



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

Distr.: General
16 December 2020
English
Original: Chinese and English
Chinese, English, French and
Spanish only

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Ninth periodic report submitted by Macau, China under
article 18 of the Convention, due in 2018^{*,**,**}**

[Date received: 26 March 2020]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** The present document forms part of the State party report of China ([CEDAW/C/CHN/9](#)), which also includes the report of Hong Kong, China ([CEDAW/C/CHN-HKG/9](#)).

*** The annexes to the present report may be accessed from the web page of the Committee.



Introduction

1. The third report prepared by the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) will form part of the ninth periodic report of the People's Republic of China under Article 18 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Convention). This part of the report pertains to the implementation of the Convention in the MSAR covering the period from January 2010 to December 2017.
2. The present report was drafted by the MSAR Government based on the contributions from its relevant departments and entities, as well as local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the field of human rights (HR) and protection of women, and on the views/comments collected from the online public consultation, and in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Committee (HRC) regarding the form and content of reports to be submitted by States parties to the international HR treaty bodies ([HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#)). During the public consultation, one of the oldest and most representative women's associations - the Women's General Association of Macau (WGAM) - participated actively in the process, highlighting the efforts undertaken by the MSAR Government and local associations that protect women's and children's rights, in particular, in the respect of the elimination of discrimination against women during the covered period.
3. The information and data contained in the report is focused mainly on changes in legislation and on the adoption of measures relating to significant developments that occurred in the MSAR. The concerns and recommendations raised by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Committee) ([CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/7-8](#)) will be addressed in the respective provisions of the Convention.
4. Furthermore, information provided in this report should be considered together with Part III of China's Core Document ([HRI/CORE/1/Add.21/Rev.2](#) and [HRI/CORE/CHN-MAC/2010](#)), as well as with the parts concerning the MSAR in China's latest reports on HR treaties, namely the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
5. Important developments were attained, in particular new legislation to counter domestic violence, sexual harassment and other crimes against sexual freedom and sexual self-determination. Measures have been adopted to strengthen gender equality and to provide adequate assistance to vulnerable persons (disabled, children, women and the elderly), in particular women victims of domestic violence or abuse.
6. Campaigns and specialised training courses designed for officials and different community sectors focused on HR have been undertaken. The role of the civil society as a partner of the Government and the Government's proactive nature on HR dissemination should be underscored, including the process of public consultation for major policies and draft legislation.
7. This mechanism was introduced in 2011 (Order of the Chief Executive 224/2011) and among the consultations, it should be highlighted the: Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence (2011), Framework Law of the Elderly Rights and Guarantees, Framework Demographic Policy, Youth Policy (2012), revision of the Macao Criminal Code (MCC) – Sexual Freedom and Sexual Self-determination, Protection Mechanism for the Elderly, revision of the Special Education Regime, Planning of Rehabilitation Services (2016), Minimum Wage, the revision of Law 7/2008 (regarding maternity and paternity leaves) and Part-time Work (2017).

8. Notwithstanding the above, the MSAR Government acknowledges that there is still room for improvement and will endeavour its best efforts to overcome difficulties that hamper the full implementation of the Convention in the Region.

Articles 1, 2 and 5 (Definition of discrimination against women, duty to eliminate discrimination and elimination of stereotyped roles)

9. In respect of Articles 1, 2 and 5 of the Convention, the information contained in the previous report remains valid.

10. In respect of paragraph 70 of the concluding observations, it should be mentioned that the Ombudsman's mandate of the Commission against Corruption (CCAC) is focused on the promotion and protection of rights and freedoms, the safeguarding of interests of the individuals and the guarantee that the exercise of public powers abides by the criteria of justice, legality and efficiency. Law 4/2012 amended Law 10/2000, on the Legal Framework of the CCAC, increasing the responsiveness of the CCAC and reinforcing the Ombudsman's supervision powers of public acts.

11. The head of the CCAC, the Commissioner, is appointed by the Chief Executive (CE) and is bound by the law to exercise his Ombudsman's functions with full independence. It should be stressed that the CE acts in his capacity as Head of the Region (Articles 45 and 59 of the Basic Law of the MSAR (BL), which is the fundamental law) with no association to his executive powers established in Articles 61 to 66 of the BL.

12. The CCAC's own financial and human resources guarantee the exercise of an independent and autonomous mandate (Article 59 of the BL and Article 37(2) of Law 10/2000).

13. Yet, within its Ombudsman's mandate, the CCAC can initiate enquiries that may result in recommendations aiming at correcting illegal or unfair administrative acts or misconducts that challenge the exercise of human rights. The CCAC is also a member of the International Ombudsman Institute and the Asian Ombudsman Association, maintaining an active communication and cooperation with the Ombudsman of other countries and regions.

