**Responses of the Slovak Republic:**

**Common questions**

**Impact on human rights**

* *Please explain the impact of the pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights and what actions have been taken by the State to respect, protect and fulfil human rights?*

In Slovakia, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred at the time of change of government. So the new government had to start taking action immediately to protect the health and lives of its residents. The government has set up a Central Crisis Team, which has made recommendations for emergency measures. Government also established a web-site <https://korona.gov.sk/>, containing all important information and recommendations.

The right to judicial and other legal protection remained guaranteed. Slovak citizens also turned to the Ombudsman, who actively communicated with the Prime Minister, the government, members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, ministers, the Central Crisis Team, the Main Officer for Public Hygiene, and other bodies, to whom she offered proposals to increase legal certainty and eliminate irregularities.

The Ombudsman registered complaints from citizens mainly in the field of alternating care for a minor child (court decisions stayed valid also during the pandemic); regarding compulsory state quarantine and the manner of its implementation; closure of Roma settlements without taking into account the principle of proportionality; disadvantage about 10,000 pupils who were excluded from online distance education for the poverty of their family, were teachers tried to educate these children in other ways, for example by providing home education through paper assignments. In the field of women's reproductive rights, especially at the beginning of the pandemic in Slovakia, women's rights to abortion were prevented as were other non-essential medical treatments. The Ombudsman and the Slovak National Center for Human Rights pointed out that during the pandemic, some doctors did not perform abortion procedures, which could cause serious interference with women's reproductive rights as well as endanger women's health. After this appeal, the situation in respecting the reproductive rights was remedied. Furthermore, seniors over the age of 65 had an assigned shopping time. This measure should have only been of recommendatory character as it was not possible to comply with it for all seniors, especially those who work and therefore was later changed to a recommendation.

Within its scope, the National Criminal Agency of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “the Agency”) recorded hate speech and manifestations of resistance to the measures taken by the Government of the Slovak Republic in order to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic spreading. The abovementioned was particularly in relation to the quarantine measures in Roma settlements, to the restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms, namely freedom of movement, assembly etc. that evoked the impression of discrimination among some groups of citizens.

Against a background of the execution of activity focused on information collection, detecting, authentication and documentation of the crimes of terrorism and extremism, we may state that the Agency as a repressive body secures the observance and execution of the repressive measures taken by the Government of the Slovak Republic in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within their competence, the Agency´s police officers cooperate with non-government and international organizations focused on monitoring of human rights preservation in general, as well as of protection of the rights of women and children. The Agency´s police officers are members the Fundamental Rights Agency group established to work out methodology of hate crimes data recording and collection.

* *Are there any measures put in place in your country following the pandemic which have had a limiting effect on human rights? If so, please list them, provide an explanation for their adoption and indicate the time-frame by which they will be lifted?*

Following measures were adopted during the pandemic which had a limiting effect on human rights, limiting free movement and right of assembly:

1. The measure of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic no. OLP / 4203/2020 of 20th May 2020; (valid from 21st May 2020 - 7:00 o´clock – to 10th June 2020) - state quarantine, isolation during testing for COVID
2. The measure of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic no. OLP / 4311/2020 of 22nd May 2020; (valid from 22nd May – 20:00 o´clock to – to 10th June 2020 – 7:00 o´clock); - private isolation or state quarantine for returnees
3. The measure of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic no. OLP / 4085/2020 of 19th May 2020; (valid from 20 May – to 2nd June 2020 by no. OLP/4592/2020); ban on public events of more than 100 people and ban on sports competitions
4. Order of the Police President no. PPZ-HCP-VO-2020/022181-063 of 30th April 2020 – admitted on the basis of a measure of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic no.OLP/3353/2020 from 29th April 2020 in connection with the spread of COVID-19 (valid from 1st May 2020 – 7:00 o´clock to 10th June 2020); establishing specific rules for persons travelling through borders to work, i.e. provide negative tests for COVID
5. The execution of the right of assembly, with the exception of persons living in the same household, was prohibited before Easter by a government resolution (Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 114 of 15th March 2020 and extended by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 115 of 18th March 2020, by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 169 of 27th March 2020, Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 207 of 6th April 2020 and Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 233 of 16th April 2020) and valid till 9th  June 2020 (<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2020/147/>)
6. *Where these measures determined by law? If yes, please indicate the relevant legislation.*

Measures were adopted based on the Constitutional Act no. 227/2002 Coll. on state security during times of war, state of war, emergency and state of emergency, Act no. 387/2002 Coll. on governing during crisis situations besides war or state of war and Act no. 355/2007 Coll on protection, support and development of public health. However, the government has been criticized that various measures, while adopted based on these laws, were passed as decisions of the Public Health Authority in cooperation with other executive agencies, even in cases where such measures are to be adopted by an act of parliament (National Council) or by government’s Resolution. As of the 17th of June, this was not yet challenged at the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic.

1. *Why were these measures necessary to respond to the COVID-19 situation?*

The measures of the Public Health Authority were taken on the basis of the recommendations of the Central Crisis Team set up by the Prime Minister as an advisory body of experts, and were issued by the Main Officer for Public Hygiene of the Slovak republic from the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic.

1. *Were these measures proportional in view of their expected results to counter the pandemic?*

COVID-19 spread was prevented, and the Slovak Republic has only 28 deaths from this disease, what is a favorable number compared to other neighboring countries.

1. *Did these measures have any discriminatory effects on various groups of the population? If so, please indicate which ones and why.*

In the case of Roma settlements, Ombudsman pointed out already in March that the closure of entire communities should be very carefully considered. Because such a measure may not pass the proportionality test. Therefore, the Main Officer for Public Hygiene issued rules on when it is necessary to close settlements – only if there are more than 10% infected citizens in the settlements. But this was not respected.

