society that includes e.g. information on Finnish legislation, equality of the sexes and the position of women in the society. The training curriculum of the reception unit at the Finnish Immigration Service takes into account gender-based violence and procedures have been developed in several projects. Clients can benefit from information materials produced in these projects and discussion groups are organized as well. Regional cooperation with the NGO-sector is also valuable, especially in producing information materials</p> <p>3. Yes, and the aim is always to satisfy this request, although in some cases concerning a rare language, a female interpreter isn't available. The applicant can request for a female interpreter even in the middle of the asylum interview and the case officer can also ask if the applicant feels that she can talk freely with a male interpreter about gender-based violence. Sometimes the spouses are interviewed on the same day, and the interpreter might be the same, in some cases a male interpreter.</p> <p>4. There are no separate reception facilities for women, but some facilities have separate sections for single women and single mothers. Some facilities have 24h-surveillance personnel present. The reception unit of the Finnish Immigration Service performs regular monitoring visits to the facilities and security issues are noted then as well as in the self-monitoring performed by the facilities themselves.</p> |
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|   |                           |            | <p>5. Yes, the Asylum Unit cooperates closely with the social and health care workers at the reception facilities, the police, child protection authorities and the assistance system for victims of human trafficking. Regarding NGO:s, there is close cooperation with IOM and the Finnish League for Human Rights especially on these issues.</p>   |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>France</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Article L.723-3 of the Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals and Right of Asylum (CESEDA) stipulates that, throughout the duration of the application assessment procedure, the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) may "define the specific assessment modalities that it deems necessary for the exercise of the applicant's rights due to his/her specific situation, minority or vulnerability": thus, vulnerable asylum applicants have their application examined by protection officers trained in their specific needs and benefit from support and expertise from groups of referents dedicated to their issue. They are interviewed with assistance from interpreters, also made aware of their specific needs. The duration of processing may be adapted, either with a priority ruling or to leave a longer assessment period to enable the person's story to be collected and suitable psycho-social or medical support to be implemented - this legally allows the OFPRA to declassify applications registered in accelerated procedures where it considers it necessary for the appropriate assessment of the application. For asylum seekers followed by mental health professionals, support during the interview by the psychiatrist, doctor or psychologist that generally cares for the person may be accepted to reassure the applicant - this option that is not provided for by law is considered by the OFPRA on a case by case basis. Since 2013 specialised support groups have been implemented for five categories of vulnerable people. One of these support groups treats violence to women. The referents in these groups may be contacted by the OFPRA's agents for all questions related to the issue, in order to receive a centralised, harmonised response. For this, under the OFPRA's harmonisation committee, they produce assessment support tools suited to the examination of the specific protection needs of the five categories of vulnerable people.</p> <p>2. By a decree of 3 January 2013, the French government set up the Interministerial mission for the protection of women against violence and the fight against human trafficking (Mission interministérielle pour la protection des femmes contre les violences et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains - MIPROF) under the authority of the Minister responsible for women's rights. Its principal tasks are:• The elaboration of a national training plan for professionals dealing with violence against women (persons who might identify</p> |

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|  |  |  | <p>these victims as the police, the gendarmerie, health professionals, work inspectors, social workers, etc.) and the creation of educational tools in line with the specificities of different professions and different types of violence. • Role of a national observatory on violence against women through its mission “collecting, analysing and distributing information and data on violence against women”. • National coordination of the fight against human trafficking. The missions of the MIPROF are detailed in its annual activity report: <a href="https://www.egalite-femmes-hommes.gouv.fr/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Rapport-dactivites-MIPROF_2017-.pdf">https://www.egalite-femmes-hommes.gouv.fr/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Rapport-dactivites-MIPROF_2017-.pdf</a></p> <p>3. Yes, asylum applicants may be interviewed by protection officers and interpreters in their choice of gender if this is justified by the basis of their application.</p> <p>4. As part of the implementation of the measures of the French National Strategy for the Reception and Integration of Refugees adopted by the Interministerial Committee for Integration on 5 June 2018, specialised accommodation places for women who are victims of violence or trafficking in human beings were launched in 2018. This will continue in 2019 through mutual agreements with operators after consulting the prefectures concerned, on the quota of places already existing within the national reception system or as part of new places created by the 2019 calls for projects. An additional cost of €13 per place per day is planned in order to enable an increased support for these groups.</p> <p>5. Since 2013 the OFPRA agent’s expertise feeds from a regular exchange and discussion mechanism with relevant external associative and institutional contacts for the five categories of vulnerable people. Since September 2018, the Directorate for Asylum within the Ministry of the Interior has been working in partnership with the OFPRA, the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII), the Ministry for Health, Interministerial Delegation in charge of the fight against racism, antisemitism and anti-LGBT hatred and NGOs to improve the identification process for vulnerabilities of asylum seekers and refugees and the management of these groups throughout the procedure. The idea is to draft an action plan by mid-2019, which will take the form of a circular to prefects. The action plan will be conceived by a national working group (Asylum Directorate within the Ministry of the Interior /OFPRA/OFII/ General Directorate for Health and Directorate General of Social Cohesion) and three thematic working groups, bringing together public and NGO stakeholders.</p> |
