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HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) (THIRD CYCLE)

Shadow Report of Lithuanian NGOs

Reporting period: 2016-2020

Joint Submission<sup>1</sup>

2021

## Summary

Since the establishment of the UPR mechanism in 2006, Lithuania has gone a long way in the direction of improvement of human rights standards and submitted its contributions to the

The preparation of the report was supported by the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norwegian Financial Mechanism ([www.eeagrants.lt/en/home](http://www.eeagrants.lt/en/home)) Open Lithuania Foundation ([www.apf.lt/en](http://www.apf.lt/en)) during the implementation of the project “Priority in the Welfare State: Human Rights”.

First and Second cycles of UPR in 2011 and 2016 respectively. During the Third Cycle, the accreditation of the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office as a type "A" national human rights institution was a landmark event in the history of the country, yet numerous human rights issues remain unresolved.

This joint submission is grouped into six topics (women's rights and gender equality, disability, LGBTI, rights of migrants and beneficiaries of international protection, rights of persons belonging to national minorities, rights of the child and youth) and covers implementation of corresponding UPR recommendations from the Second Cycle. Contributions of various regional and national Lithuanian NGOs are also covered.

## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY**

**Related recommendations: 100.15 – 100.20, 100.48 – 100.49, 100.98 – 100.111, 100.141**

[1.] Lithuania did not make any progress in the field of gender equality since 2005 according to Gender Equality Index.<sup>2</sup> Women in Lithuania are underrepresented in the economic decision-making bodies twice less than in the EU.<sup>3</sup> To this day Lithuania did not undertake any measures, including special measures such as gender quotas, to improve women's representation in decision-making nor it failed to eliminate legal barriers by providing for possible application of these measures by law.<sup>4</sup>

[2.] Though certain measures are undertaken by the government to reduce domestic violence, its prevalence increases every year. The cases of domestic violence reported to the police increased from 2015 (38,000) to 2019 (53,075), but not all cases are registered as criminal offences.<sup>5</sup> The official statistics show that between 2018 and 2020, the number of registered offences dropped down by 25%.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, the dynamics of victims of intimate partner violence and perpetrators have not changed in the last five years.<sup>7</sup>

[3.] There is low availability of contraceptives in Lithuania, there are no reimbursement mechanisms available and awareness on modern methods of contraception is very limited.<sup>8, 9</sup> The Ministry of Health does not envisage any measures to improve awareness and accessibility or to provide counselling, especially for vulnerable groups (Roma, women with disabilities) and young people.<sup>10</sup>

[4.] The government attempted to improve the existing legislation and in cooperation with both governmental and non-governmental organisations drafted the new law.<sup>11</sup>

[5.] The new drafted law has introduced a protection order, which obliges a perpetrator to move out from the residence where the victim lives and maintain no contact, might be perceived as an indirect link to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. Even though women's NGOs and the police support the order, the Ministry of Justice,<sup>12</sup> Office of the Prosecutor General<sup>13</sup> and the Judicial Council<sup>14</sup> argue that empowering police officers and prosecutors to issue protection orders without court proceedings might be incompatible with the protection of the right to property and the inviolability of one's home.

[6.] Lithuania has not adopted any law on reproductive health and the rights of individuals to regulate matters concerning family planning and reproductive health.<sup>15</sup> However, better access and quality of health care, safe abortions and necessary post-abortion services could be achieved by a new law.<sup>16</sup> Women in Lithuania do not have access to drugs that help to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.<sup>17</sup>

**Recommendations 100.15 – 100.20**

[7.] To date, the Parliament has not ratified Istanbul Convention,<sup>18</sup> largely due to the continued disagreement over the concept of “gender” as a social construct defined in the Convention.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Recommendations 100.48 – 100.49**

[8.] One of the key reasons for the gender pay gap is the gender care gap. Data shows that women undertake up to 75% of the time needed for care and other domestic responsibilities.<sup>20,21</sup> However, the government does not invest in systemic measures to change gender stereotypes and prejudices about social gender roles. Measures that target fathers and their caregiver role are random, fragmented and not sustainable.<sup>22</sup>

#### **Recommendations 100.98 – 100.102 and 100.104 – 100.106**

[9.] The government approved the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provisions of Assistance to Victims for 2014-2020 and its Action Plan for 2017-2020. However, they continue to use gender-neutral terms ignoring the fact that women disproportionately suffer from domestic violence and fail to tailor the measures to the needs of female survivors of intimate partner violence.<sup>23</sup>

[10.] The coordinated inter-institutional cooperation on a local level to better protect survivors of domestic violence is not effective.<sup>24</sup>

[11.] *Ad hoc* prevention of domestic violence is not sufficient in combating domestic violence and ensuring a zero-tolerance standard. Long-term sustainable prevention programmes to cover education and awareness-raising are lacking.<sup>25</sup> Public funds to ensure the sustainability of these programmes are needed.

[12.] The current practice of state-guaranteed aid is not effective because lawyers do not have specific knowledge of coercive control in cases of domestic violence and complete their duties very formally. Hence, women’s NGOs advocate for specialised lawyers who could effectively represent victims during criminal proceedings.<sup>26</sup>

#### **Recommendation 100.103**

[13.] Lithuania has not adopted the law or legal amendments in the Criminal Code to prosecute stalking as a part of intimate partner violence. On July 25, 2019, amendments to the Criminal Code aiming to criminalise stalking were registered by the Parliament and proceeded to parliamentary committees for discussions, but these amendments have not yet been adopted.

#### **Recommendations 100.107 – 100.111**

[14.] Lithuania has not yet adopted legal amendments to the Criminal Code to prosecute rape and sexual abuse as a type of intimate partner violence.<sup>27</sup>

#### **Recommendation 100.141**

[15.] Lithuania has not adopted any specific law on reproductive health and rights.<sup>28</sup> The Government has not undertaken any legal provisions to provide access to drugs allowing termination of unwanted pregnancies. The method of so-called medical abortion is not approved.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Ratify the Istanbul Convention and accordingly harmonise legislation on combating GBV against women, including the civil protection order and adoption of the law on stalking.

- Adopt the legal provisions to ensure the safety of female survivors of intimate partner's stalking and prosecute for marital rape.
- Integrate an intersectional approach into the protection system to ensure safety and assistance to women with disabilities who suffer domestic violence.
- Build the capacities of lawyers under state-guaranteed aid, to defend victims of domestic violence in the courts.
- Invest into the development of inter-institutional cooperation to guarantee the safety of victims of domestic violence.
- Adopt the law on reproductive health and rights and improve the access and quality of reproductive health care services.
- Undertake the legal steps to provide access to medical abortion.
- Improve the information and access to contraceptives to all women, including women with disabilities, Roma and youth.

**Prepared by the Centre for Equality Advancement (CEA)**

## **DISABILITY**

**Related recommendations:** 100.145-100.148, 100.50

[16.] In the period of 2016-2020 there were more possibilities and participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.<sup>29</sup> Yet there is some doubt about the way of such involvement and improvements, the purpose of the consultations with NGOs and the effectiveness of the outcomes.

[17.] In 2019, the OEOO<sup>30</sup> carried out 41 investigations on possible discrimination based on disability.<sup>31</sup> This comprised nearly 17% of all the investigations carried out that year.<sup>32</sup>

[18.] The statistics suggest that people with disabilities are more likely to be at risk of poverty. In 2018, their risk level was indicated as 35%, compared to 18% of the general population in 2018.<sup>33</sup> Some specific groups of persons with disabilities are considered as one of the most discriminated populations in Lithuania.<sup>34</sup>

[19.] Lithuania is one of the EU countries where there is the biggest difference between people with and without disabilities participating in the labour market. Such gap was 31.9% in 2019, according to the government data.<sup>35</sup>

[20.] In Lithuania, there are technical regulations for construction detailing requirements for ensuring the physical accessibility of buildings and structures to the needs of persons with disabilities. Yet, those requirements are only applied to the newly built or renovated structures.

[21.] The overall picture of accessibility of physical environment is far from being favourable.<sup>36</sup> Accessibility conditions differ depending on the sector of public services, from 15% in education, justice system to 60% in social services.

[22.] Amendments to electoral laws which came into force in 2019 introduced an obligation to adapt all polling stations to people with disabilities. There is still no absolute accessibility of the polling stations, but the numbers of accessible polling stations are growing.<sup>37</sup> Yet, according to the 2019 and 2020 election monitoring results, about 10% of the polling stations, declared as accessible, were not adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities in practice.<sup>38</sup>

[23.] Domestic violence experienced by people with disabilities is extremely latent.<sup>39</sup> According to the official data, one of the greatest concerns is violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities, including domestic violence.<sup>40</sup>

[24.] According to information from the Ministry of Health, funding from the State Health Insurance Fund (2018) was divided as following: 47.9 billion Eur for inpatient treatment in the hospitals, 12.4 billion Eur for outpatient mental health services and 16.4 billion Eur for primary mental health care services. It demonstrates the imbalance of available services and does not correspond to the human rights-centred, community-based approach to mental health services.<sup>41</sup>

[25.] Aligning the new provisions of the Mental Health Care Law with the existing provisions in the Civil Code, involuntary hospitalisation and/or involuntary treatment without the court decision was made possible for up to 3 working days, while the application to the court must be applied within 48 hours from the start of involuntary hospitalisation and involuntary treatment.<sup>42</sup> Such extension of involuntary hospitalisation and treatment is not in line with the provisions of the UN CRPD.