The Slovak Republic has a diverse demographic composition in terms of nationality and ethnicity, and at the same time is characterized by large regional differences. These facts sought to take into account the measures taken by the Slovak government in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, the Office of Representative of the Government of Slovak republic for national minorities (hereinafter referred to “ÚSVNM”) does not record disaggregated data concerning the effects of the pandemic on members and communities of national minorities, apart from mapping the situation in selected marginalized Roma communities (hereinafter referred to “MRK”) in which extraordinary measures had to be taken. According to publicly available information, the ÚSVNM considers that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the whole of Slovak society in the field of health care, employment, education, and social affairs, however, the communities of the Hungarian and Roma national minorities living in the border areas of southern Slovakia, as well as excluded Roma communities have been affected to greater extent

In its analysis submitted to the Office of Representative of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to “ÚSVRK”) on the spread of COVID-19 in the MRK´s locations, the Public Health Office (hereinafter referred to “ÚVZ SR”) evaluated in particular the following facts:

* increased cross-border movement (COVID-19 is an imported disease) and insufficient conditions for preventive measures, such as a higher degree of social isolation,
* the insufficient infrastructure of MRK settlements with insufficient hygiene standards,
* insufficient parameters of individual elements of urban settlements of the MRK in terms of the requirements of public health regulations in the field of housing,
* in connection with the above sub-item, a high degree of occurrence of multi-generational families in individual elements of settlements, with reduced possibilities of isolation of individuals, as well as a higher concentration of persons within basic family units compared to the majority population,
* the initial availability of personal protective equipment, comparable to the majority population, because the Slovak Republic, as well as other states, was not prepared for a pandemic,
* overall living conditions in settlements of the MRK, which, despite the interventions financed also from the ESI Funds, established difficult conditions of prophylaxis, the applicability of protective measures in the field of public health, and thus reduced resistance of communities to pandemics COVID-19,
* on the state of concentrated and generational poverty in settlements of the MRK.

In connection with the possibility of the Covid-19 pandemic penetrating the MRK in Slovakia, the Central Crisis Staff briefly identified two immediate public health risks in March:

* 1) Risk of a sharp increase in severe Covid-19 disease in MRK due to the rapid spread of the disease in MRK and the presence of people at increased risk of severe disease in the environment
* 2) Risk of spreading the epidemic from affected MRKs to other parts of municipalities due to insufficient compliance with prevention measures by MRK residents outside the MRK

After a more detailed consideration of the available more detailed information, the first risk appeared to be theoretically acute from an epidemiological point of view. The infiltration of the Covid-19 pandemic into the MRK was preliminarily considered to be very likely at least by the introduction from abroad, to a large extent.

The contributory organization of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, *Healthy Regions* (hereinafter referred to “ZR”), from 13 March 2020, carried out a mapping of the situation regarding the pandemic in the MRK in the territory of 250 municipalities at 2-3 day intervals. In 66% of MRKs, this mapping recorded returns from abroad from countries where the pandemic was already on the rise or significantly widespread at the time, such as the Czech Republic, England, Germany, Austria, and Italy (as of 27 March, individuals from more than 1400 families returned from these states).

As the given selection of MRKs was representative for Banská Bystrica, Košice, and Prešov regions, it was reasonable to expect a similar situation in the remaining approximately 50 municipalities with comparable MRKs in the area. The same source also showed that MRK was a population that was virtually unaffected by Covid-19 testing by the end of March. Of the approximately 180,000 population covered by the *Healthy Regions* mapping (approximately ¾ of the entire MRK population), only 59 people have been tested since the onset of the epidemic for other reasons (and only quite unsystematically, mainly during the first few days after the pandemic and mostly in connection with previous hospitalizations).

The rapid spread of Covid-19 within the MRK in the event of introduction was and remains likely given the typical living conditions in the environment. These make it as difficult as possible to prevent effective compliance with any measures against the spread of infectious diseases. In MRK e.g. typically there is no standard public infrastructure and basic household equipment (approximately 3/4 of households lack functional water and sewage connections, flush toilets, and bathrooms), households are small and densely populated here (average 4.5 people for relatively very small dwellings), the incomes of the vast majority of households are consistently below the poverty line and significant proportions of the population here show extremely low levels of health literacy.

The increased risk of more severe Covid-19 disease in the case of the spread in MRK was and can be safely derived from several representative epidemiological studies on the demographic composition and health status of the local population. Although the population is very young on average (average age 25 and around 45% are children under 15), the assumption of a low risk of the disease at a younger age cannot be applied to it as a whole. The inhabitants of MRK live significantly shorter than the rest of the Slovak population, have several times higher infant mortality and suffer more from all types of diseases, including all types of civilization diseases (with earlier onset), chronic respiratory diseases (from an early age), infectious diseases and parasitosis. Comorbidity is also very common here. Due to the significantly shorter age and higher lifelong burden (not only directly by pathologists but also by environmental exposures, the burden of mental, physical, and unhealthy diet), faster biological aging can be considered for this population. In comparison with the general Slovak or European population, it is, therefore, appropriate to expect more than the same or less severe course of this disease in the same age categories.

Based primarily on the analyses above, the *Permanent Crisis Staff* in cooperation with the *Slovak Army*, *Healthy Regions* and *ÚSVRK* carried out Operation Carousel 1 in April, focused on PCR testing for Covid-19 disease among returnees in MRK. This operation made the following findings concerning this main risk:

* The introduction of a pandemic into the MRK from abroad through the first massive wave of returnees from abroad can currently only be expected for a small part of all MRKs
* However, the extremely rapid spread of the Covid-19 epidemic in the MRK environment indeed poses a very real threat, at least within zones with substandard infrastructure and high population density, and in the event of insufficient functioning of massive preventive and control measures in these zones.

At the same time, it is necessary to emphasize that Operation Carousel 1 and subsequent testing of infected contacts (directed by RÚVZ) have so far focused only on a very specific section of MRK population (people with travel histories and their contacts), for capacity reasons maximum in 2/3 MRK, where such a focus was necessary and for procedural reasons in many of the selected MRCs was not quite successful (few people participated in the testing and the results can only be analyzed in a very rough way for poorly treated data streams). As a result, several important unknowns remain regarding the expansion of Covid-19 in MRK:

* We have no data on the possible introduction of Covid-19 from abroad by the first wave of returnees at least 1/3 of the MRC (municipalities in which Carousel 1 did not take place)
* We have no data in MRK on the possible introduction of Covid-19 by other routes or the extent of the spread of Covid-19 in all local populations outside returnees and their nearest contacts.