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|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Germany</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Remark: Please note that the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees is only responsible for the asylum procedure in Germany. Other topics, for example related to the reception or the stay/removal of a foreigner are in the responsibility of the Federal States. Therefore, any answers below refer only to measures within the asylum procedure in Germany. Within the process of lodging an application applicants are informed about their rights and duties related to the asylum procedure. In this regard it is indicated that the interview can be conducted by a decision-maker and/or interpreter of the same sex as the applicant. Moreover, the internal guidelines of the Federal Office lay down rules with regard to the deployment of "specially-commissioned" decision-makers to examine the asylum applications of particularly vulnerable groups such as victims of gender-based violence. These "specially-commissioned" decision-makers have received additional training, based on respective EASO-training modules, in particular the module on gender, gender identity and sexual orientation and complemented by a national training. These decision-makers may also refer applicants to other counsellor services, for example from NGOs or local welfare services. Since autumn 2018, the Federal Office for Migration has implemented a pilot project on procedural counselling in the newly established AnKER (i.e. reception, decision and return) centres. The piloted model comprises of two modules: a general obligatory group information session for all asylum-seekers before lodging of the formal application as well as voluntary individual counselling sessions for all asylum-seekers and applicants. One task of the counsellors is to support the identification of persons with vulnerabilities to ensure that specific needs can be considered in the asylum procedure.</p> <p>2. See above. Moreover, the Federal Office also deploys "specially-commissioned" decision-makers with regard to security issues, including the application of exclusion clauses. These decision-makers might also be involved in cases of men's violence against women.</p> <p>3. See question 1.</p> <p>4. See introductory remarks in question 1.</p> <p>5. See question 1. Moreover, any information related to individual cases and submitted by other authorities or NGOs and/or the applicant are considered within the asylum procedure of the applicant. With regard to the training of decision-makers (in particular of the mentioned "specially-commissioned" ones) the Federal Office often cooperates with NGOs.</p> |
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|    | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Greece</p>  | <p>Yes</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Greece has incorporated specific legal clauses and procedural guidance into its legislation in order to provide the legal framework for establishing public policies that enhance and develop gender responsiveness in granting international protection to asylum applicants comprehending all related aspects to this issue. The Greek Asylum Service (GAS) is continuously developing guidelines and policy tools regarding the case management of vulnerable applicants recognized trafficking victims and gender responsiveness issues. Furthermore GAS provides on-going in-service training of the personnel in order to ensure that they have also the possibility to seek advice, whenever necessary, from experts on gender issues. Finally, the Greek Asylum Service by granting refugee status takes into consideration all elements for evaluating any potential danger of prosecution in order to include this category of applicants to special social group based on the gender factor.</li> <li>2. GAS may issue a separate decision for applicants concerned (in family cases). Furthermore other official authorities, NGOs and/or referral mechanisms may be informed and involved in the asylum process in order to provide adequate assistance to the applicant.</li> <li>3. According to international and national legislation, when the interview concerns a female applicant, special attention is taken so that the interview is conducted by a specialized female case handler, in the presence of a woman interpreter, if so requested.</li> <li>4. N/A for GAS Under inquiry from other gov services</li> <li>5. Yes, the Greek Asylum Service is collaborating with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality Issues and organizes national trainings on the above mentioned issues. Moreover, applicants are informed that they can address to various NGOs for help or counseling.</li> </ol> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Hungary</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social workers of the asylum authority use PROTECT Questionnaire in order to identify asylum seekers who suffered any kind of trauma in the past. In 2017, the Immigration and Asylum Office (hereinafter IAO) provided trainings for a large number of case workers and social workers working in IAO facilities on the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings (hereinafter THB). The project was funded by the EU Internal Security Fund, with co-financing of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary. The Immigration and Asylum</li> </ol>  |

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|  |  |  | <p>Office has also issued a booklet on THB for its staff, including relevant legal provisions, identification and referral procedures, as well as available assistance measures for the victims. Leaflets explaining what THB is are available in reception facilities of the IAO in 11 different languages (English, French, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Urdu, Pashto, Kurdish, Chinese (Mandarin), Serbian and Ukrainian). In addition to the PROTECT questionnaire, social workers may fill out a questionnaire specifically designed to detect victims of trafficking in human beings. The questionnaire includes questions concerning sexual abuse and exploitation as well. If it is justified on the basis of the results of the questionnaire or if the victim of trafficking in human beings turns for help to the social worker, the social worker notifies the psychologist and / or psychiatrist.</p> <p>2. In the case of a women suffered from any kind of violence, the social service or, if necessary, a psychologist or psychiatrist, will assess the necessity to change the placement and the other social, hygiene, and health care needs. The reception authority shall arrange the modification of accommodation and other service as needed or upon request. Individual placement, personalized social occupation and health-related additional assistance can be provided. The asylum authority can also provide help to asylum seekers in initiating a criminal procedure and taking part in it. If it is possible, the victim is always dealt with by the same reception officer.</p> <p>3. Requests for a same-sex case officer or interpreter shall be approved wherever possible. According to the EASO Practical Guide of Personal interview, every effort should be made to enable the applicant to provide a full and accurate account by assigning a case officer and interpreter of a sex that does not make the applicant feel threatened or uncomfortable. This is vitally important where the applicant has been a victim of rape or sexual abuse.</p> <p>4. During the reception, families, single women, unaccompanied minors between the age of 14 and 18 and single men are accommodated in separate living quarters in reception centres. Thus can ensure the protection of all vulnerable group, including women.</p> <p>5. Yes, with regard to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), IAO has a long-standing cooperation with the Police and some NGOs provide support to prevent and give response to SGBV, e.g. UNHCR, IOM, Hungarian Baptist Aid, Hungarian Red Cross.</p> |