[26.] Deinstitutionalisation has been very slow in Lithuania. Nevertheless, there are some concerns that too little attention and financing is directed towards the creation of the actual independent living schemes.<sup>43</sup>

[27.] Human rights monitoring in social care homes and psychiatric hospitals is performed in the framework of the OPCAT<sup>44</sup> by Seimas Ombudsmen Institution. But due to large number of detention places in Lithuania (about 450), the attention to psychiatric hospitals and social care homes might be limited, especially during the period of lockdown, when the closed nature of such institutions is even greater.<sup>45</sup>

#### **Recommendation 100.145**

[28.] One of the key recommendations by the UN CRPD<sup>46</sup> to Lithuania is to involve organisations of people with disabilities in all decision-making, implementation, and monitoring processes. In accordance with these recommendations, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour approved a plan of measures for their implementation in 2016–2020.<sup>47</sup> Unfortunately, the process of preparing and accepting the plan did not ensure the proper cooperation and involvement of disability NGOs.

#### **Recommendation 100.148**

[29.] On 1 July 2019, following the entry into force of the amendments to the Law on Equal Opportunities, the Commission for Monitoring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established under OEEO.<sup>48</sup> It aims to monitor the implementation of the UN CRPD.<sup>49</sup>

#### **Recommendation 100.147**

[30.] In 2020, the Parliament passed amendments to the Law on Education that eliminate discriminatory provisions for children with disabilities. The children with disabilities will now be able to attend a general education school in their place of residence and schools will no longer be able to refuse admission to them or refer them to special schools. The new provisions would be implemented gradually and would enter into force from 1 September 2024.<sup>50</sup>

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Tackle poverty and fight against discrimination of people with disabilities in Lithuania.

- Promote the provision of reasonable accommodation and employment in the open labour market.
- Abolish forced hospitalisation and treatment without the consent of people with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.
- Increase investigation efforts in cases of human rights violations in closed institutions, namely, in social care homes and psychiatric wards, and promote systemic changes within social care and mental healthcare systems.
- Adopt measures to prevent violence towards and abuse of residents in closed institutions, and to ensure that they have access to complaint mechanisms when their rights are violated.
- Apply UN CRPD standards in the ongoing deinstitutionalisation process and fight stigma and discrimination in communities.
- Develop support mechanisms such as independent living schemes and community-based services for children and adults with disabilities.
- Combat the abuse (sexual or otherwise) of children and adults with disabilities, violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities, both within and outside of institutions.

**Prepared by** Lithuanian disability forum (LNF) and Mental Health Perspectives

## **LGBTI**

**Related recommendations: 100.37-100.39, 100.73-100.74, 100.75-100.76, 100.78, 100.79, 100.80, 100.81, 100.87-100.91, 100.92, 100.93**

[31.] Protection of LGBTI individuals in Lithuania, despite several positive developments, remains highly compromised. No major positive change in the field of LGBTI human rights was identified in 2020.<sup>51, 52</sup>

[32.] Results of a nation-wide LGBTI high school student survey revealed that 82% of respondents were bullied due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last year.<sup>53</sup>

[33.] LGL recorded at least 10 active legal proceedings regarding legal gender recognition (LGR) in the beginning of 2021 which is the only option available for transgender individuals due to the lack of administrative LGR procedures. This, together with the absence of transgender-specific healthcare, constitute a severe burden for the Lithuanian transgender community.

### **Recommendations 100.37-100.39, 100.81**

[34.] The Government has no comprehensive strategy on eliminating discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity. The fact that all activities related to LGBTI issues are dependent on external funding reveals the lack of a systematic approach.

[35.] Both Action Plan for Promoting Non-discrimination 2017–2019<sup>54</sup> and Action Plan for Promoting Non-discrimination 2021-2023, despite being key in countering discrimination, do not sufficiently address the specific needs of LGBTI individuals.

[36.] No measurable indicators to monitor achievements related to the situation of LGBTI persons are provided within the aforementioned documents.<sup>55</sup>

#### **Recommendations 100.75-100.76, 100.78**

[37.] Transgender individuals remain at significant disadvantage due to the lack of gender identity and/or gender expression among the protected grounds in the current legislation.

[38.] The protected ground of sex is not sufficient, since proving discrimination on the grounds of sex in cases where discrimination is related exclusively to gender identity oftentimes is impossible.

#### **Recommendation 100.92**

[39.] According to the article 3.229 of the Civil Code,<sup>56</sup> its provisions shall regulate the relations in property of a man and a woman who, after registering their partnership in the procedure laid down by the law, have been cohabiting at least for a year with the aim of creating family relations without having registered their union as a marriage (cohabitees).

[40.] Lithuania remains the sole CoE<sup>57</sup> state reserving partnership specifically to opposite-sex couples, thus constituting discrimination and legal uncertainty to people who are in same-sex relationships.

#### **Recommendations 100.80, 100.93**

[41.] 2.27 of the Civil Code establishes that “[a]n unmarried natural person of full age enjoys the right to the change of designation of sex in cases when it is feasible from the medical point of view”, yet the enabling legislation has not been adopted, thus leaving transgender individuals with no option of administrative LGR procedure.

#### **Recommendations 100.73-100.74, 100.79**

[42.] The state took several progressive institutional measures after the ECHR<sup>58</sup> judgment in the *Beizaras and Levickas v. Lithuania* case,<sup>59</sup> regarding the institutional failure to investigate homophobic hate crimes. However, some older procedures have not reached closure.<sup>60</sup>

#### **Recommendations 100.87-100.91**

[43.] The draft amendment of the Law on Protection of Minors from the Detrimental Effects of Public Information modifying the Art. 4.2.16 was registered in 2017 so it could not be used to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation, but no further action was initiated. Amendments to the law were adopted on January 14, 2021, although they did not include any revisions to the Art. 4.2.16.

[44.] The law continues to be applied to limit LGBTI content: in 2019, the National Broadcaster documentary on same-sex parenthood was suspended; in 2021, LGL received a report from a student whose graduation thesis was rejected due LGBTI-related topic.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Revise Article 4.2.16 of the Law on the Protection of Minors so that it is not used to censor LGBTI-related public information; any limitations on freedom of expression should satisfy the criteria of lawfulness, necessity and proportionality and should be applied without any discriminatory perception.
- Introduce a policy document which clearly includes specific measures for countering discrimination of LGBTI individuals as well as indicators of achievements related to the LGBTI situation in Lithuania.

- Introduce relevant legislation to fully recognise equality of same-sex couples.
- Secure gender identity and (or) gender expression as a legal category and protected ground in the legislation on hate crimes, hate speech and anti-discrimination.
- Initiate legislative process with the aim of adopting efficient and accessible administrative procedures for obtaining legal gender recognition.

**Prepared by** National LGBT Rights organisation LGL

## **RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AND BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**

**Related recommendations: 100.159, 100.164 - 100.168**

[45.] Despite relevant developments, MIPEX 2020 concludes that current migration policies create more obstacles than opportunities for integration.<sup>61</sup> The country’s approach to migrants’ integration is classified by MIPEX 2020 as “Equality on Paper”.

[46.] Migrant integration policy in Lithuania remains highly selective as they continue to favour immigration of certain groups of migrants,<sup>62</sup> meanwhile, quotas for non-EU migrant workers have been introduced on 1 January 2021 to regulate labour migration.<sup>63</sup>

### **Recommendation 100.159**

[47.] “The Action Plan 2018–2020 on the Integration of Foreigners into Society”<sup>64</sup> (Action Plan) foresees measures on improving integration of foreigners into the education system (Task 7<sup>65</sup>).

[48.] “The Strategy for the Demographic, Migration, and Integration Policy for 2018–2030”<sup>66</sup> foresees measures to support children who return to Lithuania (Lithuanian citizens) and foreign nationals arriving to the country to integrate into the school community (2.1.10).

[49.] However, professionals notice that systematic problems such as gaps in the competencies of teachers and preparedness of school communities remain in practice.

### **Recommendation 100.164**

[50.] The Action Plan<sup>67</sup> foresees measures to reduce discrimination against foreigners (Task 10<sup>68</sup>). While attitudes towards Muslims and refugees have somewhat improved since the refugee crisis of 2015-2016, social distance regarding these groups remains significant.<sup>69</sup>

### **Recommendation 100.165**

[51.] Implementation of the Action Plan has been extended for one year. However, there is a lack of monitoring of how successfully its activities have been implemented. In addition, the main financial resource of this Plan remains AMIF.<sup>70</sup> Consequently, the implementation of migrants’ integration remains fragmented and project-based.

### **Recommendation 100.166**

[52.] Lithuania has not adopted an integration strategy for refugees; however, a welcome development is that beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) are included into the target group of the Action Plan 2018-2020. Yet, both reports of MIPEX 2020<sup>71</sup> and NIEM<sup>72</sup> reveal the lack of strategic approach in ensuring long-term integration measures both for BIPs and non-EU migrants.



### **Recommendation 100.167**

[53.] An investigation conducted in 2019 by the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office revealed that the rights of foreigners living in the Pabrade Detention Centre are not properly ensured, and the language barrier prevents its staff from meeting the special needs of detained foreigners. Consequently, it was recommended to ensure sufficient hygiene products; food options that conform to foreigners' religious beliefs; better living conditions; meeting the special needs of foreigners and sufficient funding for improving the foreign language skills of the Centre's employees.<sup>73</sup>

### **Recommendation 100.168**

[54.] On 1 January 2020, amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens<sup>74</sup> have entered into force, granting asylum seekers the right to work if within 6 months from the date of submitting the asylum application, the Migration Department has not, through no fault of the asylum seeker, made a decision to grant asylum in the Republic of Lithuania (Art. 71).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Ensure the continuity of implementation of the Action Plan 2018–2020 and its monitoring.
- Improve migrant civic and political participation by implementing regular and formal consultations with migrants at local and national level; take into account their needs and support the establishment and advocacy activities of migrant communities and NGOs; consider the entitlement of non-EU nationals to become members of political parties.
- Improve migrant residents' access to healthcare by providing information about their entitlements in various languages and by adapting healthcare services to the needs of migrants; improve provision of culturally sensitive mental health care services to migrants by increasing availability in different languages and/or offering professional interpretation.
- Improve basic infrastructure for newcomer pupils in schools across the country, by providing resources to address their specific needs beyond basic language learning and by improving the competencies of teachers and school communities in facilitating integration.
- Take steps to eliminate prejudice towards migrants and BIPs: organise state-funded awareness campaigns and educational programmes, invoke mass media projects, allocate sufficient funding, etc.
- Provide comprehensive and up-to-date evidence-based research regarding labour exploitation/THB for forced labour and its scope in Lithuania. Consider initiating evidence-based prevention of exploitation responding to the changing migration patterns oriented at non-EU labour migrants (both men and women).