Furthermore, the fact that in the case of the introduction of mandatory domestic and area quarantines in most municipalities there were long-term problems with providing basic needs for quarantine, not only in the humanitarian but also in the availability of basic health services (unavailability of medicines, thermometers, weak contact with the attending physicians, problems with the logistics of the necessary examinations, etc.).

Additionally, based on the development of the pandemic situation and epidemiological risk, within the individual versions of the models on 20 May 2020, ÚVZ SR proceeded to the processing of the material "COVID-19 overview of the current situation in Slovakia - Analysis of cases of COVID-19 diseases". Graph 4 The *number of cases by place of infection* identified in MRK members a connection with the imported disease; 93; 6.3% and directly imported disease 86.5%.

Despite the decline in COVID-19 cases, as of 28 April 2020, cases persisted in MRK members and in retirement homes and long-term care facilities (hereinafter referred to as "DSS"). From a cumulative point of view, the highest share of 37% (541) was recorded as an imported disease. Concerning imported diseases, 5.7% of cases are registered in the majority population (84). 5.8% (86) are directly imported in MRK and 6.3% (93) are related to these imported diseases. 11.6% of cases were reported in the DSS (171). In this material, the ÚVZ SR published an overview of the number of cases in the MRK since the beginning of the epidemic, by individual municipalities, with a total of 179 cases. Thus, there were a total of 179 cases in the MRK, in 48% they were imported diseases, and in other cases - 52% were diseases directly related to imported cases. The cases occurred in 45 localities with a maximum in the village of Žehra (71 cases), in Nitra (13 cases), in Bystrany (9 cases), and Krompachy (8 cases). A cumulative number of positive cases increases only very slightly, (7-day moving median was 3 by the date of the study, as of March 10 is 0). This positive development is mainly related to the thorough monitoring and investigation of outbreaks in the MRK and DSS.

From the last analysis of the ÚVZ SR published as of May 29, 2020, in the standard graph 4 *The* *number of cases by place of infection*, cases of the disease for MRK, the condition is as follows: MRK - related to the imported disease; 94; 6.30%, MRK-imported infection; 87; 5.84%. From a cumulative point of view, the highest share of 37.3% (556) was recorded as an imported disease. In connection with imported diseases, 5.7% of cases are registered in the majority population (87). 5.8% (87) are directly imported in the MRK and 6.3% (94) are related to these imported diseases. 11.5% of cases were reported in the DSS (171). The number of cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic has been maintained at 180, 48% were imported diseases and in other cases - 52% were diseases directly related to imported cases.

Positively tested residents of MRK settlements did not significantly negatively affect the development of the pandemic situation precisely thanks to the procedures of the state administration, support measures as well as measures of domestic isolation and quarantine.

It is necessary to point out the fact that these are interim data, hard data will also be the subject of future scientific research for individual groups. The relatively high positive results of the Slovak Republic in combating COVID-19 probably correspond to the combination of preventive measures in the field of public health adopted by the Slovak administration, the observed

Measure no. OLP/4085/2020 says that the prohibition of organizing and conducting mass events does not apply to the performance of services, the First Holly Communion, the Confirmation, its provisions indicate that only the Roman Catholic Church was expressly preferred and that all other churches that are registered in the Slovak Republic were forgotten in this measure (e.g. Bar Mitzvah at the Jews was not mentioned in the measure, and others).

Compulsory shopping hours for seniors over the age of 65 were considered discriminatory and therefore changed to a recommendation.

* *Please describe whether responses to the pandemic by States, businesses, faith-based organisations or other actors have resulted in a rollback of human rights, including in relation to the affirmative action, gender-equality, inclusion of persons with disabilities and LGBT persons, land rights of indigenous peoples´ or access to sexual and reproductive health services?*

The WHO guidelines on adherence to gynecological and obstetric procedures have been published on the website of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. This includes the right to an accompanying person and the right to women's reproductive rights (abortion). At the beginning of the pandemic, the individual medical facilities stopped performing abortions. It is a procedure that is time-limited (up to 12 weeks of pregnancy of a woman). It is a procedure that cannot be postponed in time. The Chief expert in gynecology at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (prof. MUDr. Miroslav Borovský, PhD.) confirmed that this is a procedure which cannot be postponed. Failure to do so significantly interferes with a woman's right to privacy and dignity.

* *What long-term impact of the pandemic and its response measures are expected on the enjoyment of human rights?*
* *Please explain if economic recovery and financial assistance mechanism to reduce the social economic impact of the measures adopted have been subjected have been subjected to prior human rights impact assessments?*

With the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 0257/2020 the government decided to:

* ensure the internal reallocation of funds in the amount of 26.8 mil. Euro (EU source) from priority axis 6 Technical equipment in municipalities with the presence of marginalized Roma communities (European Regional Development Fund) to priority axis 3 Employment (European Social Fund) within the Human Resources Operational Program; in cooperation with the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and the Family;
* ensure the internal reallocation of funds in the amount of 13.5 mil. Euro (EU source) from priority axis 6 Technical equipment in municipalities with the presence of marginalized Roma communities (European Regional Development Fund) to priority axis 5 Integration of marginalized Roma communities (European Social Fund) within the Human Resources Operational Program; in cooperation with the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and the Family;
* ensure the announcement of the call within Priority Axis 5 Integration of marginalized Roma communities of the Operational Program Human Resources for a national project aimed at strengthening the activities of field assistants, including providing facilities for people in the field and marginalized Roma communities - households in the indicative amount of 1.5 mil. Euro (EU source);
* ensure the announcement of the call within priority axis 5 Integration of marginalized Roma communities of the Human Resources Operational Program for a national project focused on measures of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities to combat the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting field assistance and equipping quarantine centers in indicative financial resources 11.5 mil. Euro (EU source) and to
* ensure the announcement of the call within the priority axis 5 Integration of marginalized Roma communities of the Operational Program Human Resources for a national project aimed at creating and financing the position of teaching assistant and inclusive teams in the indicative amount of funds 15 mil. Euro (EU source).

