**Response of the Slovak Republic to Questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

**DISCRIMINATION, SEGREGATION AND THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING**

**HOUSING DISCRIMINATION**

**Question No. 8**

*“Discrimination in housing can affect various dimensions of the right to adequate housing and other human rights. Could you provide more details regarding the specific areas in which housing discrimination is experienced? Below are examples of various forms of discrimination that can be experienced in relation to different dimensions of the right to adequate housing:*

*Accessibility*

*- Access to emergency and/or transitional housing after disaster, conflict related displacement or in case of homelessness, family or domestic violence”*

The present state of the system of emergency housing for women experiencing violence in Slovakia is unsatisfactory, both in terms of capacity as well as financial security. With the total housing capacity of 1,358 places, it satisfies only 45,58% of the minimal standard as set by the Council of Europe. Moreover, the network of safe housing suffers from the lack of systemic and secure financing and to a large extent relies on ad hoc financial stimuli or grants, including through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. This problem has been further exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has put an even greater pressure on safe housing and other services catering to women in need.

To address the underfunding of emergency housing for women experiencing violence, whether established by municipality or private entities, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family has secured, in cooperation with the Government Office, a financial injection for social services and facilities which provide assistance, counselling, and safe housing to women experiencing violence. With the aim of addressing the acute need for funds arisen by the consequences of the pandemic, it has been decided that an amount of 3 million EUR will be allocated from the Prime Minister’s reserve to crisis centres providing housing and other forms of assistance to victims of domestic violence. Since the tackling of this problem also requires a more of a long-term solution, a working group tasked with drafting a new legislative proposal aimed at securing stable funding for safe houses and other related services has been established.

The issue of lack of access to emergency and/or transitional housing in cases of domestic violence is foreseen to be further addressed during the implementation phase of the National Action Plan for Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women 2021-2027.