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|  | EMN NCP Italy | Yes | <p>1. Yes. First of all, it may be useful to specify that, in Italy, the international protection procedure is handled by administrative bodies - called Commissioni Territoriali - elected by Minister of Interior and created by Law 189/2002, as a decentralised complement of Asylum National Commission. These administrative authorities are competent to examine asylum applications at first instance. According to Italian law, the asylum application shall be submitted to the Police Headquarters or at the Border Police, who, once receiving the claim, completes a model for the recognition of the refugee status, called "Model C3". The Commissione Territoriale, on the basis of model C3, shall convene the applicant for an interview and, if the asylum seeker is a woman, provides female officers and interpreters, as a careful measure. In particular, if the analysis of Model C3 shows a vulnerable situation due to gender-based violence (for example it seems that the woman is a victim of trafficking), officers prepare the interview in order to bring the truth to light and to protect her in an appropriate way. The only sector which provides a targeted system of protection with regard to gender-based violence against asylum seeking women, is that of victims of trafficking. The National Commission for Asylum, within the Ministry of Interior, and the UNHCR have elaborated (in 2017) Guidelines to Territorial Commissions to identify asylum seekers victims of trafficking (<a href="https://www.unhcr.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Linee-Guida-identificazione-vittime-di-tratta.pdf">https://www.unhcr.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Linee-Guida-identificazione-vittime-di-tratta.pdf</a>). In particular, if during the study of the case or during the interview, the Territorial Commission's officer recognizes trafficking indicators - stated in annex B of the Guidelines - (such as young age, provenience, lack of details about the flight, type of route, frequent absence from the reception center or the refusal of the reception), he stops the interview and with the consent of the applicant, proceeds with the so called "referral mechanism". The Territorial Commission contacts an antitrafficking institution, among those who realize the program of identification, assistance and social integration according to art. 18 comma 3 of law 286/1998 (financed by Ministry of Equal Opportunities) and with which the Commission has stipulated a memorandum of understanding. If, within the regional or provincial territory, no projects ex art. 18 c.3. are operative, the Territorial Commission contacts the National Green Number (800290290) in order to find a competent entity. The antitrafficking institution carries out several talks with the potential victim and, at the end, sends a report to Territorial Commission, in which has to be highlighted if the applicant has asked or has accepted to adhere to a specific program of protection. Nevertheless, this last element shall not affect the decision of the Territorial Commission about asylum claim. It is important to say that, also in absence of woman's consent to talk with antitrafficking institution, the Territorial Commission can suspend the interview: woman receives the National Antitrafficking Green Number and has reconvened, for a new interview, after a month.</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>2. As said in Q.1, with specific reference to gender-based violence against asylum seeking women, the only sector in which is provided a targeted system of protection is that of victims of trafficking. As said before, Territorial Commission have signed memorandum of understanding with antitrafficking institutions with the aim to collaborate each other to better protect vulnerable victims. According to article 9 of law 24/2014, on 26 February 2016 has been emanated the first National Plan against human trafficking and exploiting for the period 2016-2018. This plan constitutes an instrument to define multiannual strategies for the prevention and the fight of trafficking and exploiting phenomenon and to set up initiatives of awareness, social prevention and social integration of victims. The Government has assured the allocation of 24 million (more than previous years) for the implementation of the new Plan for 2019-2020, which is being prepared. The Ministry of Equal Opportunities has created a monitoring center on trafficking (<a href="https://www.osservatoriointerventitratta.it/osservatorio/">https://www.osservatoriointerventitratta.it/osservatorio/</a>) with an informatic system to collect information about it (SIRIT).</p> <p>3. Yes, see Q.1. The territorial commission's officer (who conducts the interview) and the interpreters shall be of the same gender of the applicant. In particular the interpreter has to be specially trained and qualified to deal with these vulnerable situations. In general, when a particular vulnerable state emerges (abused woman, minors, LGBT), the interview is conducted by a specialized staff.</p> <p>4. As said in Q.1, a structural system of protection is provided only in case of trafficking victims. In these cases, in fact, there are targeted reception facilities aimed to offer particular standard of protection (art. 18 law 286/1998). However, in general, there are reception facilities addressed to men and others only to women (except cases in which there is a family group).</p> <p>5. Antitrafficking institutions - apart from the ones financed by Ministry of Equal Opportunities mentioned in Q.1 - may also be social services of local authorities or associations or private organisms, as long as they are recorded in the register of associations and institutions working in the interests of immigrants established in the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies (art. 52 lett. B of law 394/99). So, antitrafficking entities can be also NGOs. Another important support in creation of a system of special protection for woman in need derives from the collaboration with the International Organization for Migration.</p> |
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|    | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Latvia</p>    | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Yes. Case officers are trained up on EASO Training Curriculum modules “Interviewing Vulnerable Persons”, “Gender, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation” and “Trafficking in Human Beings” to recognize vulnerable persons and signs of violence (including violence in families) and encourage asylum-seeking women talk to about gender-based violence. Where necessary support from social worker and/or psychologist is provided.</p> <p>2. No plans to introduce particular measures to counteract gender based violence at the moment. Problems are tackled on a case by case basis.</p> <p>3. Yes.</p> <p>4. There are several steps taken to ensure safety measures:- Video surveillance in public spaces of the Reception Centre;- Staff of the Reception Centre works in shifts – 24/7 there is possibility to reach responsible person and seek support;- Possibility to separate victim from the violent person (dwelling them in separate Reception buildings; providing temporary shelter in cooperation with NGO’s;- Operational support from the local Police (however quite often victims - due to the cultural traditions/gender roles – are unwilling to make formal complaints to the Police about violent person/family member).</p> <p>5. Yes.</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Lithuania</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Yes, there is a procedure whose purpose is to identify women in need of help. The procedure is conducted in accordance with order set by the Minister of the Interior. An institution in which the asylum application is filled, conducts the primary assessment of asylum seeker’s vulnerability and fills in the vulnerability assessment form that is then transferred to the Migration Department. According to the Law establishing the procedure of granting international protection and temporary protection, and regulating other questions concerning the legal status of aliens in the Republic of Lithuania, vulnerable persons are defined as "persons with special needs (such as minors, disabled people, people over the age of 75, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons suffering from mental disorders, victims of trafficking in human beings, or persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence.)"Taking in regard the vulnerability assessment, Migration Department sets the special procedural guarantees for the vulnerable asylum seeker. Special procedural guarantees – measures</p>   |

