

INFORMATION ON

„Status of the Protocols Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions“

After completion of consultative process involving representatives of all levels of government, institutional mechanisms for gender equality and civil society, including various women's organizations, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) compiled a draft of the Transitional Justice Strategy, but it has not been adopted by the BiH Council Ministers yet.

In the Strategy, women victims of war are not classified as a special group of war victims. However, the proposed activities in all strategic areas aim to empower women victims of war to seek and exercise their rights as part of the entire group of civilian victims of war.

In this respect, in 2018 the Republika Srpska passed the RS Law on the Protection of Victims of War Torture covering this Entity, while the BiH-level Law on the Rights of Victims of Torture has not been passed yet, although it has been listed in the plan of activities of the BiH Council Ministers for several years. Further, the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees prepared a proposal for BiH Program for Victims of Rape, Sexual Abuse and Torture and Their Families (2013-2016), which was not adopted because it was not endorsed at all levels of government.

In order to increase participation of women in the military structures and their affirmation as holders of managerial and command position (women leaders in defence institutions, representation of women in military diplomatic missions and increased participation of women in peacekeeping missions) the Ministry of Defence has been continuously carrying out activities to raise awareness of gender equality.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted the 2018-2022 Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina (GAP BiH) and the 2018-2022 Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Action Plan). The BiH GAP contains measures that will be implemented in order to achieve three objectives aimed at developing, implementing and monitoring a program of measures for gender mainstreaming in government institutions by priority areas; building and strengthening of the system, mechanisms and instruments for achieving gender equality; as well as establishing and strengthening cooperation and partnerships. The Action Plan contains three objectives related to: increased participation of women in the army, police and peacekeeping missions, including participation in decision-making positions; increased degree of human security through gender equality; as well as improving the conditions and approach to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 Action Plan.

These objectives of the Action Plan set obligations of the BiH Ministry of Defence whose staff members together with members of the Coordination Committee for Action Plan Monitoring participate as leaders or partners in a number of activities aimed at improving the mechanisms and instruments for the implementation of the Action Plan and improving cooperation with other institutions that directly or indirectly contribute to the achievement of objectives of the Action Plan.

As part of the measures taken to implement Resolution 1325, the BiH Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH joined the WPS CHODs Network and, on the basis of this

project, in March 2019, an international conference "Women, Peace and Security" was held in BiH, resulting in the following outputs: adoption of conclusions, forming a working group and drafting a comprehensive Dynamic Plan for the implementation of conclusions.

As a result of implementation of the Dynamic Plan in May 2020, A Gender Review of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina was produced to include a description of all fields addressed in the conclusions of the conference, as well as recommendations for improving the situation. In order to improve the situation in this area, the BiH Ministry of Defence has achieved useful cooperation with all relevant institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as with countries in the region.

When drafting or amending laws and delegated legislation, they are brought in line with the BiH Law on Gender Equality (Official Gazette of BiH, 16/03, 102/09, 32/10 - consolidated text).