14. Raising awareness among the public of the Ombudsman's mandate, by proactively carrying out every year integrity education at different levels, is also a valuable CCAC's function.

15. Between 2010 and 2017, several seminars and symposia were organised with the purpose of enhancing awareness and encouraging the public to report any case under the Ombudsman's scope. Accordingly, an average of over 24,000 persons (per year), including public servants, association members, employers and employees, as well as primary and secondary students, participated in the activities. Additionally, social media and networks, such as TV, radio, outdoor billboard PSA, *We-Chat*, *YouTube*, etc., have been used to directly disseminate information to the public in respect to the Ombudsman's mandate.

16. As regards channels to facilitate the public to lodge complaints, an online complaint platform was launched by the CCAC in 2015. In 2017, it became the major channel for the public to lodge complaints, with 24.2% of the total complaints made through this platform.

17. In respect of women's rights violations, between 2010 and 2017, the CCAC received a total of 34 complaints: 4, 10, 8, 2, 2, 3, 2 and 3 respectively. As regards the violations that originated the complaints: homicide (2), assault against physical integrity (4), threat (10), torture (5), unlawful opening of correspondence or breach of telecommunications privacy (2), unlawful detention (9), discrimination against women (2).

18. Of the 4, 10, 8, 2, 2, 3, 2 and 3 complaints on women's rights violations from 2010 to 2017, 3, 9, 8, 1, 2, 3, 1 and 1 cases were dismissed respectively due to lack of evidence, while 1 case

of 2016 and 2 cases of 2017 are pending. The other 3 cases, of 2010, 2011 and 2013, were referred to other entities. No cases were referred to the Procuratorate as criminal cases.

19. Recognising the need of adjusting the institutional and legal framework to better address specific problems of women and children, in 2016, the *Consultative Commission for Women's Affairs* (CCWA) has given way to the *Commission for Women and Child Affairs* (CWCA) (Administrative Regulation (AR) 27/2016). The newly-established CWCA is a high-level advisory body aimed mainly at defending women's and children's opportunities, rights and dignity, as well as at supporting policy-decision making and measures related to women and children in different areas of governance.

20. The CWCA is headed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture (SSAC) and the Director of the Social Welfare Bureau (SWB) and comprises representatives of relevant public services in the areas of social affairs, justice, labour, public security, health, culture and education, as well as 15 representatives from NGOs and 5 individuals with recognised social merit (Article 4 of AR 27/2016). NGO participation in the CWCA enhances the policy process on the promotion and protection of gender equality and ensures transparency on allocation of resources and quality of services.

21. The CWCA may create internal specialised working groups (Article 11 of AR 27/2016). Two working groups on women's and children's issues are currently under the CWCA: i) "Follow-Up of Macao Women's Developmental Objectives"; ii) "Monitoring of Children's Rights and Interests". With the MSAR's actual situation as the basis, the former working group has "gender equality, comprehensive development" as its general objective and has set goals for the development of women in 8 areas including: i) gender mainstreaming; ii) the participation of women in decision-making; iii) women and training in education; iv) women and health care; v) the safety of women and law; vi) women and social welfare; vii) women and the economy; viii) women, the media and culture. Twenty-one policy objectives are included in the stated objectives, with a total of 79 short-term, mid-term and long-term measures.

22. Further, the CWCA has been raising public awareness on gender equality, women's empowerment, women's legal rights and domestic violence through different channels, including publications and other media. In 2014, it published the "Status of Women in Macao 2012" after assessing the MSAR's ranking relating to gender inequality, with the Gender Gap Index as a tool. With an average of 0.7003 in 2011, the MSAR was at the highest level among 135 countries/regions. Sub-indicators "economic participation and opportunities", "educational opportunities" and "health and survival rate" were those with higher scores. Between July and December 2017, the CWCA conducted its latest survey, with 1,001 women interviewees, which will be taken into account in the upcoming research report "Status of Women in Macao" to be published shortly.

23. The CWCA has also been involved in the promotion of a series of seminars on domestic violence under the name "Zero Domestic Violence" (between 2015 and 2017) and in other related community-based activities conducted by the SWB, such as the event "Women's Carnival" during the International Women's Day, community activities on the promotion of family harmony and prevention of family violence on "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women".

24. In July 2015, the CWCA launched the "Macao Women Database" (**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**), aiming at collecting data, through various departments of the MSAR Government, on violence against women, including on domestic violence, rape and trafficking.

25. In line with paragraph 73 (a) of the Committee's concluding observations, Law 2/2016 on preventing and combating domestic violence was adopted.