These calls and thus the relevant national projects are being prepared.

On 27 April 2020, the call from the OP HRD (Ministry of Inferior of Slovak republic) was again announced to support access to drinking water in the MRK settlements, code OPLZ-PO6-SC611-2020-1, in the allocation of 10 mil. Euro.

*Other measures are only now being adopted and as such it is too early to assess.*

* **Specific support measures for cultural branches**

**Legislation:** A new law passed on May 21 specifies measures for:

1. **Protecting organizers of events that have been cancelled.** By law, they will be exempted from any penalties from cancelling the event, they will not be considered late in respecting their contract commitment, and they have a right to terminate contracts related to organizing events which cannot be held due to epidemic measures.
2. **Remunerating customers for tickets purchased.** Organizers of events that have been cancelled have the right to offer ticket-holders:
   1. an extension of the ticket’s validity, if a replacement event is held not later than December 31, 2021;
   2. a voucher in the value of the ticket purchased, redeemable at least until December 31, 2021;
   3. or remunerating ticket-holders for the price of the ticket, if they refuse options (a) or (b).
3. **Remission of fees paid to the Art Funds.** Authors are required to pay 2 % of their earnings to the Art Funds (the Music Fund, Literature Fund, or Visual Arts Fund, respectively). The fees are remitted until December 31, 2020.

**Support through the Slovak Arts Council and the Slovak Audiovisual Fund**

**The Arts Council** is a self-governing public institution providing support of art activities, culture and creative industries, established in 2014. Since the closing down of cultural institutions on March 10, 2020, the Arts Council has communicated regularly with the artists, the Ministry, and the general public, and revised the structure of support accordingly.

* **Ongoing projects:** The Arts Council amended its rules to enable carrying out projects within the new social distancing requirements. Ongoing projects have been reassessed individually, either postponing the events to the second half of the year, or changing the type of project output – i.e. preparing "strategic papers" or new "marketing research" instead of events. In some cases, the Arts Council accepted online streaming instead of originally planned live events. If none of these changes are applicable, the support granted will have to be returned to the Council. At the moment, there are around 1900 approved project for the year 2020, and several calls are still evaluated.
* **New call (0.5 mil. Euro):** A special grant programme has been opened for activities possible within social distancing requirements. Projects are focused on self-development of arts organizations, reflection of the arts scene, multidisciplinary activities either focused on research or education. The call has been allocated 0.5 mil. Euro.[[1]](#footnote-1)[1]
* **Planned:** To support local booksellers, the Council proposed a scheme for book acquisitions by local libraries, where the support would only be granted when buying from local bookstores. The financing is being negotiated.

**The Audiovisual Fund**, operating since 2010, is the main public funding institution for the Slovak audiovisual culture and industry. Since the closing down of cultural institutions on March 10, 2020, the Audiovisual Fund has communicated regularly with the artists, the Ministry, and the general public, re.

* **Ongoing projects:** The epidemic-related obstacles to ongoing projects are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. No special call has been opened.[[2]](#footnote-2)[2]

**Planned:** the Audiovisual Fund is considering an extension of its cashback scheme to include smaller productions (by lowering the minimum spending limit). The financing is being negotiated.

**Statistical Information**

* Against a background of the asylum seekers, low numbers are generally in question. Since the beginning of 2020, 68 applications for asylum have been submitted, with only 1 of them being submitted by a person of the “older” (over 65 years) age category. The Migration Office of the SR MI does not record statistical data on persons exercising international protection due to their age.
* Within statistical monitoring of the crimes relating to home violence, the Police Force has recorded several crimes, for example, battering a close person and a person entrusted into one´s care, dangerous threatening, dangerous persecution, harm to health and others.
* In the Slovak Republic, 624 crimes of home violence have been committed during the first 5 months of 2020 (constituting the increase of 18 new cases as compared to the equal period of 2019).
* Statistical data concerning murders committed in the Slovak Republic during the first 5 months of 2020, provided as proceeded in the table:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crime** |  | | | | **Family relationship of the offender and the victim** | | | | |
|  | Established  crimes | Detected | Victim- woman | Committed by a relative | Offender husband – victim wife | Offender common-law husband - victim common law wife | Offender former husband – victim – former wife | Offender former common-law husband victim – former common-law wife | Offender brother – victim sister |
| § 144 – first degree murder | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| § 145- second degree murder | 18 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

**Protection of various groups at risk and indigenous peoples**

**1. Question, letter d)**

When performing their service duties, police officers and employees in the scope of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic act in accordance with the valid legislation and measures adopted by relevant authorities in the context of the COVID-19.

Against a background of the detained and incarcerated persons, including persons under state custody – persons restricted on their personal freedom, “Directive for the Police Force members placed to execute their service duties at the places of police detention” was issued within the competence of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, as well as Order of the President of the Police Force – “Statement of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on principles of treatment of the detained and incarcerated persons in the context of the COVID-19”, with both documents being delivered to relevant Police Force units and available on the website of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

In contact with the persons treated within execution of acts of criminal proceedings, including the persons restricted on their personal freedom, the bodies responsible for criminal proceedings observe the relevant hygienic measures due to directives of the Chief Hygienist of the Slovak Republic and instructions of the Chief Hygienist of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic to prevent the COVID-19 spreading. Regular disinfection of floors, door-knobs and other materials which the persons get in touch with is ensured, as well as the rooms where the persons have been present (hearing rooms, corridors, police detention cells, sanitary facilities); the rooms are properly aired after each person´s visit in a way that they be prepared for their repeated use. Disinfection is also carried out of the road vehicles used to transport the detained and incarcerated persons.

An informative interview is made with the detained persons in order to find out whether these persons have not returned from endangered regions and whether they do not have some rhinitis or influenza respiratory symptoms; at the same time, they are advised on general preventive measures. Each person restricted on her/his personal freedom is advised on their rights in accordance with the law and provided with information on their rights in written form, too (with receipt of the information to be confirmed by their signatures).