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|  |  |  | <p>designed to create the conditions that allow an asylum seeker who is a vulnerable person to effectively use the rights established in the law "On the legal status of aliens" as well as those set in the description of order of the Minister of the Interior, and accordingly execute the responsibilities these legal acts set, as long as they are related to asylum application procedure. After the conclusion provided by the Foreigners' Registration Center, Refugee Reception Center or other competent organization on person's vulnerability and special needs (conclusions are prepared with social worker, medical doctor and psychologist participating, that, inter alia, include the assessment of asylum seeker's social skills, health condition and psychological state), Migration Department once more evaluates the need for special procedural guarantees. If an asylum application is examined in substance, Migration Department fills in a new vulnerability assessment form and once more evaluates the need for special procedural guarantees. It should be noted, that further information on this procedure is available in the LT answer to BE AHQ: Part I - Reception of Vulnerable Applicants for International Protection with Special Reception Needs.</p> <p>2. Yes. According to the Republic of Lithuania Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, the best interests of vulnerable persons should be the primary consideration when taking a decision in compliance with the provisions of this law; asylum seeker identified as a vulnerable person in the Republic of Lithuania has a right to use the services that are in compliance with reception conditions designed to meet his/her special needs; vulnerable persons and their family members can be accommodated in separate premises that are in compliance with their special needs; if possible, by the decision of Migration Department vulnerable persons shall as well be allowed to be accommodated with a close adult relative or representative who legally resides in the Republic of Lithuania; vulnerable persons are not applied the circumstances that might determine the refusal to examine their asylum applications.</p> <p>3. Yes, but women rarely take advantage of this right. Depending on the circumstances, for instance, if woman was sexually assaulted, she is assigned to a female case-officer instead of male, without having to request that.</p> <p>4. In the Foreign's Registration Centre men and women are accommodated separately. With the purpose of ensuring adequate privacy, members of one family are accommodated together in a separate housing compartment unless one of the members of the family opposes such accommodation and there are objective reasons. Foreigners may be separated into groups (in regard to the country of origin, religion, probability of being a danger to themselves or others and on other grounds). Among other things, asylum</p> |
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|   |                               |            | <p>seeker who is identified as vulnerable person with special needs, has the right to access reception conditions that meet their specific needs. Regular monitoring is carried out in order to ensure the needs of the vulnerable people at the Centre. In the Refugee Reception Centre members of a family are accommodated together and foreigner without family separately from the opposite sex.</p> <p>5. Yes. For instance, with Lithuanian Caritas, Lithuanian Red Cross Society, etc.</p>   |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Luxembourg</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. According to article 16 (1) of the amended law of 18 December 2015 on international protection and temporary protection (Asylum Law), whenever the Minister considers appropriate in order to evaluate the application, he takes the necessary measures for the applicant to undergo, with her/his consent, a medical examination, that will be focussed on persecution signs or other serious harm the applicant may have suffered in the past. For the identification and the documentation of signs of torture or other serious forms of physical or psychological violence including sexual violence, the medical examination will consider the “Manual for investigating efficiently on torture and other sanctions or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment” established by the Istanbul protocol of 1999. If the applicant does not undergo this medical examination, the applicant is informed that s/he can undergo a similar exam at her/his own expense (article 16 (2)). Also, article 19 (1) states that after the filing of the international protection application, the Minister in charge of Asylum must proceed in a reasonable deadline, to an evaluation of special procedural guarantees that may be required for certain applicants for example in gender-related cases or if the applicant has been the subject of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence. This determination can be done by the case worker or by self-identification. In order to assess the special procedural guarantees the Minister can request the advice of a health professional or another expert (article 19 (1)). This evaluation can also be made by the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency (OLAI) during the vulnerability examination of the applicant in order to determine particular needs for the reception conditions (article 15 and 16 (1) of the amended law of 18 December 2015 on reception of applicants for international protection and temporary protection (Reception Law)). The case workers of the Directorate of Immigration and the OLAI are trained to deal with victims of physical, psychological and sexual violence.</p> <p>2. According to Article 10(3) of the Reception Law, due consideration is given to the prevention of assault and gender-based violence, including sexual assault and harassment, within the accommodation centres.</p> |

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|   |               |     | <p>Violence against women is not allowed in the reception centres in accordance with the internal rules of the reception centres. Any act of violence will be reported to the police and the individual can be removed from the premises by the police and prosecuted by the Public Prosecutor Office. The woman can be reallocated to a protected accommodation that is provided by authorised service providers approved by the Ministry of Equality of Women and Men (Femmes en Detresse asbl and Maison de la Porte Ouverte).</p> <p>3. Yes. In accordance with article 14(3) b) of the Asylum Law, the Minister in charge of Asylum ensures that the personal interview with the international protection applicant is conducted in conditions which allow the applicant to present the grounds for her/his application in a comprehensive manner. In this regard, the minister makes sure, as far as possible, that the interview will be conducted by a person of the same gender, if the applicant so requests. Also, according to article 14(3) c) of the Asylum Law, the minister makes sure, as far as possible, that there will be a female interpreter if the female applicant so requests.</p> <p>4. The reception centres keep single women and families separated from single men.</p> <p>5. Yes. See answer to question 2.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Malta | Yes | <p>1. Although a number of case workers are trained to deal with applications involving cases of gender-based violence, our national practice does not envisage that all asylum-seeking women are informed about gender-based violence. The issue of gender-based violence is therefore tackled only if the applicant self-identifies as a victim of gender-based violence, or if the Office of the Refugee Commissioner has reasons to believe that the applicant is a victim of gender-based violence</p> <p>2. No. However, if there are reasons to believe that an applicant is being subjected to gender-based violence on Maltese territory, the case would be referred to the attention of the competent authorities.</p> <p>3. Article 10(10)(d) of Subsidiary Legislation 420.07 states the following: ensure whenever possible that the person conducting the interview and interpreter, be a person of the same sex if the applicant so requests, unless the Commissioner has reason to believe that such a request is based on grounds which are not</p>  |