**Prepared by:** Diversity Development Group (DDG)

## **RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**Related recommendations: 100.56; 100.71; 100.72**

**Recommendations 100.56; 100.71-100.72**

[55.] The National Education Strategy 2013-2022<sup>75</sup> does not outline any concrete efforts towards anti-Semitism prevention and Holocaust education.<sup>76</sup> There is an emerging issue of Holocaust distortion in the media and social networking platforms, reaching even the institutional and political levels; this is closely related to the lack of education.<sup>77</sup>

[56.] Regarding informal Holocaust education, there is neither a national monument to the victims of the Holocaust nor a monument to rescuers of Jews. In addition, the project of the Holocaust in Lithuania and the Vilnius Ghetto Museum has not been implemented.<sup>78</sup>

[57.] Lithuania enacted a Law on Good Will compensation for the immovable property of the Jewish religious community in 2011.<sup>79</sup> Moreover, Lithuania has no Law for the restitution of heirless Jewish property.

**Recommendations 100.50; 100.52; 100.56; 100.61-100.64; 100.67; 100.69; 100.72; 100.74; 100.85**

[58.] A large part of hate crimes does not reach the official statistics due to the lack of training and negative attitudes among public officials.<sup>80,81</sup> The victims of hate crimes, including national minorities, often decide not to report the hate-led incidents.<sup>82</sup> Even so, the most common official hate crime statistic remains to be ethnicity-based, amounting to 410 cases registered in 2012-2020.<sup>83</sup>

[59.] Anti-Semitism is widely evidenced on social media platforms and through vandalism/hooliganism on buildings/ memorial sites/ monuments, largely in cities. Yet, there is a lack of official data about concrete anti-Semitic incidents towards members of the Lithuanian Jewry and a lack of effective sanctions and procedures for dealing with anti-Semitism in the Lithuanian legal base.

[60.] According to a qualitative study on communities affected by hate crimes, Roma people are the most vulnerable group.<sup>84</sup> The Roma people regularly experience insults in public spaces, often manifesting in hate speech or attempts of physical violence, as well as ignorance from representatives of official institutions.<sup>85</sup>

**Recommendations 100.152; 100.55; 100.157; 100.159; 100.162-100.163**

[61.] Out of a population of around 2100 people, 96% of the Lithuanian Roma live below the risk-of-poverty line and 61% live in households experiencing severe material deprivation.<sup>86</sup> Lack of sufficient attention to ensure the right to housing was visible during the disassembling of the Roma settlement in Kirtimai (Vilnius municipality), finalised in 2020. Some families were not able to access sufficient social services, labour market and health services.

[62.] Acquiring primary and secondary education remains a challenge for most Roma pupils. There is a need to ensure that continuous work is carried out after school by social pedagogues. However, a new draft of the Roma integration Action Plan for 2021-2023 has not foreseen any measures targeting integration in the field of education.

**Recommendations 100.151; 100.153-100.158; 100.161**

[63.] To this date Lithuania has no Law of National Minorities, as the previous Law of National Minorities ceased to exist in 2010. Lithuania has ratified the framework convention for national minorities, thereby expressing consent to the rights listed in the document. Unfortunately, some provisions have not yet been transposed into national law.

[64.] Another lack of legislation concerns having to prove one's identity, spousal or other connection with a person, as the name-spelling in official documents in their authentic language remains dependent on the court's decision in each individual case.<sup>87</sup> The use of minorities' languages in public domain and topographical indications within minorities' own

areas also remains properly unaddressed.<sup>88</sup>

### **Recommendations 100.159; 100.161**

[65.] Although schools teaching in national minority languages are funded more than the country's average, there is a significant lack of provision of textbooks in national minority languages, as well as a lack of qualified educators, access to a speech therapist, psychologist and other support.<sup>89</sup>

[66.] There are differences regarding pupils' results in relation to their language of education. PISA 2015 report has shown that students learning in Polish language display significantly lower than average results in many areas, which might be due to the fact that 41% of them attend schools in rural areas where the quality of education is much lower.<sup>90</sup> National examination results show that the Lithuanian language exam is passed by a larger percentage of Lithuanians than by pupils receiving education in national minority languages.<sup>91</sup> This indicates that national minority pupils still encounter difficulties adapting to the unified examination system, and that the transitional period was too short.<sup>92, 93</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Adopt measures to eliminate hate crimes towards national minorities: organise state-funded awareness campaigns and initiate educational programmes, invoke mass media projects, allocate sufficient funding, ensure national legislation and practice to guarantee proper handling and identifying of hate crimes.
- Strengthen formal and informal Holocaust education.
- Initiate restitution law amendments or a new restitution law that will allow Lithuanian-born Jewish citizens to apply for compensation for unlawfully expropriated private immovable property during WWII.
- Adopt a new Act on National Minorities in accordance with international obligations.
- Adopt a law on writing of names and surnames in identity documents (or otherwise assure the right to private and family life by having the names and surnames in original national minority languages).
- Strengthen the quality of education in national minority languages and address the effect on pupils' results regarding a unified examination system.
- Adequately address the interconnections of housing, education and employment in Roma integration strategies.

**Prepared by Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community and Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR)**

#### **RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH**

**Related recommendations: 100.9-100.10, 100.34-100.35, 100.40-100.42, 100.97, 100.113-100.23, 100.140, 100.159**

### **Recommendations 100.9-100.10<sup>94</sup>, 100.34-100.35<sup>95</sup>, 100.41<sup>96</sup>-100.42**

[67.] OPCP,<sup>97</sup> Protocol No. 12 to ECHR<sup>98</sup> and the "Istanbul Convention"<sup>99</sup> have not been ratified so far. The Law<sup>100</sup> was revised in 2017 and later.<sup>101</sup> However, other specific laws contain out of date or detrimental provisions.

[68.] Children's Rights Ombudsperson's Office, as it follows from the national Law<sup>102</sup> (see Article 12), has very limited and insufficient competence to provide recommendations.

[69.] The whole system, as follows from the conclusion of the Supreme Audit Institution,<sup>103, 104</sup> is ineffective, especially in rural regions. The COVID-19 pandemic may increase the risk of violence against children.

#### **Recommendations 100.119, 100.140<sup>105</sup>**

[70.] The amended Law<sup>106</sup> formally establishes the requirement for protection of children from a negative social environment (see Art. 23).

[71.] Despite the national plan,<sup>107</sup> data from the WHO<sup>108</sup> and Eurostat<sup>109</sup> demonstrate that Lithuania remains among the leaders in the world by suicide rates, especially among young people. NGOs point to the lack of access to quality psychological service, especially in regions.<sup>110</sup>

[72.] A poll<sup>111</sup> demonstrated that only around 5% of high school students were never affected by hate speech towards LGBT+, and even teachers in state-owned schools often present non-heterosexual orientation as "sickness".

[73.] The draft law on reproductive health<sup>112</sup> has not been adopted. NGOs report that girls and young women are often pressured, treated improperly and intimidated, even by healthcare professionals.<sup>113</sup> There are numerous political initiatives to limit or prohibit the right to abortion.<sup>114,115</sup>

[74.] The general situation of the health of children and youth is worsening. The SAI concluded that state institutions do not even monitor the situation properly.<sup>116</sup> Studies demonstrate critically low physical activity<sup>117</sup> and health literacy<sup>118</sup> among Lithuanian children and adolescents.

#### **Recommendations 100.40<sup>119</sup>, 100.97<sup>120</sup>, 100.113<sup>121</sup>, 100.114-100.118<sup>122</sup>, 100.120<sup>123</sup>, 100.121-100.123<sup>124</sup>**

[75.] Real data on violence against children may be way greater than statistics suggests<sup>125,126</sup> and NGOs indicate an increase of violence during COVID-19 restrictions.<sup>127,128</sup>

[76.] LGBT+ children and youth are especially vulnerable: NGOs report cases of physical violence,<sup>129</sup> traumatising experiences; even within families, sometimes children are forced to participate in rituals of exorcism, have intercourse with illegal providers of sexual services, or to receive psychiatric "treatment".<sup>130</sup> The law enforcement institutions often fail or refuse to investigate cases of hate crimes, thus, Lithuania lost a case before the ECHR.<sup>131</sup>

[77.] Cases of domestic violence fail to receive adequate response from law enforcement institutions, especially in rural regions.<sup>132</sup>

[78.] Corporal punishment of children is prohibited by Law.<sup>133</sup> However, the practice is still widespread.

[79.] Regarding THB, especially of children, Lithuania adopted two action plans.<sup>134,135</sup> The number of pre-trial investigations related to THB is decreasing;<sup>136</sup> but high latency of such crimes (and reluctance of victims to seek help) should be taken into consideration.