When brought to the police station, the persons are provided with personal protective and working means – a mask to cover the upper airways, and disposable gloves. Prior to their placement to the police detention cell, the persons are provided for with medical treatment. The placement of the persons to the police detention cells is preferable carried out separately, one by one person (event in the event of double-bed cell). As circumstances allow, the limitations in contact with surroundings are compensated by an improved availability to alternative means of communication (e.g. telephone or internet communication).

The Police Force makes every effort to use the alternatives to the personal freedom restriction so that community spreading of the transmissible COVID-19 disease could be prevented on the largest possible scale (e.g. explanations at place).

The measures taken to protect the detained persons have been set in accordance with directives of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Hygienist. Directly in the Police detention units for foreigners (hereinafter referred to as “ÚPZC”), the visits of the foreigners placed there have been canceled, except for visits by their legal representatives. In case of the persons detained in ÚPZC, a number of other particular measures have been taken to protect high-risk population against the COVID-19.

**1. Question, letter j)**

Within the “Rifugio” project, financed by the Fund for Asylum, Migration and Integration, all services were continually provided including during the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; with this providing being adapted to epidemiological measures in the SR (the Slovak language was taught online, psychological and social consultancy were provided by phone, etc.); within this project, personal protective and disinfection means and food parcels were also distributed to the persons exercising the granted international protection.

**1. Question, letter k)**

Strict crisis measures against the COVID-19 spreading were adopted by the Public Health Authority and entered into force from 13 March 2020 on in the whole territory of the Slovak Republic. For this reason, only some life situations were dealt with by particular Foreign Police departments of the Police Force at their contact places, opening hours were adjusted and ordering system was suspended. The foreigners coming to the contact places were obliged to have their nose and mouth covered by a mask, a veil or another means of protection; also the selection and checking of the persons coming in were established. From 10 May on, the ordering system on the website of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic was re-launched and the range of life situations to be dealt with at the contact places was systematically spread.

**3. Question, letter f)**

In the Slovak Republic, professional assistance to the victims of violence against women and domestic violence (legal consultancy, psychological consultancy, social consultancy, accommodation in crisis centers etc.) are provided by entities focused on assistance to the crime victims; or by non-government organizations focused on assistance to the victim of violence against women and domestic violence. On 24 March 2020, the Presidium of the Police Force sent the Police Force units information on current availability of organizations focused on assistance to the victims of violence against women and domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, reminding all the police officers active in investigation and shorten investigation to relevantly perform their information duty, as required by law, including during the pandemic..

**3. Question, letter g)**

Within the Police Force, the problems of human trafficking are dealt with by National unit of fight against irregular migration of Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force, from 1 July 2013 performing operative-detection activity at whole-state level, obtaining knowledge and contributing to operative revealing and detecting of the crimes in question. In the same way, it coordinates the cooperation with partner foreign services in addressing internationally organized crime associated with human trafficking; and it cooperates with central administration authorities and the third sector at the same time.

In case of suspicion that a person could have become a victim of human trafficking, the person in question may decide on her/his own to enter the human trafficking victims´ support and protection program. The administrator of this specialized program is the Information Center for fight against human trafficking and crime prevention.

**6. Question**

Within the measures executed in the scope of the Agency, there was also enhanced monitoring of hate speech in relation to the measures to fight against the COVID-19 on social networks, their authentication; as well as looking into initiatives by citizens, looking for persons inciting and encouraging discriminatory and racist manifestations and behavior, or violent acting and grassroots disobedience.

**Awareness raising and technology**

Immediately after the first case of the COVID-19 disease had been recorded, leaflets under the title “Keep yourself protected against coronavirus” (“Chráň sa pre koronavírusom”) were elaborated by the Riot Police department of the Presidium of the Police Force and allocated to particular regional directorates of the Police Force. In the circulation of 30,000 copies, these leaflets were subsequently disseminated, preferably by senior officials for community work within the competence of all the regional directorates of the Police Force, in Roma settlements in order to protect lives and health against the COVID-19.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, awareness-oriented activities were carried out by the senior officials for community work in particular Roma settlements, focused on observance and practice of basic hygienic habits – to cover nose and mouth in case of coughing or sneezing, to avoid mass meetings or to avoid persons with influenza symptoms. At the same time, there was cooperation with the Slovak Mail in paying and receiving social benefits, particularly in surveillance over the observance of measures and directives by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, for example keeping in mandatory distance of the queueing persons (2 m), mandatory using protective means or mandatory wearing masks at particular Slovak Mail compartments, first and foremost because of the dramatic situation and of protection of public order during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Immediately, the police officers placed in prevention departments (so called “preventionists”) started to carry out prevention-awareness oriented activities focused on the most vulnerable target group – the seniors. They were present in the streets, in front of shops, at parking lots, near post boxes of blocks of flats, reminding the seniors of various crisis situations they might encounter (including both during and after the emergency). Carrying out these activities, they distributed leaflets like “Seniors, be careful, don´t become a victim of thieves, con men and tricksters!”, “Seniors, attention – old woman shouting!”, “Con man, you won´t rip me off!”, “Seniors, we are here for you!” Bills were posted at publicly accessible places. Seniors and broad public were warned of the risk of domestic violence outburst and provided by the leaflet: “Am I (not) a victim of violence?!” There were recommendations and advice at all the posters including contacts where they may turn to in case of need of an assistance. All the prevention activities carried out by the Police Force are focused on the protection against crime and other anti-social activities, on security, protection of life, health and property.

Crime prevention department of Office of the Minister of Interior cooperated in the production of the RTVS (Slovak Radio and Television broadcasting) program under the title “Encyclopedia of Prevention” focused mainly on security and mental health of seniors in the time of their social isolation. At the same time, women, children and seniors became the target group of the campaign to support reporting domestic violence and to inform about the options of addressing violent situations during current crisis.