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|   |                                |            | <p>related to difficulties on the part of the applicant to present the grounds of his application in a comprehensive manner;</p> <p>4. AWAS offer security services to all women under its services and accommodation with a 24/7 monitor. Moreover together with a number of NGOs we offer psychosocial services (in the form of assessments) and training regarding gender based violence and counselling for those women who suffered it. In addition our social workers continuously monitor our female clients to early detect signs of gender based violence.</p> <p>5. Depending on the particular circumstances of the case, and if the applicant gives her consent, the applicant could be referred to other authorities or NGOs specialized in providing support to victims of gender-based violence. In case there are reasons to believe that an applicant is being subjected to gender-based violence on Maltese territory, the case would be referred to the attention of the competent authorities.</p>  |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Netherlands</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. The training 'Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity' is offered to case officers, where participants will gain insight in the (often more vulnerable) roles of women (and LGBTIs), and how to integrate this in the procedure. This training is (yet) optional and therefore only a part of the employees has followed this training. In general, it is monitored whether an applicant is vulnerable and requires extra support. This is thus also the case for woman who need extra support because of gender-based violence. Preamble 29 of the Procedures Directive mentions that some asylum seekers require special procedural guarantees on the basis of for instance sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or as a result of torture, rape or other forms of serious psychological, physical or sexual violence. It is not the case that every applicant who had to deal with one or more of these circumstances should always be seen as vulnerable and require procedural support. However, extra awareness is required if the employee signals one or more of these circumstances for the applicant. In that case, the employee needs to decide whether, and if so, what kind of, support is required in the procedure. In every phase of the procedure the need for procedural support could be ascertained. This approach requires that the employee assesses during the whole asylum procedure whether the applicant needs procedural support. Furthermore, in the asylum procedure there is also attention for signals of trafficking in human beings. If there is even the slightest indication of trafficking in human beings, the asylum seeker will be informed about the possibilities of filing a police report; the signal will also be</p> |

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|   |                           |            | <p>transmitted to the police. Within the asylum procedure several employees are chosen as a contact person for trafficking in human beings. These employees are extra trained to recognise signals and serve as a contact person for other employees. In addition, attention is being paid to signals of domestic violence and honour-related violence. Every signal of domestic violence or honour-related violence in the Netherlands has to be reported.</p> <p>2. -</p> <p>3. Yes, female applicants could request female case-officers and interpreters. If possible, these requests are taken into account.</p> <p>4. The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) has house rules which include, besides that the inhabitant has to obey Dutch legislation, that discrimination (including on the basis of sex), intimidation, and every form of (incitement to) aggression or violence are prohibited. If an inhabitant of the COA facility commits an illegal act, or if the staff of COA suspects this, the police will be informed. In addition, COA works with the legal code Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. This means that COA could offer help when a family member behaves aggressively on a regular basis. COA advises to contact the staff in these cases. (<a href="https://www.coa.nl/sites/www.coa.nl/files/paginas/media/bestanden/huisregels_coa_november_2017.pdf">https://www.coa.nl/sites/www.coa.nl/files/paginas/media/bestanden/huisregels_coa_november_2017.pdf</a>)</p> <p>5. Yes, there is cooperation with other organisations with regard to applications of persons who declare to be victims of for example domestic violence or honour-related violence. For honour-related violence there is cooperation with an expert centre of the police. For abandonment and forced marriage there is cooperation with the Dutch centre for forced marriage and abandonment, which is a knowledge and expertise centre.</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Poland</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. According to Article 68 (6) of the Act on granting protection to foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland, the Head of the Office for Foreigners (that is the authority responsible for examining applications for international protection) is obliged to assess each case with regards to the need of applying special procedural or reception guarantees towards an applicant. This duty shall be performed directly after lodging the application but also on every stage of the procedure should new relevant circumstances concerning the applicant or a person included in the application arise. There is a procedure in place to launch if an applicant</p>  |

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|  |  |  | <p>(regardless of sex/ gender) declares e.g. to have been a victim of psychological, physical or sexual violence as well as sexual oriented and gender-based violence. In addition, a separate procedure was implemented to address properly cases where there is a suspicion that a person was a victim of trafficking in human beings (THB).The training program that case officers working in the Department for Refugee Procedures of the Polish Office for Foreigners are fulfilling addresses topics of interviewing victims of violence (and other vulnerable categories). There are also regular trainings regarding the issue of THB in general including practical aspect of recognizing potential indicators of THB.In many of such cases persons responsible for interviewing and examining the case establish a contact with reception facilities staff to confront their observations and adjust solutions taken in a certain case.</p> <p>2. he key element of the Social Assistance Department of the Office for Foreigners's operation is cooperation with the relevant services (Police, Border Guard, social assistance), among others in the scope of the "Blue Card" procedure (special national procedure aimed to document and prevent domestic violence), as well as isolation of the victim from the perpetrator. Such isolation is possible in a center for foreigners in Warsaw, which since its inception in 2010 is intended exclusively for women and children.Additionally, the local police regularly visits Centers to identify possible cases of violence to respond immediately in an appropriate way. Moreover, residents of the centers are informed about the phenomenon of violence and how to respond to possible cases of violence.It is worth mentioning, that in every Center there is so called Local Cooperation Team composed of a member of social worker from the Office for Foreigners, a local police officer and a representative of NGO. Local Cooperation Team has been created in 2008 to combat with gender based sexual violence against foreigners living in the Centers. According to the Act on granting protection to foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Poland, the cash payment to cover the costs of living outside the center may be provided when it is necessary to ensure the security of the foreigner, with particular consideration of the situation of single women. Actions are also taken to meet the health, psychological and social needs of the victim of violence and its relatives - providing proper medical assistance and access to psychological consultations. If necessary, legal aid is also provided to initiate criminal proceedings against the perpetrator.When it comes to procedural requirements, existing procedures addressing cases of vulnerable applicants as well as victims of THB in general prove to be sufficient. A woman that is subject to domestic violence has a right to lodge a separate application for international protection.</p> <p>3. Yes</p> |