[80.] The importance of NGOs in an effective fight against THB is acknowledged,<sup>137</sup> but the government puts too much emphasis on religious organisations, while the involvement of secular society is insufficient. In addition, there is no system of consistent financing for NGOs, whether in the field of THB, or of human rights in general.<sup>138</sup>

#### **Recommendation 100.159<sup>139</sup>**

[81.] Regarding education of migrants and ethnic minorities, Lithuania has several relevant legal acts.<sup>140,141,142</sup> NGOs note a lack of general political will to effectively address the issues of stigmatised and vulnerable groups, such as Roma.<sup>143,144</sup> The liquidation<sup>145</sup> of the Roma “ghetto” in 2020<sup>146</sup> did not automatically resolve all the social and economic issues.

[82.] There is no progressive and inclusive national education programme, properly addressing Art. 29 of the UN CRC.<sup>147</sup> In 2017 in a regional school of Telšiai, a teacher of catholic faith in a state-owned school presented slides and various unfounded statements to schoolchildren, accusing homosexual people of cannibalism, molestation of children, immoral and harmful sexual behaviour and other alleged abnormalities.<sup>148</sup> Law enforcement institutions refused to investigate the case,<sup>149</sup> and the school administration simply ordered the teacher not to cover the LGBT+ topic anymore.<sup>150</sup> NGOs report no improvement since that incident.<sup>151</sup>

[83.] According to NGOs, there are more than 40 thousand families which raise children with disabilities, many of those suffer from the inappropriate attitude of the State.<sup>152</sup> They lack attention and social services, especially in rural regions.<sup>153</sup>

[84.] Despite some steps in 1999,<sup>154</sup> there has not been any national-level strategic document (juvenile justice programme) adoption since 2013.

[85.] Over the period of 2016-2020, the amount of criminal offences committed by minors has been decreasing,<sup>155</sup> which corresponds to long-term and regional tendencies.<sup>156</sup> Analysis of court judgements shows that specific aspects of juvenile justice are not duly taken into account, and punishments are imposed without adequate consideration of conditions upbringing of the minor, as well as their health, mental conditions and social maturity.<sup>157</sup>

[86.] There are only 3 resocialisation facilities for delinquent minors in Lithuania, which have the capacity to accept 80 individuals in total. The Ministry admits that the traumatic experiences of teenagers are often not considered at all, and that there is a lack of psychological help and services.<sup>158</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ratify the OPCP, Protocol No. 12 to the ECHRFR.
- Repeal the discriminatory provision of article 4-2-12 of the Lithuanian Law on the protection of minors from negative public information, which limits the dissemination of information about diversity of family models.
- Strengthen the participation of youth and NGOs in decision-making, by establishing mechanisms of obligatory consulting with civil society.
- Significantly increase the financing for NGOs and establish a new non-competitive mechanism of basic and consistent minimal (guaranteed) financing.
- Strengthen the institution of the Children’s Rights Ombudsperson of Lithuania by increasing its powers.
- Increase the funding and capacities of the national system for the protection of children’s rights and suicide prevention.
- Adopt a progressive Law on reproductive health.
- Improve the health literacy of children and youth and promote their physical activity.
- Ensure the effective application of legislation against domestic violence and increase financing for facilities of social services and temporary housing for victims.

- Launch inclusive awareness raising and anti-bullying national campaigns to support vulnerable groups, such as Roma, LGBT+, ethnic and cultural minorities, etc.
- Strengthen the fight against trafficking and the exploitation of children and youth.
- Improve national education programmes, especially regarding sexual education, sexual orientation, sexual identity and expression, and by making topics of the rights and inclusion of vulnerable groups (such as Roma, persons with disabilities, LGBT+, ethnic and cultural minorities, etc.) an integral and obligatory part of all educational subjects and activities.
- Improve the integration of children and youth with disabilities into society, by increasing institutional financing and compensating for specific needs.
- Adopt a renewed national juvenile justice programme and strengthen preventive measures, increase the financing and effectiveness of resocialisation centres.

**Prepared by Tolerant Youth Association (TJA or TYA) and Ante Litteram (AL)**

## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> The submission is prepared by the **Coalition of Human Rights Organizations Lithuania (HROC)**. HROC (established in 2011) is a coalition of progressive organizations in Lithuania upholding constitutionally protected human rights standards. More information: <https://ztok.lt/en/about-us/>. **The contribution to the submission was made by the following members of HROC and its partner organisations:**

- **The Center for Equality Advancement (CEA)**, a non-governmental organization aiming at changing gender stereotypes and mainstreaming women's rights, equality and inclusion in society, communities and organizations.  
**Address:** Didžioji str. 5-312, LT-01128, Vilnius, Lithuania, phone: +37067980607, [www.gap.lt](http://www.gap.lt), e-mail: [info@gap.lt](mailto:info@gap.lt). Director Virginija Aleksėjūnė, contact person Vilana Pilinkaitė-Sotirovič.
- **Lithuanian disability forum (LNF)**, umbrella association uniting 15 national disability organisations, representing different types of disabilities.  
**Address:** Žemaitės str. 21, LT-03118 Vilnius, Lithuania, +37052691309, [info@lnf.lt](mailto:info@lnf.lt), [www.lnf.lt](http://www.lnf.lt). President Dovilė Juodkaitė.
- **Mental Health Perspectives (*Psichikos sveikatos perspektyvos*)**, NGO working in the field of mental health and human rights.  
**Address:** Vasaros str. 3, LT-10309 Vilnius, Lithuania, +37069977669, [vilnius@perspektyvos.org](mailto:vilnius@perspektyvos.org), [www.perspektyvos.org](http://www.perspektyvos.org). Director Karilė Levickaitė.
- **National LGBT Rights organization LGL**, is the only non-governmental organization in Lithuania exclusively representing the interests of the LGBTQI+ community since 1993.  
**Address:** V.Šopeno St. 1-1, Vilnius, 3211, Lithuania. Director Vladimir Simonko, [vladimir@gay.lt](mailto:vladimir@gay.lt), contact person Monika Antanaitytė, [monika@gay.lt](mailto:monika@gay.lt).
- **Diversity Development Group (DDG)**, founded in 2012, is a non-profit organisation with an objective to carry out social (scientific, applied, and infrastructural) projects and research in the field of human rights, education, equal opportunities, diversity, migration and integration. The strategic aim of DDG is to improve and manage diversity towards a sustainable, tolerant and socially responsible society.  
**Address:** Lukiškių str. 5-527, LT-01108, Vilnius, Lithuania, [www.diversitygroup.lt](http://www.diversitygroup.lt). Research director Giedre Blazyte, [giedre@diversitygroup.lt](mailto:giedre@diversitygroup.lt), contact-person Akvile Krisciunaite, [akvile@diversitygroup.lt](mailto:akvile@diversitygroup.lt).
- **Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community**, umbrella organization representing rights and interests of Lithuanian Jewry.  
**Address:** Pylimo Str. 4, LT-01117, Vilnius, Lithuania, phone: +37052613003, [www.lzb.lt](http://www.lzb.lt). E-mail: [info@lzb.lt](mailto:info@lzb.lt), contact-person Rūta Ribinskaitė, Chairwoman Faina Kukliansky.
- **Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR)**, NGO, focused on HR education, research and advocacy in implementation of EU's and international HR standards, respect for diversity, principles of equality and non-discrimination.  
**Address:** Smetonos Str. 5-311, LT-01105, Vilnius, Lithuania, tel. +37052628858, [www.lchr.lt](http://www.lchr.lt). Director Birutė Sabatauskaitė, [birute@lchr.lt](mailto:birute@lchr.lt), contact-person Kristina Rūkaitė, [kristina@lchr.lt](mailto:kristina@lchr.lt).
- **Tolerant Youth Association (TJA or TYA)**, NGO, the first and yet the only Youth organization in Lithuania, which first and foremost seeks to promote Human Rights and Inclusion. TYA operates on national level addressing various Human Rights issues. The organization focuses on advocacy of the rights of migrants, non-EU / non-EEA countries citizens (TCN), refugees and asylum seekers, LGBTQ+ people and other vulnerable groups.  
**Address:** Lukiškių st. 5-536, LT-01108, Vilnius, Lithuania, tel. +37061201192, [www.tja.lt](http://www.tja.lt). E-mail: [info@tja.lt](mailto:info@tja.lt), Chairperson Artūras Rudomanskis.
- **Ante Litteram (AL)**, an NGO based in Lithuania which focuses on education and research in the fields of human rights, innovations and progressive social, economic and cultural initiatives, as well as promotion of equality, inclusion, diversity and ideas which help to cause shifts in institutional, societal and communal mindsets, in order to deal with global, national and regional challenges.

**Address:** J. Galvydžio st. 11A-42, LT-08236 Vilnius, Lithuania, tel. +37067693825, e-mail: litteramante@gmail.com, founder Aivaras Žilvinskas.