**Internet**

Because of increased internet use at home, there is a relevant increase in risk of danger for its users in relation to various forms of fraud efforts to illegally obtain sensitive data on the users. The number of complaints (or reports) was also increased in relation to cyber-chicane, misuse of users´ accounts on the Facebook and Instagram. Helplines recorded increased number of cyber-chicane cases and misuse of the accounts, e-mail hacking, sending harassing and erotic websites etc. In these cases, the helplines recommended the persons to report it to the police. Due to the time of lodging the complaints, the impact will be announced as late as in following

Against a background of the pandemic, cases of malware involvement were recorded, giving rise to new opportunities for the social aspect of the attack. In actual, there is an increased risk of “cooperation” with the target user in identifying his own device.

**Accountability and Justice**

* ***Could you kindly highlight key concerns in complaints received by national human rights institutions, ombudspersons, antidiscrimination bodies in relation to the COVID-19 crisis and how they have been addressed?***

The above-mentioned Authorities reacted operatively and provided advice to improve the situation and eliminate possible human rights violations. Various comments of human rights organizations were accepted. It was an operational process where human rights Authorities directly contacted the government, the prosecutor's office, representatives of towns and municipalities, social service providers with suggestions on how to eliminate mistakes so human rights are not interfered with. Bodies dealing with the protection of human rights directly contacted the responsible subjects by letters had personal meetings where they discussed the situations that arose. The comments were evaluated.

* ***Could you provide any account and statistics on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operation of the justice system, including law enforcement, the provision of legal assistance and the operation of courts? Which activities were temporarily suspended?***

<https://www.justice.gov.sk/Stranky/Prevencia-pred-koronavirusom.aspx> - measures for the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

In a period of emergency (Section 3 (1) of Act No. 42/1994 Coll. on Civil Protection of the Population) or a state of emergency (Article 5 of Constitutional Act No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security in time of war, state of war, state of emergency and state of emergency as amended) and according to § 3 of Act no. 62/2020 Coll. on certain emergency measures in connection with the spread of the disease COVID-19 and to hold hearings, main hearings and public sessions in the judiciary:

* on custody in criminal proceedings, decisions on parole, decisions on modal control,
* in court care proceedings for minors (as these are persons who rely solely on court intervention; the emergency / emergency itself is not automatically a reason for adjournment / cancellation of the hearing), and
* without their actions there is a risk of irreparable damage or other serious irreparable damage; consequence, while specific cases will be a matter for the discretion of the legal judge / senate (eg causing further delays in the case of court proceedings in which unnecessary delays have already been identified by the competent authority, etc.).
* ***What measures have been taken to ensure access to justice, and provide accountability and redress for victims of hate-speech, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance during the pandemic?***

There has been no restriction on the availability of judicial and other legal assistance and protection in this area. NGOs and some law firms provided online pro bono legal support, and the litigation agenda on these issues remained unchanged.

One of the fundamental constitutional principles of the Slovak Republic is the guaranty of personal freedom. In compliance with this provision, nobody may be prosecuted or deprived of personal liberty otherwise than for the reason and in the manner stipulated by law. Under the principles of criminal proceedings, fundamental rights and freedoms may be interfered only to the extent necessary for reaching the purpose of the criminal proceedings whereas persons´ dignity and privacy must be respected.

The authorities responsible for criminal proceedings in the capacity of the Police Force are obliged to observe the relevant principles of the criminal proceedings, as well as the provisions of Criminal Procedure Code in all criminal cases including during emergency resulting from the pandemic.

Surveillance over the observance of the state of law prior to commencing the criminal prosecution and in preliminary proceedings is executed by prosecutor. In the Slovak Republic, any arbitrary arresting and detaining persons without a lawful reason is illegal and prosecutable as a crime of abuse of powers of public official.

In previous period, the Police Force took several measures to make the Police Force service activities better and more effective in addressing the cases of violence on women and domestic violence that are applied in practice including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Police Force is obliged to receive and authenticate every report on the domestic violence, including in the time when the emergency has been announced. The Police Force is focused on timely identification of domestic violence cases and on risk assessment of the danger to a person or persons in the household, including minors. Within authentication of the domestic violence reports, the “first contact” police officers use the method of qualified risk assessment of the danger, in the form of the “Questionnaire for risk assessment of the danger”.

The Police Force finds it very important to pay attention to public notification of the problems in question including during the COVID-19 epidemic, to provide the public with preventive advice and recommendations of how not to become a victim of violence, as well as to inform about possibilities of addressing the criminal situations yet in progress, through the website of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic: www.minv.sk, as well as through the Facebook social network on the website: www.facebook.com/policiaslovakia.

On 21 May 2020, the Police Force also launched a mobile application to call the police in cases of domestic violence, under the title of “I help to protect”, in its first phase available within the Trenčín Self-Administrative Region so far. For the time being, the application is not yet a substitute of Police Force emergency line 158 and serves in situations when the domestic violence victim is not able to call for a help to the Police station through the 158 emergency line.

Through its information offices for crime victims (hereinafter referred to as “information offices”), Crime Prevention Department of Office of the Minister of Interior provides assistance to the victims by getting over basic information in every regional city, and, if need be, also through mediating legal guidance and support, as well as psychological and social consultancy. Because of the emergency, the assistance to the victims was primarily available by phone and e-mail: pomocobetiam@minv.sk, and LiveChat on the crime prevention web-site. However, in spite of limitations arisen, the information offices functioned including during the emergency, in adjusted mode, providing professional consultancy to the victims including in person. In the monitored period (about since the beginning of 2020), no victim of racial discrimination, xenophobia and other relating intolerance has been reported to the employees of the information

* ***What has been the impact of the situation on women´s access to justice? Are courts open and providing protection and decisions in case of domestic violence, and other protection order accessible?***

<https://www.zastavmenasilie.gov.sk/aktuality-1/>

<https://www.zastavmenasilie.gov.sk/news/narodna-linka-pre-zeny-zazivajuce-nasilie-zriadila-emailovu-schranku/> - National hotline for women experiencing violence

NGOs dealing with the protection of women's rights cooperated with the Ombudsman and together pointed out the current problems in violating women's rights. For example, in the case of respecting the reproductive rights of women were their activities successful, the initial problems in execution of the abortion procedures were eliminated.