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|  |                             |            | <p>4. There is a special procedure in place aimed at dealing with cases of marriage with minors and policy to protect children from harm. Members of a Local Cooperation Team undertake activities aimed at ensuring personal safety of a victim of violence or a potential victim of violence and their relatives, among others by: transferring to another center or granting a cash benefit to live outside the center, limiting the access of the offender or a person posing a threat to a victim of violence or a potential victim of violence by transferring the offender or potential perpetrator to another center, depriving the perpetrator of the assistance provided in the center</p> <p>5. Polish Office for Foreigners, entity responsible for asylum issues, cooperates closely with Border Guard that is responsible for the stage of admission of an application for international protection as well as for the identification of an applicant's identity and – along with the Police – is responsible for formal identification of victims of THB. According to Polish law, Border Guard is running detention centers (including closed centers for families), therefore they are in certain cases the authority spotting and examining indicators of a gender or domestic violence. It must be said that cooperation with Border Guard in the process of examining the applications for international protection in the mentioned respect is vital. Apart from that the Office for Foreigners has a stable cooperation with La Strada Foundation on the issues related to the ad hoc query, an NGO dealing predominantly with victims of human trafficking and – on case by case basis – with other NGO engaged in a certain procedure (for example NGO offering legal assistance).</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Slovakia</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Case officers are trained for working with vulnerable groups where this category would fall. While identifying vulnerable persons, persons with special reception and procedural needs, the List of vulnerability indicators and Questions aimed at identification of vulnerable asylum seekers are used. During the identification of vulnerable persons as well as during suggestion of further mechanisms the social workers cooperate most of all with the manager of the respective asylum facility, medical personnel, procedural workers (first contact workers and decision makers). They closely cooperate on elaboration of the Social Profile of the Personality of an Asylum Seeker. Except that there is a document called Case Study which serves as an exchange of information between social workers and the psychologists (from the Migration Office and NGOs, between reception and asylum facilities and after granting international protection this information is provided further to the social workers within integration process). Note: As for the psychologist</p>  |

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|   |               |     | <p>and medical personnel their information is in a form of recommendation for further work, with the attention to possible limits.</p> <p>2. Preventive measures: - to begin with the cultural orientation already in the reception facility and actively continue in the accommodation centres. - In particular, to emphasize the equality of men and women in the Slovak Republic and the fact that violence against women is unlawful and punishable by law, it is a criminal offense (with imprisonment, etc..)- underline that in the territory of the Slovak Republic, asylum seekers are obliged to comply with our legislation regardless of legislation, customs and religion in their country of origin.- Possibility to contact NGO for a workshop for asylum seekers on domestic and gender-based violence issues. When the situation arises: The situation is more difficult when there are clear signs of violence, but the woman denies it (depending on the society norms in the country of origin or fear of consequences). In spite of that the social worker tries to explain the situation, the legislation and legal procedures in the Slovak Republic and possibilities the employees of the asylum facility can provide her with information on what are the consequences. If the woman herself initiates the contact informing about the acts of violence, first of all there is an interview with the information provision, as stated above. Further steps depend on the agreement and the legal framework. If there is a language barrier the interpreter is involved.</p> <p>3. Yes, they do.</p> <p>4. With woman's consent, we can offer her separated accommodation within the reception facility.</p> <p>5. There is a possibility to cooperate with NGOs which deal with these issues but we have limited experience with cases of gender-based violence.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Spain | Yes | <p>1. Yes, training (including in the specific area of asylum provided by EASO) constitutes the general rule. Further, please note that horizontal policy guidelines to assess this type of cases is also applicable in the context of the Spanish Asylum Office.</p> <p>2. Yes, Spain has pursued over the last 15 years a consistent policy on gender-based violence as a horizontal measure. This includes also the area of migration/asylum. The General Directorate for Integration and</p>   |

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|   |                           |            | <p>Humanitarian Attention (DGIAH) is in the process of preparing a Protocol of Action on Gender Violence that aims to establish the bases of action of the different agents that may be faced with a situation of Gender Violence within the resources that make up the National Reception System for beneficiaries of International Protection. The aim of this Protocol is to serve as a tool for prevention and awareness-raising as well as to facilitate the identification of the different types of violence that affect women within the national system. The DGIAH wants to prioritize and respond to the different situations that occur in the resources and different phases of the National Reception System for International Protection in order to intervene as effectively as possible early.</p> <p>3. Although the Spanish asylum act does not include the provision expressly, it is respected as a general rule upon request of the applicant.</p> <p>4. As a general rule, the reception devices take gender into account when allocating rooms and do not mix women and men if they are not family. Normally the rooms for families or women are usually on floors other than those of men, with the intention that they do not have to share bathrooms or common spaces. As general principles of intervention in the framework of the Reception System, are create spaces that facilitate the privacy of people, gender-separated spaces, 24-hour emergency telephone number in those centers where there is no security personnel, technical assistance available and professional staff of both sexes.</p> <p>5. Yes, including NGOs specialised in gender-based violence and trafficking.</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Sweden</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. The Swedish Migration Agency does not have any standard procedures to identify vulnerable persons when they arrive in Sweden. In the first steps, that is before the asylum-interview, the female applicants have to tell (self-identify as victims of violence). To encourage female applicants to do so, the Migration Agency provides information about gender-based violence. Currently the Migration Agency provides written information about violence at two occasions during the asylum procedure and on its website. The information briefly summarizes what gender-based violence is and where applicants can get help. Information is also provided verbally at one occasion. In all information materials, women and girls at risk of violence are referred to appropriate services. For applicants who come to Sweden for family reasons (family reunification/ family formation), there is brief information in a sheet provided by the Swedish missions</p>  |