<sup>2</sup> Among 27 EU countries Lithuania ranks 22nd with 56.3 out of 100 points. Its score is 11.6 points below the EU's score and ranking has dropped by four places since 2010. Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domain of power (34.1 points) and time (50.6 points). (Source: European Gender Equality Institute (EIGE). *Gender Equality Index: Lithuania*, 2020, <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-equality-index-2020-lithuania>)

<sup>3</sup> 12.9% comparing to 26.6% in the EU and almost 3 times less in the Board of the Bank of Lithuania (7.7% comparing to 22.1% in the EU) (Source: European Gender Equality Institute (EIGE). *Gender Equality Index: Lithuania*, 2020, <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-equality-index-2020-lithuania>)

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI), *Human Rights in Lithuania 2018-2019*, 2020, [http://hrmi.lt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ZmogausTeisesLietuvoje\\_galutinis.pdf](http://hrmi.lt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ZmogausTeisesLietuvoje_galutinis.pdf), p. 55

<sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, the scope of domestic violence has not reduced in Lithuania. Specialized Assistance Centres (SAC), acting as non-profit public organizations in providing complex support services to victims of domestic violence, notice that the police tend to define many reported cases on domestic violence as “unconfirmed case”. Usually, this happens because a woman refuses to testify having experienced violence or pursue charges.<sup>5</sup> Due to the widespread attitudes of victim blaming, women who experience domestic violence do not tend to disclose it. The conducted population poll suggests that up to 60% of the respondents do not call the police even though they suffered from domestic violence, and only 16% of them called the police. (Source: Women's Issues Information Centre (WIIC), “Intolerance of violence is increasing in Lithuania”, 7 December 2020, <http://www.lygus.lt/lietuvoje-dideja-nepakantumas-smurtui/>)

<sup>6</sup> Statistics Lithuania, “Domestic violence”, 30 January 2019, <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/informaciniai-pranesimai?articleId=6104470>; Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior, Data on registered criminal offenses related to domestic violence from January to December 2020, [https://ird.lt/lt/reports/view\\_item\\_datasource?id=8918&datasource=55210](https://ird.lt/lt/reports/view_item_datasource?id=8918&datasource=55210)

<sup>7</sup> Up to 79% of victims of intimate partner violence are women, 90% of perpetrators are men (Source: Statistics Lithuania, “Domestic violence”, 30 January 2020, <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/informaciniai-pranesimai?articleId=7155309>)

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), *Concluding Observations on the Sixth Periodic Report of Lithuania*, CEDAW/LTU/CO/6, 12 November 2019, [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/6%20&Lang=En](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/6%20&Lang=En)

<sup>9</sup> Up to 44% of young people do not use any protection or contraceptive during their first sexual intercourse because they cannot afford it or lack information. (Source: HRMI, *Human Rights in Lithuania 2018-2019*, p. 41)

<sup>10</sup> Intersectional approach is not integrated in the content of any of the policy documents on the reproductive health and rights and excludes the needs of the most vulnerable groups. The reproductive rights of women with disabilities are in general ignored in both, the policies and in practice.

<sup>11</sup> Order of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, “On Establishment of the Working Group”, No. 78, 15 April 2019, <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/legalAct/8836cef05f4b11e98b599e654d7d03a0>

<sup>12</sup> Conclusions by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, “On the Draft Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women”, 19 May 2020, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAK/f6ff255099b811eaa51db668f0092944?jfwid=zjgvrwc4c>

<sup>13</sup> Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Lithuania, “On the Draft Law No. 20-6276”, 12 May 2020, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAN/386a3010944c11eaa51db668f0092944?jfwid=zjgvrwc4c>

<sup>14</sup> The Judicial Council of the Republic of Lithuania, “On remarks regarding the Draft Law No. 20-6276”, 27 May 2020, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAK/0ea084009fe111eaa51db668f0092944?jfwid=zjgvrwc4c>

<sup>15</sup> The Order of the Minister of Health from 1994 allows abortions up to 12 weeks of pregnancy. Such situation significantly limits access and quality of health care, safe abortions and necessary post-abortion services for young women and girls

<sup>16</sup> Young women and girls in rural areas, particularly because of their ethnic origin, namely Roma, have limited access to reproductive health services and modern contraceptives.



<sup>17</sup> The method of terminating an unwanted pregnancy by administering drugs is not approved by the Government of Lithuania and the drugs are not registered.

<sup>18</sup> The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

<sup>19</sup> The Catholic Church and conservative politicians are the main opponents of this Convention who argue that the ratification of the Convention would require Lithuania to change the concept of gender as a biological reality and that it would propagate homosexuality. (Source: Andrukaitytė, M., “Despite criticism of the Church, a group of parliamentarians will seek to return the Istanbul Convention to the agenda of the Seimas”, Lrt.lt, 29 December 2019, <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/lietuvoje/2/1128862/nepaisant-baznycios-kritikos-grupe-parlamentariu-i-seimo-darbotvarke-sieks-grazinti-stambulo-konvencija>)

<sup>20</sup> EIGE, *Gender Equality Index 2019: Work-life balance*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-equality-index-2019-work-life-balance>, p. 93

<sup>21</sup> Strong gender stereotypes about gender roles in society have a significant impact on the attitudes and behaviour of women and men who still support the traditional family model of male breadwinner and female caregiver. (Source: Pilinkaite Sotirovič, V., Kontvainė V., *Contemporary men and gender equality: incentives and obstacles for men to get involved in child care activities*, *Šiuolaikiniai vyrai ir lyčių lygybė: paskatos ir kliūtys vyrams įsitraukti į vaiko priežiūrą*. Vilnius, 2020, <http://gap.lt/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/%C5%A0iuolaikiniai-vyrai-ir-ly%C4%8Di%C5%B3-lygyb%C4%97.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> By providing the paternity leave schemes, the state constructs the father's role as assistant to the mother in childcare and does not contribute to reducing the care gap between women and men in Lithuania.

<sup>23</sup> Order of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, “On Approval of the National Programme for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims for 2014-2020”, No. 485, 28 May 2014, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/b2368b30ea2711e3abf5c17841df37a3>

<sup>24</sup> Women's NGOs are not treated as equal partners in inter-institutional communication and service provision, and this causes mistrust and competition between the state, municipal and non-governmental institutions.

<sup>25</sup> Interview with Jurgita Cinskienė, Head of the National Association of Women Rights, 22 January 2021.

<sup>26</sup> Women's NGOs are ready to help prepare lawyers if the state will provide enough resources. (Source: Interview with Jurgita Cinskienė, Head of the National Association of Women Rights, 22 January 2021)

<sup>27</sup> Public polls show that up to 41% of residents in Lithuania think that the wife's marital duty is to have sex with her husband. Men (47%) more often than women (36%) tend to agree with this statement. (Source: Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, “Representative public opinion poll on gender stereotypes and violence”, 2018, [https://www.lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2019/09/visuomenes\\_nuomones\\_apklausa\\_vilmorus.pdf](https://www.lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2019/09/visuomenes_nuomones_apklausa_vilmorus.pdf))

<sup>28</sup> Abortion is possible according to the Order of the Minister of Health, 1994.

<sup>29</sup> Political background was favourable and friendly to NGO participation which influenced some legal and systemic changes.

<sup>30</sup> Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson

<sup>31</sup> Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, 2019 Annual Report, 13 March 2020, [https://www.lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2020/03/ir\\_lygiu\\_galimybiu\\_kontrolieriaus\\_2019\\_m\\_veiklos\\_ataskaita.pdf](https://www.lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2020/03/ir_lygiu_galimybiu_kontrolieriaus_2019_m_veiklos_ataskaita.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, Infographics of the 2019 Annual Report, March 2020, [https://www.lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2020/05/veiklos\\_ataskaita\\_2019\\_infografikas.pdf](https://www.lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2020/05/veiklos_ataskaita_2019_infografikas.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> (Source: Statistics Lithuania, Database of Indicators, [https://osp.stat.gov.lt/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize#/\)](https://osp.stat.gov.lt/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize#/)

<sup>34</sup> Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Survey of public attitudes, November 2020, <http://www.ndt.lt/wp-content/uploads/Ataskaita-Neigalieji-202011.pptx>

<sup>35</sup> Out of 160,340 people with disabilities of working age, 47,206 are in employment, so the employment rate is 29%, compared to an average of 40.7% in the EU.

<sup>36</sup> According to the Audit report, more than half (32) of the municipalities did not ensure that at least 30% of the public buildings, which provide important services to individuals (wards, social service centres, educational, health and cultural institutions), would be accessible.

<sup>37</sup> According to the data provided by the Central Electoral Commission, there were 67% of polling stations accessible to persons with disabilities in October 2019 elections of the President and 93% of polling stations accessible to persons with disabilities in October 2020 elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania.

<sup>38</sup> The worst situation is with voting possibilities for persons living in residential institutions who have been excluded from the national voter registry due to legal incapacity.

<sup>39</sup> In particular, this could be explained by the victim's disability, living in self-isolation, physical and social separation from the environment, dependence on the perpetrator, which results in the victim's passivity, reluctance and/or inability to deal with the current situation.

<sup>40</sup> In Lithuania in 2019 a total of 285 women with disabilities were affected, among whom the latter 156 experienced violence. On average, among all affected women with disabilities 60% of women with disabilities became victims of violence. Yet, the statistics do not fully reflect the real situation of victimization, of psychological and sexual violence of people with disabilities, which is common and emphasized in international documents.

<sup>41</sup> In Lithuania community-based services for people with mental health problems are extremely limited and primarily consist of group home placements that are available for a fraction of those using residential care; their exact number is not known. Short-term respite services are provided in long-stay institutional settings.

<sup>42</sup> The envisaged criteria for involuntary hospitalization of a person are determined as a real threat to his or her health or life, or the health or life of other persons, or significant damage to the property.

<sup>43</sup> There is a plan in progress to build 50 group living homes around the country (10 people living in one setting with the help of staff), which is considered a large proportion in comparison with community-based services promoting independent living, which is promoted and supported by the UN CRPD. Even for these structures, there were numerous acts of resistance from the local communities, especially in Žiežmariai community, which indicate the lack of systemic preparedness for deinstitutionalisation process and proper tackling stigma and discrimination in the society.

<sup>44</sup> Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

<sup>45</sup> During the inspection performed by the Human Rights Division of the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office, a man with disability was found illegally imprisoned at Skėmai Social Care Home in Rokiškis district, where he spent two weeks behind the bars.

<sup>46</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<sup>47</sup> Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour, "On Approval of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2016-2020", No. A1-596, 9 November 2016, [https://socmin.lrv.lt/uploads/socmin/documents/files/veiklos-sritys/socialine-integracija/neigalieji/12068\\_jt-rekomendaciju-igyvendinimo-planas-po-suinteresuotagalutinis.pdf](https://socmin.lrv.lt/uploads/socmin/documents/files/veiklos-sritys/socialine-integracija/neigalieji/12068_jt-rekomendaciju-igyvendinimo-planas-po-suinteresuotagalutinis.pdf).