Yes, in custody cases and also in matters of domestic violence, the courts acted also during the pandemic.

* ***Have persons in situation of homeless been fined, detained or prosecuted for non-respect of confinement or stay at home orders? How was this issues addressed in your country?***

Restrictive measures were not applied to the homeless people, but rather the government, municipal governments in cooperation with NGOs tried to help them as much as possible during the pandemic.

E.g. DePaul Slovakia made a financial collection so that the homeless could sleep in the shelter and wash their clothes, and they would get food there, everything for free. Furthermore, the municipal government has set up a tank with drinking water to places where homeless people live, they have cleaned the areas from waste. NGOs were very active in education directly in the streets in the first contact with homeless and face masks distribution. One month after the outbreak of the pandemic in Slovakia, the Slovak Government adopted a decision on free testing of the homeless at COVID-19. The Bratislava municipal government has established for the homeless a quarantined town on Zlaté Piesky.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, special attention is paid to the homeless persons by the State and municipal authorities establishing crisis places and reception centers for them. In case the quarantine is ordered, if the person can not undergone the quarantine in their home environment, she or he will undergo it in a state facility.

In case of the persons who have been confirmed positive COVID-19 test results and break the quarantine order or course of medical regime, such persons may be prosecuted for crimes of dangerous human infectious disease spreading. Criminal Code prosecutes a perpetuator who either deliberately or through negligence causes or increases the danger of human infectious disease bringing and spreading. In case of the persons who have not been confirmed positive COVID-19 test results yet (e.g. waiting for the test results or proved not being the COVID-19 wearers) and break the ordered mandatory quarantine, legal qualification of their acting as the crime of endangering public safety may be considered. To commence criminal proceedings in such a case, breaking specific measures (on quarantine) must be in question with the perpetuator having exposed the people to the danger of death or heavy harm to health, or increased general endangering, or made it more difficult to avert or reduce the threat by his acting.

There are also other crimes in the Criminal Code concerning criminal prosecution of the persons for breaking measures taken by the State. Crime of breaking duties during crisis situation is in question, as well as crime of avoiding the execution of duty during crisis situation.

* ***In which way have restrictions for public or private meetings on the freedom of expression and assembly? Have persons taking part in peaceful protest been fined, detained, or prosecutes for breaking national restrictions for public or private meetings?***

The execution of the right of assembly, with the exception of persons living in the same household, was prohibited before Easter by a government resolution (Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 114 of 15th March 2020 and extended by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 115 of 18th March 2020, by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 169 of 27th March 2020, Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 207 of 6th April 2020 and Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 233 of 16th April 2020) and valid till 9th  June 2020 (<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2020/147/>)

Against a background of the COVID-19 spreading, no case of criminal prosecution has been recorded in connection with breaking the State-ordered anti-epidemic measures against the COVID-19 spreading through the presence in a public meeting or protest.

**Questions by the working group on persons of African descent**

Question No. 7)

There is no discriminatory measure in Criminal Code under which the access of persons of African origin to justice would be considered unequally. Just the opposite, such persons are provided with increased protection. Under Section 140 letter e), Criminal Code stipulates so-called Specific Motivation which means that a criminal offence was committed because of hatred towards a group of persons or an individual because of their supposed or real affiliation to a race, nation, ethnic group, because of their supposed or real origin, color of complexion, sex, sexual orientation, political persuasion or religion. Committing criminal offence under the Specific Motivation is usually a sign of qualified merits of the case of crimes and determines using an increased penalty.

**Questions by the special rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery**

Question No. 1)

The Information Center for fight against human trafficking and crime prevention (hereinafter referred to as “IC MI SR”) is an administrator of the Support and protection of human trafficking victims´ Program (hereinafter referred to as “the Program”). Since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, no entry of a person into the Program has been recorded. The reason may be the fact that it is not possible to transport a part of the victims exploited in the countries of destination (except for Slovakia) back to Slovakia because of restrictive measures in road, railway and air transportation. These victims are currently in the care of partner organizations abroad until the situation in the area of transportation is not improved so that it be possible to carry out their returns back to their homelands with the emphasize put on looking for the best possible solutions for the victims.

Question No 2)

Against a background of the COVID-19 pandemic, MI SR as a national rapporteur received a set of recommendations from the OSCE Special Representative for fight against human trafficking. The recommendations were consequently discussed with the National Coordinator, and all the relevant stakeholders qualified to identify the human trafficking victims were informed. The idea of these recommendations is to support the OSCE countries in their fight against human trafficking during the crises caused by the COVID-19 spreading. The recommendations were preferably focused on the areas as follows: prevention, protection, prosecution, partnership and visions for future.

Question No. 4)

IC MI SR has received the information of the fact that the National Labor Inspectorate (hereinafter referred to as “NIP”) launched the historically first prevention-oriented campaign on 1 January 2020 under the title of “Work legally – wok safely”. It is the aim of this campaign to help prevent accidents and life and health threatening events at workplaces in the area of security and health protection at work, whereas in the issues of the labor-law relations, the Labor Inspection is mainly focused on prevention of illegal employment and fight against non-declared labor.

Within this two-year-lasting campaign, NIP intends to turn to a wide range of employers, employees, as well as self-employed persons. The inspectors will be disseminating ideas and promotion materials in relation to the campaign at professional conferences and workshops with the NIP providing them with administration and organizing free workshops and other awareness-oriented activities on its own during the whole year of 2020. Several of these events will be held in cooperation with employers´ unions and associations as well as with employees´ representatives through their trade union organizations.

Based on its cooperation with the IC MI SR, the NIP posted a self-identification leaflet on its website in 2020 to address possible human trafficking victims, worked out in six language versions (link: https://www.ip.gov.sk/povedzme-nie-obchodovaniu-s-ludmi/ ).