26. The Law establishes a new legal and institutional framework to criminalise domestic violence as an autonomous crime. It also adopted specific procedural criminal norms and law enforcement measures, as well as preventive and victim protective measures, comprising all the relevant departments and the civil society.

27. Article 18 (1) of Law 2/2016 provides for the crime of domestic violence. Whoever, in a family relationship or in an equivalent relationship, inflicts on another person any kind of physical, mental or sexual ill-treatment shall be punished with imprisonment from 1 to 5 years.

28. Paragraph 2 of the same Article states that if the ill-treatment was committed in circumstances which reveal the special censurability or perversity of the perpetrator, he/she shall be punished with imprisonment from 2 to 8 years. The circumstances deemed to reveal the special censurability or perversity of the perpetrator shall include, *inter alia*: i) the victim being a minor under the age of 14, an incapacitated or a particularly vulnerable person due to age, pregnancy, illness or physical or mental disability; ii) the act having occurred in the presence of a minor under the age of 14; or iii) the circumstances provided for in subparagraphs b), c), f) and g) of paragraph 2 of Article 129 of the MCC in relation to qualified homicide.

29. If the facts provided for in Article 18 (1) result in a serious offence to physical integrity, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from 2 to 8 years; in the case of the facts provided for in Article 18 (2), the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from 3 to 12 years. In case of death of the victim, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from 5 to 15 years.

30. According to Article 19 of the Law, accessory penalties may also be imposed to prevent the re-occurrence of domestic violence. Thus, whoever is sentenced for the commission of the crime of domestic violence may be subject, individually or cumulatively, for a period of 6 months to 5 years, to accessory penalties, including: i) prohibition of contacting, harassing or following the victim; ii) prohibition of staying in specified areas, particularly those near the domicile of the victim or of his/her cohabiting family members, their workplace or the educational establishment they attend; iii) prohibition of possessing arms, objects or tools capable of being used to facilitate the commission of further crimes of domestic violence; iv) prohibition of exercising certain professions; and v) injunction for participation in a special programme for the prevention of domestic violence or psychological counselling.

31. One of the major achievements as regards this Law is the public nature of the crime of domestic violence, *i.e.* a complaint from the victim is no longer required to initiate criminal proceedings.

32. In respect of paragraph 73 (e) of the Committee's concluding observations, it should be mentioned that pursuant to the Law, besides the coercive measures provided for in the Macao Criminal Procedure Code, urgent coercive measures may be imposed on the defendant, cumulatively or separately, if there are strong *indicia* of the commission of the crime of domestic violence, namely, the removal from his/her domicile, when the defendant cohabits with the victim; the prohibition of staying in specified areas, particularly those near the domicile of the victim or of his/her cohabiting family members, their workplace or the educational establishment they attend; the prohibition of accompanying, lodging or receiving certain persons; the prohibition of possessing arms, objects or tools capable of being used to facilitate the commission of further crimes of domestic violence (Article 25 (1)).

33. The following tables show data on domestic violence cases handled by the police, including the number of perpetrators detained.

Domestic violence cases handled by the police

Type/Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		2017*
							Jan-Sep	Oct-Dec*	
Domestic violence cases (No. of cases)	424	352	341	296	353	273	383	9	10
Spousal abuse (No. of cases)	296	260	258	203	241	207	275	8	8

Domestic violence cases handled by the police

– Female victims	269	243	231	186	229	194	239	8	8
– Male victims	27	17	27	17	12	13	36	0	0
Abuse involving other family members (No. of cases)	128	92	83	93	112	66	108	1	2
Victims	89	68	65	73	90	50	74	0	1
Victims under the age of 18	30	16	11	8	15	8	28	1	1

Source: Office of the Secretary for Security (OSS).

* Since the adoption of the Law on preventing and combating domestic violence.

Cases investigated by the police

Year	No. of cases investigated by the police	No. of perpetrators		No. of perpetrators detained	
		M	F	M	F
2010	424	392	58	5	0
2011	352	330	60	1	1
2012	341	312	81	2	1
2013	296	276	58	4	2
2014	353	328	58	1	0
2015	273	254	39	0	0
2016 (Jan–Sep)	383	334	77	14	2
2016*(Oct–Dec)	9	8	1	8	1
2017*	10	10	0	10	0

Source: OSS.

* Law on preventing and combating domestic violence.

34. According to the data provided by the Procuratorate, in 2016, 15 cases were qualified as domestic violence and 1 case was filed. In 2017, there were 65 cases qualified as domestic violence: 35 cases filed, 14 cases pending and 6 prosecuted; 6 persons were prosecuted in 2017.