<sup>48</sup> Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, "The Ombudsperson launched the first committee to monitor the rights of persons with disabilities", 11 July 2019, <https://lygybe.lt/lt/naujienos/kontroliere-suburepirmaja-zmoniu-su-negalia-teisiu-stebesenos-komisija/1127>.

<sup>49</sup> UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<sup>50</sup> List of reviews regarding changes in the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania, No. I-1489, 25 June 1991, based on time periods, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalActEditions/lt/TAD/TAIS.1480?faces-redirect=true>.

<sup>51</sup> The European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe), Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex People in Lithuania, covering the period of January to December 2020, 2021, <https://rainbow-europe.org/#8644/0/0>

<sup>52</sup> LGBTI individuals are directly affected by the lack of same-sex family rights recognition and administrative procedures regarding legal gender recognition has yet to be introduced which constitutes severe discrimination against transgender persons. LGBTI youth situation in Lithuania remains particularly vulnerable, with no national-level measures to address the specific needs of young LGBTI individuals regarding their emotional well-being in educational institutions.

<sup>53</sup> 50% of the survey respondents also stated that their teachers did not respond appropriately to homophobic bullying if they responded at all. (Source: The International LGBTQI Youth & Student Organisation (IGLYO),

Inclusive Education Report 2018 (preview), January 2018, <https://www.iglyo.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/LGBTQI-Inclusive-Education-Report-Preview.pdf>, p. 98-101

<sup>54</sup> The Order of Minister of Social Security and Labour, "On Approval of the Action Plan for the Promotion of non-Discrimination for 2017-2019", No. A1-250, 15 May 2017, <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/fa5d2b103a3f11e7b66ae890e1368363>.

<sup>55</sup> E.g., the Action Plan (2017–2019) included a study on the situation of transgender persons in Lithuania as an indicator of the implementation of a measure, instead of a number of implemented recommendations in the National Review of the Situation of Transgender Persons in Lithuania.

<sup>56</sup> Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania 18 July 2000 No VIII-1864 <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.379794?jfwid=-cdjog37nf>

<sup>57</sup> Council of Europe

<sup>58</sup> The European Court of Human Rights

<sup>59</sup> Judgment on the merits delivered by a Chamber Beizaras and Levickas v. Lithuania, No. 41288/15, ECHR 2020, <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22appno%22%3A%2241288/15%22%7D>

<sup>60</sup> For example, while the exact motives of the crime are unknown, the LGL entrance was set on fire in 2018 but pre-trial investigation was suspended indefinitely.

<sup>61</sup> Solano, Giacomo and Huddleston, Thomas, Migrant Integration Policy Index 2020, 2020, see Lithuania, <https://www.mipex.eu/lithuania>

<sup>62</sup> For example, foreign nationals from particular professional backgrounds or of particular countries (especially from high-income countries such as Australia, Japan, New Zealand, USA, Canada, and South Korea). (Source: Migration Department, "Facilitating the issuing process of temporary residence permits for nationals of Australia, Japan, the USA, Canada, New Zealand and South Korea", 21 August 2019, <http://migracija.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/lengvinamos-leidimu-laikiniai-gyventi-isdavimo-salygos-australijos-japonijos-jav-kanados-naujosios-zelandijos-ir-pietu-korejos-pilieciams?fbclid=IwAR1dEdVHrosWzOhIjOtBBO7ZrwVhRiCT0u308wDsGtV4nys2S3IzW3UD2zk>

<sup>63</sup> Ministry of the Interior, "The government agreed to the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior to set quotas for foreigners coming to work", 10 April 2019, <https://vrm.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/vyriausybe-prite-vm-siulymui-del-kvotu-nustatymo-dirbti-atvykstantiems-uzsienieciams>.

<sup>64</sup> Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour, "On Approval of the Action Plan for 2018–2020 on the Integration of Foreigners Into Society", No. A1-755, 12 December 2018 (last amendment 19 February 2021), <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/31d148100a1911e98a758703636ea610/asr>

<sup>65</sup> Including the following measures: a) learning support for students from foreign countries (7.1); b) development and approval of the methodology on the quality assessment in school of the knowledge gained abroad (7.2); c) learning support to foreign-born children by assigning an accompanying mentor (7.3); d) promotion of cultural cooperation by involving parents in the development processes of foreign-born children; e) inclusion of intercultural basic learning modules in the pedagogical study programmes.

<sup>66</sup> Resolution of the Seimas, "On Approval of the Strategy for Demography, Migration and Integration Policy for 2018-2030", No. 1216, 5 December 2019, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/2a093814fc8411e89b04a534c5aaf5ce?jfwid=-35aaxldoi>

<sup>67</sup> Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour, "On Approval of the Action Plan for 2018–2020 on the Integration of Foreigners Into Society", No. A1-755, 12 December 2018 (last amendment 19 February 2021), <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/31d148100a1911e98a758703636ea610/asr>

<sup>68</sup> Including implementation of information campaigns aimed at promoting social tolerance, understanding of diversity and intercultural dialogue (10.2) and maintenance of an information platform which publishes and regularly updates information about the issues of foreigners' integration relevant for specialists, society and foreigners (10.3).

<sup>69</sup> In 2020, about 41% said they would not like to have Muslims as their neighbours, and almost 27% told they would not like to have neighbours who are refugees. Almost 1 in 5 (18%) of the respondents did not want to have black people as their neighbours, and 12% said the same about persons who do not speak Lithuanian. (Source: The Institute for Ethnic Studies of the Lithuanian Social Research Centre (LSRC), the results of public opinion polls carried out between 2016 and 2020, <http://www.ces.lt/veikla-2/ziniasklaidos-stebesena/visuomenes-nuomones-apklausa/>

<sup>70</sup> Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

<sup>71</sup> Solano, Giacomo and Huddleston, Thomas, Migrant Integration Policy Index 2020, 2020, see Lithuania, <https://www.mipex.eu/lithuania>

<sup>72</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.forintegration.eu/>

<sup>73</sup> The Seimas Ombudsmen's Office, "The rights of foreign nationals are not ensured in the Foreigners' Registration Centre", 19 September 2019, <http://www.lrski.lt/naujienos/729-uzsienieci-registracijos-centre-darbuotojai-nemoka-uzsienio-kalb-o-sulaikytos-uzsienieci-seimos-su-mazameciais-vaikais-talpinamos-uz-grot.html>

<sup>74</sup> Law on the Amendments of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens of the Republic of Lithuania, No. XIII-2582, 29 April 2004 (last amendment 1 March 2021), <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.232378/asr>

<sup>75</sup> Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, "The National Education Strategy for 2013-2022", 2014, [https://www.sac.smm.lt/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Valstybine-svietimo-strategija-2013-2020\\_svietstrat.pdf](https://www.sac.smm.lt/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Valstybine-svietimo-strategija-2013-2020_svietstrat.pdf)

<sup>76</sup> Although Holocaust studies are part of the national curriculum, in practice teaching remains uneven. (Source: Violeta Davoliūtė and Dovilė Budrytė, "Entangled History, History Education, and Affective Communities in Lithuania". Transitional Justice and the Former Soviet Union: Reviewing the Past, Looking toward the Future, edited by Cynthia M. Horne and Lavinia Stan. Cambridge University Press, 2018, p. 323-344, <https://www.lituanistika.lt/content/79652>)

<sup>77</sup> In relation to recommendations 100.71; 100.72

<sup>78</sup> In relation to recommendation 100.56

<sup>79</sup> Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Good Will Compensation for the Real Estate of Jewish Religious Communities, No. XI-1470 80–3897, 21 June 2011, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.402515/asr>

<sup>80</sup> Human Rights Monitoring Institute, „Response to Hate Crimes: Review of the Situation in Lithuania“, 15 December 2017, <https://hrmi.lt/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Atsakas-%C4%AF-neapykantos-nusikaltimus-2017-1.pdf>

<sup>81</sup> However, those who have the right to immovable property can only recover it through the courts. Others cannot recover it at all after the expiry of the restitution period in 2001.

<sup>82</sup> Ministry of the Interior, „Qualitative Research Report on Communities Affected by Hate Crimes“, 2019, [https://vrm.lrv.lt/uploads/vrm/documents/files/LT\\_versija/Viesasis\\_saugumas/Pa%C5%BEid%C5%BEiam%C5%B3%20bendruomeni%C5%B3%20kokybinio%20tyrimo%20ataskaita.pdf](https://vrm.lrv.lt/uploads/vrm/documents/files/LT_versija/Viesasis_saugumas/Pa%C5%BEid%C5%BEiam%C5%B3%20bendruomeni%C5%B3%20kokybinio%20tyrimo%20ataskaita.pdf)

<sup>83</sup> Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior, Data on criminal offenses committed to discriminate or express hate to a group of persons or a person belonging to a group in the Republic of Lithuania, 2019-2020, [www.ird.lt/lt/reports/view\\_item\\_datasource?id=8928&datasource=55343](http://www.ird.lt/lt/reports/view_item_datasource?id=8928&datasource=55343)

<sup>84</sup> Ministry of the Interior, „Qualitative Research Report on Communities Affected by Hate Crimes“, 2019, [https://vrm.lrv.lt/uploads/vrm/documents/files/LT\\_versija/Viesasis\\_saugumas/Pa%C5%BEid%C5%BEiam%C5%B3%20bendruomeni%C5%B3%20kokybinio%20tyrimo%20ataskaita.pdf](https://vrm.lrv.lt/uploads/vrm/documents/files/LT_versija/Viesasis_saugumas/Pa%C5%BEid%C5%BEiam%C5%B3%20bendruomeni%C5%B3%20kokybinio%20tyrimo%20ataskaita.pdf)

<sup>85</sup> Such levels of discrimination lead to decreased motivation at school among pupils; discomfort in the labour market, in official institutions and medical facilities.