Point No. 6)

In the first quarter of 2020, 15 human trafficking victims (8 women and 6 men, hereinafter referred to as “victims”) were identified with 6 out of the number having entered the Program. All the victims identified are the SR nationals, except for one child victim. In total, we register 5 child victims within the period watched, with 2 boys and 3 girls out of the number. From the viewpoint of the purpose of the exploitation, 3 victims were exploited for the purpose of begging, 4 victims for the purpose of sexual exploitation, 4 victims for the purpose of forced labor, 2 victims for the purpose of forced marriage, and 1 person faced a doubled exploitation – for two purposes, i.e. sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

As far as the perpetuators are concerned, 9 persons (5 men and 4 women) were arrested, all of them being the SR nationals, except for 1 citizen of Rumania. In all the cases, the arrested perpetuators exploited their victims in the territory of Slovakia, except for 2 cases when the exploitation was committed in Germany. Mostly, the victims of these perpetuators were exploited sexually, with two cases of the victims exploited including for the purpose of forced begging and forced labor in connection with forcing to commit crimes.

As compared to statistical data in previous first quarters of 2019 and 2018, we arrived at the conclusion that the COVID-19 pandemic had not had any significant impact on the identification, number and composition of both victims and perpetuators as well. The only change compared to the previous years insisted in the number of boy victims identified, however, without any principal deviation form the average total number of child victims.

**Questions by the Special rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children**

Question No. 1)

In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the crime incidence in the area of sexual exploitation of children during the monitored period of 2 months (March, April) of 2020 was not changed significantly as compared to the same period of last year. It is very difficult to prove the connection between the crime committed in the area of sexual abuse of children during the pandemic and introduction of the emergency measures whereas some impact may be supposed at the same time. Against a background of new trends and forms, or modus operandi of the crime commission in connection with sexual abuse of children, no changes were recorded as compared to the period before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question No. 2)

The measures aimed at prevention and detection of sexual exploitation of children were not changed in relation to the outbreak of the pandemic and the Government measures adopted, and were applied in a standard mode in the same way as before the pandemic.

Question No. 3)

Within the Slovak Republic, independent data collection was initiated and extended for internal needs of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic in the form of the extension of the actual situation monitoring system in connection with the crime commission, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The monitoring of the situation was carried out in cooperation with the third sector, e.g. with helplines.

Question No. 5)

With the exception of legislative provisions focused on the child´s protection and on their implementation, we are not aware of any other innovative measures to secure effective functioning of the protection of children and judicial systems in the SR conditions.

However, the telephone and chat helplines proved to be effective, having advised of the increase in numbers of calls of the victims asking for help. The helplines informed that the assistance was necessary in the cases in question, provided mainly by psychologists whose number was necessarily needed to get increased.

Question No. 6)

Due to the fact that the problems of child trafficking constitute a comprehensive issue having its specific features as compared to the adult victims, the IC MI SR as a national rapporteur feels the need to deal with this issue in detail. Therefore, a specific task was defined within the 2019 – 2023 National program of fight against human trafficking with the aim to harmonize the existing system of assistance to the child victims of human trafficking up to the end of 2020 and to ensure that the assistance and protective measures be adapted to their needs.

From the criminal-law point of view, it is possible to evaluate the legal framework as satisfactory since the detection and investigation of the crimes of this sort was conducted in a standard mode. The only obstacle, having arisen due to the measures adopted in relation to the ban of assembly, was an incapability of carrying out home searches since it was necessary to ensure a certain number of police officers to act.

Question No. 7)

In response to the new trends in the area of fight against human trafficking, the IC MI SR works out annual situation reports in which the progress made in the fight against human trafficking is evaluated. Current problems in the area of the fight against human trafficking are dealt with by the IC MI SR within a regular working group of the MI SR representatives, providers of services for the human trafficking victims and Expert Group for the area of the fight against human trafficking, as well as during ad hoc meetings with shareholders.

Besides, there is a need to address the long-term and necessary challenges and changes at the level of the National program of the fight against human trafficking in the SR. The current 2019 – 2023 National program is yet the fifth one in succession concerning the problems of human trafficking. It consists of 4 parts covering the area of the fight against human trafficking in a comprehensive way – partnership, prevention, child´s protection, and prosecution. A consisting part of it is also the 2019 – 2023 Action Plan of the fight against human trafficking containing a set of tasks focused on the issues of addressing stronger protection, support of and assistance to the child victims.

Through Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 24 of 15 January 2016 (hereinafter referred to as “Resolution”), the SR Government adopted National strategy for protection of children against violence (hereinafter referred to as “National Strategy”) and the establishment of National coordinating center for addressing the problems of violence committed against children (hereinafter referred to as “NKS”) as a separate organizational part of Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

The basic aim of the National Strategy is to reach a qualitative change in addressing and perception of violence committed against children, to be carried out through a consistent inter-connection and integration of partial policies into an effective and functioning mechanism for comprehensive and systematical addressing the violence committed against children.

**Questions by the Special rapporteur on the right to adequate housing**

Question No 3)

When taking measures to prevent the coronavirus spreading, Migration Office of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “MO MI SR”) acted following the measures adopted at the SR level and undertook several steps to enable the health protection of both Slovak nationals and the very asylum seekers placed in MO MI SR asylum facilities, and to minimalize negative impact on the asylum procedure at the same time, in particular:

1. Receiving the applications for asylum was not suspended, i.e. the right to asylum was preserved;

2. After their arrival in the Humenné reception center, every newly-coming asylum seeker underwent a standard medical examination that was even more consistent and thorough-going during the pandemic – everybody´s state of health was monitored continually during 14 days; in case of a positive traveling anamnesis, the COVID-19 examination was also conducted after a consultation with the regional hygienist;

3. hygienic measures in the asylum centers were enhanced (e.g. access to means of disinfection and protective masks);

4. (multi-language) information materials on protection against the virus spreading were elaborated for the targeted group;

5. free movement limitations were comparable to the free movement limitations imposed on the SR nationals;

6. in the event of persons under granted international protection, financial contributions from the “Rifugio” integration project, financed the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, were provided mainly in order to reduce the economic impacts of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. [1] <https://www.fpu.sk/sk/moznosti-podpory/usmernenia-covid-19> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [2] <http://www.avf.sk/news/22-04-2020/Nov%c3%a9_opatrenia_Audiovizu%c3%a1lneho_fondu.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)