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|  |  |  | <p>abroad. Information is also available on the Migration Agency's website (<a href="https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Protection-and-asylum-in-Sweden/While-you-are-waiting-for-a-decision/Health-care.html">https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Protection-and-asylum-in-Sweden/While-you-are-waiting-for-a-decision/Health-care.html</a>), where references are made to support organizations and the Swedish national help-line. Questions will be asked about violence in the asylum-interview, but it may take a while before the interview has been completed.</p> <p>2. Anyone who moves in to accommodation provided by the Migration Agency for asylum seekers receives information that all violence is prohibited and that acts of violence are reported to the police. Posters with contact information to the Swedish national helpline for women subjected to threats, violence or sexual assault, have been set up everywhere, where applicants are staying. The posters give brief information in 20 different languages about the helpline and that it is free of charge. As for plans for the future, the Swedish Migration Agency aims to continue to identify possible occasions for providing information. It will also increase the education and training of its staff. Right now, the Agency has one e-learning programme, which focuses on honour-based violence. Another one is being produced about how the staff should act towards vulnerable women.</p> <p>3. Applicants can request a female or male case-officer and interpreter. The women often say that they want the same interpreter and case-officer as their husband.</p> <p>4. The main type of accommodation that the Migration Agency offers is in apartments. Single women stay there with other women. In the larger facilities, the Agency does not have separate accommodation and the applicants staying there have to share the same washrooms. The staff working in these facilities have recently been trained detect vulnerable applicants. If a woman is harassed by for example her husband, and wants help, the social services will help her to a shelter. Applicants can also choose to arrange their own accommodation (for example extended families). This group is hard to reach.</p> <p>5. The Migration Agency is part of several government networks, for example a national network against honour-related violence, which is headed by a county government, the National centre for knowledge on men's violence against women. The Swedish Government has given the Public Employment Service, the Social Insurance Agency, the Migration Agency and the National Board of Health and Welfare a task to devise a joint plan for improved detection of victims of domestic violence and honour-related violence. At accommodation centres, there are often NGOs represented on a voluntary basis.</p> |
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|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>United<br/>Kingdom</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. • Asylum staff are trained to be alert to safeguarding issues and we have safeguarding teams in place. All asylum claimants receive a leaflet which includes information about support services available. A copy is available on GOV.UK at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-leaflet-for-asylum-applications">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-leaflet-for-asylum-applications</a>. Home Office policy guidance informs staff that some asylum seekers may not be aware of support available to them or how to access it, so the information they provide is important in directing potentially vulnerable people towards the help they may need. Those dependent on an asylum claim are also informed (separately from those they are dependent on) that they can claim asylum in their own right. Our 'Gender issues in the asylum claims' policy guidance provides more information, including specific sections on safeguarding and signposting to support services. This is available on GOV.UK at: <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/699703/gender-issues-in-the-asylum-claim-v3.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/699703/gender-issues-in-the-asylum-claim-v3.pdf</a>. Additionally Migrant Help is an independent charity contracted by the Home Office to provide advice to asylum seekers on the asylum system, support issues and other areas that asylum seekers may advice on. This includes signposting claimants who have been victims of gender based violence to contact relevant organisations. <a href="https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/Pages/Category/asylum">https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/Pages/Category/asylum</a></li> <li>2. • The UK Home Office has a strategy to end violence against women and girls: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020</a></li> <li>3. • Yes, all claimants can made such requests. The gender issues guidance noted above provides information on this in the 'Asylum Interviews' section.</li> <li>4. • It is vital that victims are reassured that they do not need to remain with a violent or abusive partner for immigration purposes. They can access free legal advice on whether to claim asylum in their own right. All victims of domestic abuse need to receive support and appropriate protection quickly, either in the accommodation provided by the Home Office or in alternative accommodation. Decisions on what constitutes safe, alternative accommodation need to take into account the needs of victims for any specialist support services.</li> <li>5. • We work closely with refugee NGOs in the UK to improve the asylum system. This includes working with refugee NGOs and other support organisations who can provide support to those seeking asylum. However, we treat information provided in the context of individual asylum claims in confidence and would</li> </ol> |
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|   |                           |            | <p>only share relevant information with the informed consent of the individual or to enable other UK government departments or agencies including the National Health Service, local authorities, asylum authorities of other countries, international organisations and other bodies to carry out their functions, including the prevention and detection of crime.</p>  |