<sup>86</sup> Vita Kontvaitė, Diversity Development Group, „The State of Roma Persons 2020“, 2020, [http://www.romuplatforma.lt/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Rom%C5%B3-pad%C4%97tis-2020\\_TYRIMO-ATASKAITA\\_galutin%C4%97.pdf](http://www.romuplatforma.lt/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Rom%C5%B3-pad%C4%97tis-2020_TYRIMO-ATASKAITA_galutin%C4%97.pdf)

<sup>87</sup> The European Foundation of Human Rights, „Vilnius City District Court Allows for Original Spelling of Malgorzata“, 20 November 2019, <https://en.efhr.eu/2019/11/20/vilnius-city-district-court-allows-for-original-spelling-of-malgorzata/>

<sup>88</sup> Baltic News Service, "The European Foundation of Human Rights commemorated a 10-year anniversary", bns.lt, 4 December 2020, <https://sc.bns.lt/view/item/364451>

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

- <sup>91</sup> Aida Murauskaitė, “Gymnasium teaching students of different nationalities: parents and children understood that it is necessary to know the Lithuanian language well“, Lrt.lt, 6 January 2021, <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/lietuvoje/2/1310136/skirtingu-tautybiu-vaikus-mokanti-gimnazija-tevai-ir-vaikai-suprato-kad-reikia-gerai-moketi-lietuviu-kalba>
- <sup>92</sup> The European Foundation of Human Rights, „Minority school students found the unified Lithuanian language exam difficult“, *efhr.eu*, 30 August 2018, <https://en.efhr.eu/2018/08/30/minority-school-students-found-the-unified-lithuanian-language-exam-difficult/>.
- <sup>93</sup> In relation to recommendation 100.161
- <sup>94</sup> 100.9 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Andorra) (Spain); 100.10 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Albania)
- <sup>95</sup> 100.34 Continue its support to the Office of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman (Georgia); 100.35 Strengthen its support to the Office of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman (Timor-Leste)
- <sup>96</sup> 100.41 Make every effort to increase the effectiveness of the protection of the rights of the child (Tajikistan)
- <sup>97</sup> Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, United Nations, General Assembly resolution A/RES/54/263, 25 May 2000, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/opsccrc.aspx>
- <sup>98</sup> Council of Europe, Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 4 November 2000, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/0900001680080622>
- <sup>99</sup> Council of Europe, Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, 11 May 2011, <https://rm.coe.int/168008482e>
- <sup>100</sup> Law on the amendment of the Law on the fundamentals of protection of the rights of the child, No. XIII-643, 28 September 2017, <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/legalAct.html?documentId=5a6c9100adc011e79d87b6f526384a70>
- <sup>101</sup> Implementing recommendation 100.42
- <sup>102</sup> Law on the Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Lithuania, No. VIII-1708, 25 May 2000, [https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/rs/legalact/TAD/TAIS.436567/format/ISO\\_PDF/](https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/rs/legalact/TAD/TAIS.436567/format/ISO_PDF/)
- <sup>103</sup> Supreme Audit Institution of Lithuania, Notification, 20 February 2017, [https://www.vkontrole.lt/aktualiju\\_failai/files/Del\\_vaiko\\_teisiu\\_apsaugos\\_sistemas.pdf](https://www.vkontrole.lt/aktualiju_failai/files/Del_vaiko_teisiu_apsaugos_sistemas.pdf)
- <sup>104</sup> Supreme Audit Institution, Work Plan for 2020, 23 December 2020, [https://www.vkontrole.lt/dokumentai/2020\\_veiklos\\_planas/VK\\_2020\\_veiklos\\_planas.pdf](https://www.vkontrole.lt/dokumentai/2020_veiklos_planas/VK_2020_veiklos_planas.pdf)
- <sup>105</sup> 100.119 Establish and implement integrated strategies for the prevention of child abuse, suicide among young people and unwanted pregnancies among girls and young people (Costa Rica); 100.140 Ensure that young people with mental health problems have access to the highest professional consultancies and treatment methods, and promote an enabling environment for non-profit organizations working with mental health issues in relation to young people and children (Portugal)
- <sup>106</sup> Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child, No. I-1234, 14 March 1996, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.26397/asr>. - Consolidated version with amendments in force on 1 March 2021
- <sup>107</sup> Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, “On Approval of the National plan for prevention of suicide for 2020-2024”, No. V-2008, 9 September 2020, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/25d91842f28811eab72ddb4a109da1b5>
- <sup>108</sup> World Health Organisation, Global Health Observatory data repository, Suicide rate estimates, age-standardized estimates by country, 17 July 2018, <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.MHSUICIDEASDR?lang=en>
- <sup>109</sup> EUROSTAT, the crude death rate from suicide and intentional self-harm per 100 000 people, by age group, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00202/default/table?lang=en>

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<sup>110</sup> The authors of the report conducted interviews on 11-13 February 2021 with representatives from the western branch of the Tolerant Youth Association

<sup>111</sup> Conveyed in 2017 by National Lithuanian LGBT+ organisation LGL (NGO). See: Eglė Kuktoraitė, “90% of LGBT\* students in the LGL survey intend to emigrate after graduation”, LGL, 16 May 2020, <https://www.lgl.lt/naujienos/90-proc-lgl-apklausoje-dalyvavusiu-lgbt-moksleiviu-baige-mokykla-ketina-emigruoti/>

<sup>112</sup> The draft Law on reproductive health, No. XIIP-1591, 13 March 2014, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAP/769d2a52aab911e3840c893be7eb3526?positionInSearchResults=3&searchModelUUID=f6814dd6-e08d-4825-a2ed-ffe4e3ef2447>

<sup>113</sup> Laima Vaigė, "The right not to abortion, but to respect for private and family life", lrt.lt, 20 November 2020, <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/nuomones/3/1280324/laima-vaige-teise-ne-i-aborta-o-i-pagarba-privaciam-ir-seimos-gyvenimui>

<sup>114</sup> Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights, “Abortion insurance - again on the Seimas agenda”, manoteises.lt, 5 April 2017, <https://manoteises.lt/straipsnis/abortu-draudimas-ir-vel-seimo-darbotvarkeje/>

<sup>115</sup> Jurgita Lieponė, "Quarantine restrictions have raised questions about abortion opportunities: what to do for women in cases of unplanned pregnancy?", 15min.lt, 15 April 2020, <https://www.15min.lt/gyvenimas/naujiena/seima/karantino-apribojimai-sukele-klausimu-del-aborto-galimybiu-ka-daryti-neplanuotai-pastojusioms-moterims-1026-1304178>

<sup>116</sup> Audit Office, State Audit Report "Is the Strengthening of Children's Health Ensured", No. VA-8, 2 December 2019, <https://www.vkontrole.lt/failas.aspx?id=4039>, p.9

<sup>117</sup> Institute of Hygiene, Public Health Technology Center, Research Division, Survey of School Children 's Lifestyle: 2016 Summary-Report of Indicators, Vilnius, 2016, <https://www.hi.lt/uploads/pdf/padaliniai/GYVENSENA/2016%20m.%20Mokyklinio%20amziaus%20vaiku%20gyvensenos%20suvestine-ataskaita.pdf>

<sup>118</sup> Sukys, Saulius, et al., “Subjective Health Literacy among School-Aged Children: First Evidence from Lithuania. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 16(18), p. 3397, <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/16/18/3397>

<sup>119</sup> 100.40 Further pursue its commitment to guaranteeing full respect for the rights of the child, in particular, children with disabilities, and guarantee that all violations of these rights, in particular allegations of abuse and ill-treatment, are brought to justice (Portugal).

<sup>120</sup> 100.97 Protect persons, particularly women and children, against violence, exploitation and abuse (Islamic Republic of Iran)

<sup>121</sup> 100.113 Ensure that all allegations of abuse and violence against children are investigated, and that alleged perpetrators are effectively prosecuted (Turkey)

<sup>122</sup> 100.114 Adopt legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children, including in the home, and consider awareness-raising activities to increase public knowledge about the issue (Estonia); 100.115 Take additional measures to protect children from corporal punishment and sexual crimes (Kyrgyzstan); 100.116 Develop measures to prevent child abuse and corporal punishment, to include passing the draft legislation on children's rights (United States of America); 100.117 Prohibit all forms of violence against children in all settings, including corporal punishment, and provide for measures to enforce its prohibition (Sweden); 100.118 Strengthen the legislation in order to criminalize all forms of corporal punishment of children in all circumstances (Chile)

<sup>123</sup> 100.120 Intensify efforts to implement all measures for preventing and addressing all forms of violence against children, particularly in institutions (Montenegro)

<sup>124</sup> 100.121 Continue its work in preventing all cases of human trafficking (Maldives); 100.122 Continue to improve the training and specialization of investigators, prosecutors and judges to tackle crimes of trafficking in persons, including with a focus on women and children (Estonia); 100.123 Increase funding for NGOs to provide sustainable care to trafficking victims (United States of America)

<sup>125</sup> State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, “Defenders of children's rights: Violence against children is more widespread in Lithuania than official figures show”, 19 October 2020, <https://vaikoteises.lt/naujienos/naujienos/vaiko-teisiu-gynejai-lietuvoje-smurtas-prievaiikus-paplites-labiau-nei-rodoficialus-skaiciai.html>

Year	Physical violence (number of cases)	Number of neglect cases	Psychological violence (number of cases)	Sexual violence (number of cases)	Total number of violence cases per year	Number of violence cases against boys	Number of violence cases against girls
2018	1290	847	303	153	2593	1393	1200
2019	1870	1342	408	223	3843	2192	1651
Jan-Sep 2020	1104	732	140	132	2108	1169	939

<sup>127</sup> Delfi.lt, “Pandemic results: more anxious personalities and victims of domestic violence”, 16 October 2020, <https://www.delfi.lt/projektai/ko-ismokome-is-covid-19/pandemijos-rezultatai-daugiau-nerimastingu-asmenybiu-ir-smurto-artimoje-aplinkoje-auku.d?id=85501177>

<sup>128</sup> Diena.lt, “COVID-19 has gained momentum: is Lithuania ready for a new wave of violence?”, 12 November 2020, <https://www.diena.lt/naujienos/sveikata/psichologija/covid-19-isibegejo-ar-lietuva-pasiruosusi-naujais-smurto-bangai-995869>

<sup>129</sup> Saulius Chadasevičius, "Homophobic punch to a couple of gay foreigners holding hands on the street in Vilnius", 15min.lt, 9 October 2018, <https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/nusikaltimaiirnelaimes/vilniuje-uzranku-gatveje-susikibusiu-geju-uzsienieciu-porai-homofobo-smugis-59-1042016>

<sup>130</sup> Jolanta Vaitiekūnienė, “Time to Prevent Medieval “Treatment” of Homosexual Children”, LGL, 23 October 2018, <https://www.lgl.lt/naujienos/jolanta-vaitiekuniene-laikas-uzkirsti-kelia-viduramzius-primenanciam-homoseksualiu-vaiku-gydymui/>

<sup>131</sup> Judgment on the merits delivered by a Chamber Beizaras and Levickas v. Lithuania, No. 41288/15, ECHR 2020, <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22appno%22:%5B%2241288/15%22%5D%7D>. The violation was related to the refusal of national institutions of Lithuania to investigate public hate speech and threats against a same sex couple of youngsters.

<sup>132</sup> The Seimas Ombudsmen’s Office, "Seimas Ombudsman calls for ratification of Istanbul Convention after conducting investigation into assistance to persons who have experienced domestic violence", 21 January 2021, <https://www.lrski.lt/naujienos/atlikes-tyrima-del-pagalbos-uztikrinimo-smurta-artimoje-aplinkoje-patyrusiems-asmenims-seimo-kontrolierius-ragina-ratifikuoti-stambulo-konvencija/>

<sup>133</sup> Law on Amendment of the Law on the fundamentals of protection of the rights of the child, No. XIII-204, 14 February 2017, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/7d592952f37411e6be918a531b2126ab>

<sup>134</sup> Order of the Minister of the Interior, “On Approval of the Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2017-2019”, No. 1V-598, 29 August 2016, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/f485a9d06e2311e6a421ea2bde782b94?jfwid=gvy9zj3we>

<sup>135</sup> Order of the Minister of the Interior, “On Approval of the Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2020-2022”, No. 1V-577, 12 June 2020, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/66466882ace511ea8aadde924aa85003?jfwid=mmceoqyd9>

<sup>136</sup> Lithuanian Courts, “Human trafficking: changing goals and methods of traffickers”, 16 October 2020, <https://www.teismai.lt/lt/naujienos/teismu-sistemas-naujienos/prekyba-zmonemis-keiciasi-prekiautoju-zmonemis-tikslai-ir-metodai/8065>

<sup>137</sup> Create Lithuania and the Ministry of the Interior, “Fight Against Human Trafficking: The Strengthening of the System”, 2017, <http://kurkl.lt/projektai/kovos-su-prekyba-zmonemis-sistemas-stiprinimas/>

<sup>138</sup> NGOs are forced to compete with each other for basic financing.

- <sup>139</sup> 100.159 Continue strengthening the comprehensive initiatives on education in favour of migrants, ethnic minorities, women and children, in particular those from Roma communities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
- <sup>140</sup> Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports, “On Approval of the Action plan on encouraging children to learn and on multifaceted education for 2017-2022”, No. V-527, 27 June 2017, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/aad10e305c3c11e7a53b83ca0142260e/asr>
- <sup>141</sup> Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, “On Approval of the Inter-institutional Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-discrimination for 2017-2020, No. A1-250, 15 April 2017, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/0e515fe03b3c11e79f4996496b137f39/asr>
- <sup>142</sup> Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, „Action plan for Roma integration into the Lithuanian society for 2015-2020“, No. IV-48, 29 January 2015, [https://adsdatabase.ohchr.org/IssueLibrary/LITHUANIA\\_Action%20Plan%20for%20Roma%20Integration%20into%20the%20Lithuanian%20Society%20for%202015-2020.pdf](https://adsdatabase.ohchr.org/IssueLibrary/LITHUANIA_Action%20Plan%20for%20Roma%20Integration%20into%20the%20Lithuanian%20Society%20for%202015-2020.pdf)
- <sup>143</sup> Petrušauskaitė, Vita, Participation of Roma children in the education system: a comparison between the city of Vilnius and Ukmergė district municipalities, Lithuanian Social Research Centre, 2012, [https://lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2016/02/romu-vaikai-svietimo-sistema\\_vilniaus-ir-ukmerges-savivaldybiu-atvejai.pdf](https://lygybe.lt/data/public/uploads/2016/02/romu-vaikai-svietimo-sistema_vilniaus-ir-ukmerges-savivaldybiu-atvejai.pdf), p. 35
- <sup>144</sup> The authors of the report conducted interviews on 11-13 February 2021 with representatives from the Lithuanian Young Falcon Union, Working on the program – "Help to adapt"
- <sup>145</sup> Vilnius City Council, Vilnius Roma Integration into Society Programme for 2016-2019, No. 1-410, 19 April 2016, [www.romuplatforma.lt/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2016%E2%80%932019-METU-PROGRAMA.pdf](http://www.romuplatforma.lt/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2016%E2%80%932019-METU-PROGRAMA.pdf)
- <sup>146</sup> Giedrius Vitkauskas, "Vilnius camp is being demolished, but problems are not disappearing: Lithuanians do not want a Roma neighborhood, and the drug business is expanding", Lrt.lt, 9 May 2020, <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/lietuvoje/2/1176779/vilniaus-taboras-griaunamas-taciau-problemos-ningsta-lietuviai-nenori-romu-kaimynystes-o-narkotiku-verslas-plecias>
- <sup>147</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child
- <sup>148</sup> Mindaugas Jackeivičius “Teacher talks about gay cannibalism and sex during lessons in Telšiai”, Delfi.lt, 27 April 2017, <https://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/lithuania/telsiuose-mokytoja-per-pamokas-pasakoja-apie-geju-kanibalizma-ir-seksa.d?id=74479638>
- <sup>149</sup> Artūras Rudomanskis, “Lithuania - a landfill of discredited ideas? It's not a motto for the prosecutor's office”, 15min.lt, 2 June 2017, [https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/nuomones/arturas-rudomanskis-lietuva-diskredituotu-ideju-savartynas-prokuraturai-tai-ne-motais-18-806564?fbclid=IwAR3-hRTyCfVp34KzXKHIQ12t5g\\_8KZBSqn4v14MfKPGQkJ29q73drHXVzDw](https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/nuomones/arturas-rudomanskis-lietuva-diskredituotu-ideju-savartynas-prokuraturai-tai-ne-motais-18-806564?fbclid=IwAR3-hRTyCfVp34KzXKHIQ12t5g_8KZBSqn4v14MfKPGQkJ29q73drHXVzDw)
- <sup>150</sup> Alfa.lt, “Telšiai religion teacher who caused the scandal remains at work, but homosexual topics are no longer considered”, 16 June 2017, <https://www.alfa.lt/straipsnis/50185354/skandala-sukelusi-telsiu-tikybos-mokytoja-lieka-dirbti-bet-homoseksualu-temos-svarsto-nebeliesti>
- <sup>151</sup> The authors of the report conducted interviews on 11-13 February 2021 with representatives Telšiai parents 'organization "Telšiai mothers' club" and from the member of the Tolerant Youth Association living in Telšiai
- <sup>152</sup> Giedrė Čiužaitė, “Described the experience of parents raising disabled children: they suffer not because of disability, but because of the attitude of the state”, Lrt.lt, 8 March 2019, <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/lietuvoje/2/704867/nupasakojo-neigalius-vaikus-auginanciu-tevu-patirti-kencia-nedel-negaliuos-o-del-valstybes-pozicijos>
- <sup>153</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, "On Approval of the National programme on social integration of disabled persons for 2013-2020", No. 1408, 21 November 2012, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.437985/asr>
- <sup>154</sup> Decision of the Lithuanian Government, “On Approval of the Juvenile Justice Programme for 2009-2013”, No. 1070, 2 September 2009, <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.352381?jfwid=q86m1vpw>
- <sup>155</sup> Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior, Data on criminal offenses committed in municipalities of the Republic of Lithuania from January to December 2020, [https://www.ird.lt/lt/reports/view\\_item\\_datasource?id=8997&datasource=56625](https://www.ird.lt/lt/reports/view_item_datasource?id=8997&datasource=56625)



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<sup>156</sup> Acus, Arūnas, Kraniauskas, Liutauras, “Juvenile justice reforms in Lithuania and the dynamics of juvenile delinquency in Klaipeda between 1995 and 2000”, TILTAI, 2019, 2, p. 123-146 <http://journals.ku.lt/index.php/tiltai/article/download/2070/pdf> (see p. 134-136)

<sup>157</sup> Ibid., p. 129

<sup>158</sup> Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, Presentation on Socialization Centers, 8 June 2020, [https://socmin.lrv.lt/uploads/socmin/documents/files/Socializacijos%20centras\\_2020-06-08.pdf](https://socmin.lrv.lt/uploads/socmin/documents/files/Socializacijos%20centras_2020-06-08.pdf)