|  | <p>EMN NCP<br/>Norway</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. YES. see attachment for better graphics. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) has taken the following measures to ensure the identification of women in need of help: Identification As part of identifying vulnerability, including women in need of help, all applicants receive the following information and questions to promote self-identification, both during the initial registration and in the asylum interview: - At the beginning of an interview, the applicant is asked if she has any specific needs that should be considered during the interview. - The applicant is asked if she has physical health problems (such as infectious diseases, disabilities, pains/injuries to the body) or mental health problems (such as anxiety, sleep problems or depression), and she is informed about the right to receive medical help. - The applicant is informed that persons who are in a difficult situation in Norway can get help. For example, if she has been, or may be, exposed to serious abuse, violence or threats, she can be provided with a safe place to live, help from a health care provider and/or police protection. The applicant is asked directly if she needs emergency assistance or if she wants more information about possible support services. Norway has specific procedures for cases where we have information, or identify potential indicators of, human trafficking, domestic violence/forced marriage or female genital mutilation (FGM). In such cases we will adjust the interview situation and questioning strategies according to the needs of the applicant and offer additional information. The case-officer will provide information about: - the possibility of having a safe place to stay (if needed, especially in cases involving victims of trafficking, domestic violence and forced marriage) - the possibility of getting help or guidance from the police or voluntary organisations - the possibility of getting assistance to report criminal acts (violence against women) to the police - getting help providing assistance to pass on relevant information to the reception centre or other relevant agencies - facilitated accommodation is also available in the reception centre based on a person's needs To assist the case-officer in exploring relevant topics in a sensitive manner, the UDI has developed interview guidance/counselling for the following topics: human trafficking, domestic violence and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and LHBTI. UDI also has brief guidelines describing what information to provide and relevant follow-up procedures in these cases. Vulnerability can be identified in any stage of the asylum procedure. Officials from other authorities who</p> |

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|  |  |  | <p>meet the applicant, like medical staff, the Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS) and staff at reception centres, all have a responsibility to identify vulnerability and to notify UDI if it is considered relevant. Training of interviewersThe staff at the Immigration Police Service as well as the UDI case-officers are trained to identify indicators of vulnerability, especially related to the cases mentioned above. They also have training in topics relevant for conducting a professional interview and handling interview situations with vulnerable applicants. In-house expertise on relevant topics UDI has in-house experts on human trafficking, domestic violence and forced marriage, FGM and LGBTI. These experts are experienced caseworkers who receive additional training and who participate in relevant meetings to offer counselling and guidance to colleagues on the topic when needed.</p> <p>no_response_se_emn_ahq_201954_identifying_and_counteracting_gender-based_violence_against_female_asylum_seekers-8.docx</p> <p>2. Yes.The reception centers in Norway conduct information programs in the reception centers that are mandatory for residents. These programs include information about women's rights among other pertinent topics.There is also a course which is a kind of "formalized dialogue" for small groups on violence. It is a preventive measure and all adult, male residents participate. The employees carry out the dialogue groups with the male residents. The aim of the course/dialogue is for participants to reflect on their own attitudes towards violence and alternatives to violence.Please see attached (under Q4) EMN AHQ from 2016 with Norway's comprehensive response on violence prevention against women.</p> <p>3. Yes.Norwegian law states that: (...) Women should be asked if they want a female interviewer and/or interpreter. The applicant's wish, and other special needs, should be taken into account as far as possible".</p> <p>4. The following description includes relevant requirements for operation at the reception centers in Norway, not only for women but also for other vulnerable persons or groups. General requirements about the accommodation:<br/>         •It should be possible to lock bathrooms and toilets.<br/>         •There should be separate bathrooms/toilets for women and men, but women can share bathrooms with men in their own family.<br/>         • Single women should be able to get from their room to the bathrooms without having to "pass by men" (such as when sitting in common living rooms/lounges).<br/>         • Residents should have access to closed off common areas for social interaction adapted to gender and age. Even if a space has to be shared by men and women, women should have access to spaces/rooms of their own, reserved solely for woman at specific hours.<br/>         • Do a risk assessment and take measures to safeguard the safety of the residents. The</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>safety of vulnerable persons (eg single women, with or without children) must be assessed separately. Requirements about staffing (inter alia):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception Centers shall strive for a gender-balanced staff.</li> <li>• There should be one employee who is responsible for follow up and facilitating accommodation conditions for vulnerable groups (such as single women with or without children)</li> </ul> <p>Requirements about vulnerable groups (inter alia):</p> <p>Persons belonging to a vulnerable group often have some common features, experiences or life situation which means that they can have a greater need for facilitation and follow up from the staff at the reception center, this can include persons exposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• violence or abuse in the family</li> <li>• forced marriage</li> <li>• female genital mutilation</li> <li>• trafficking in human beings</li> <li>• child marriages</li> <li>• torture, rape or other forms of physical, psychological or sexual violence ....</li> </ul> <p>Examples of measures the reception centers should address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• educate employees about vulnerable groups, their needs and challenges</li> <li>• ensure that all employees are familiar with cautionary measures for vulnerable groups</li> <li>• ensure that all employees have passed the electronic-learning course about trafficking in human beings within three months after being employed</li> <li>• keep alert to reception residents' needs and contribute to identifying vulnerable persons</li> <li>• establish good routines and ensure that the staff have easy access to written routines (for handling different situations)</li> <li>• follow up vulnerable persons according to established routines</li> <li>• offer dialogue/conversations/talks with vulnerable persons</li> <li>• inform vulnerable persons about their rights, etc</li> <li>• refer to relevant NGOs (ref also Q 5)</li> </ul> <p>See attachment with information from EMN AHQ 2016.1040</p> <p>no_response_2016.1040_-_violence_prevention_and_sexual_education_courses_to_migrants.docx</p> <p>5. Yes. Persons with special needs can at any time throughout the asylum process, be referred to an NGO or other sectoral authority (child welfare, health services, police). For applicants who are victims of trafficking we cooperate with an NGO called "ROSA", that provides personal guidance and a safe place to stay (see English language link and project report attached).</p> <p><a href="https://urm.lt/uploads/default/documents/5_19_%20Lisa%20Weldehanna_%20Norwegian%20Experience%20in%20Combating%20Trafficking%20of%20Woman%20and%20Girls.pdf">https://urm.lt/uploads/default/documents/5_19_%20Lisa%20Weldehanna_%20Norwegian%20Experience%20in%20Combating%20Trafficking%20of%20Woman%20and%20Girls.pdf</a></p> <p>project_report_2015_dialogue_groups_related_to_violence_against_women_atv.pdf</p> |
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