35. According to the Office of the President of the Court of Final Appeal (OPCFA), following the adoption of Law 2/2016, 5 cases related to domestic violence reached the courts in 2017. All cases are still waiting for trial, involving 5 female victims (1 victim is under 16).

36. The SWB is the public entity responsible for coordinating preventive actions against domestic violence, for signalling risk situations and for executing the general protection measures provided for in Law 2/2016 (Article 5). Thus, it has set up multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation mechanisms with the Public Police Security Forces (PSPF), Judiciary Police (JP), Health Bureau (HB), Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (EYAB), Labour Affairs Bureau (LAB) and the Housing Bureau (HB), as well as NGOs.

37. Article 16 of Law 2/2016 provides for protection and assistance measures to victims of domestic violence, such as temporary shelter in social services facilities, emergency economic assistance, emergency legal aid, free access to healthcare, assistance in access to education or employment, individual and family counselling, provision of legal information and counselling services and other measures necessary for safeguarding their safety and well-being.

38. New tools for assessing/identifying domestic violence and other family crises were introduced. A Family Crisis Support Service Network was established to assess the crisis risk, physical and mental condition of victims, repeated violence risk, extent and history of abuse

and other potential victims and to adopt appropriate interventions (follow up, crisis management and counselling measures).

39. In response to paragraph 73 (c) of the Committee's concluding observations, it should be pointed out that Article 6 of Law 2/2016 enshrines the duty to report for public entities, as well as private entities which provide medical and nursing services, care services for children, elderly and persons with disabilities, or which are engaged in teaching, social service or counselling activities. Situations of domestic violence of which they suspect or which come to their knowledge must be reported to the SWB.

40. With the adoption of Law 2/2016, the MSAR Government has taken some significant steps in understanding the magnitude and root causes of domestic violence.

41. Taking into consideration the recommendation contained in paragraph 73 (b) of the concluding observations, Article 7 of Law 2/2016 provides that the SWB sets up a centralised registry system to keep an updated record of domestic violence cases or risk situations that come to its knowledge. This centralised registry has the following purposes: i) to collect data to study the phenomenon of domestic violence, including its characteristics and trends; ii) to identify the causes of domestic violence, behaviour patterns and typical social and judicial response and; iii) to develop adequate activities to prevent and combat domestic violence. Relevant data will be collected and analysed to serve as reference to define policies to prevent and combat domestic violence and to adjust resources and plans. Equally, relevant updated information/data, such as the financial situation of families affected by domestic violence and causes of the cases, is released to the public every six months through the Bureau's website and an annual report.

42. The SWB invited experts to address domestic violence, *inter alia* to study the actual situation in the MSAR, envisage measures, improve the functional cooperation mechanisms of different departments, formulate guidelines on procedures and reporting of suspicious cases; and a *Macao Domestic Violence Indicators Study* was commissioned in 2012, to support frontline staff in assessing and identifying domestic violence.

43. Data shows that the average number of domestic violence cases handled by the SWB between 2010 and 2015 was about 71.8 per year without major variations.

44. Between January and September 2016, the SWB handled 109 cases of domestic violence, however, following the adoption of Law 2/2016, there was a significant increase in the number of cases handled. Indeed, between October and December 2016, there were 31 cases of domestic violence handled by the SWB. According to the SWB, the duty to report for public and private entities (Article 6) is likely to have contributed to the increase of cases in 2016 and 2017.

45. According to the SWB in 2017, from the 1,397 cases regarding family dispute/conflict and domestic violence handled in 2017, 96 cases were of domestic violence, involving 71 women, 13 girls and 9 boys. Details are displayed as follows.

*Domestic violence cases handled by the SWB**

Type/ Year	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	No. of cases	No. of victims	No. of cases	No. of victims	No. of cases	No. of victims	No. of cases	No. of victims	No. of cases	No. of victims	No. of cases	No. of victims	No. of cases	No. of victims	No. of cases	No. of victims
Wife abuse	35	35	33	33	24	24	34	34	31	31	46	46	90	90	68	68
Husband abuse	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	10	4	4	7	7	5	5
Child abuse	22	231	17	22	14	17	20	24	8	10	14	16	31	32	20	22

*Domestic violence cases handled by the SWB**

Type/ Year	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	No. of cases	No. of victim s	No. of cases	No. of victim s	No. of cases	No. of victim s	No. of cases	No. of victim s	No. of cases	No. of victim s	No. of cases	No. of victim s	No. of cases	No. of victim s	No. of cases	No. of victim s
Elder abuse	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	5	5	2	2	1	1
Violence from family members	23	25	27	32	18	18	14	14	18	18	11	11	10	11	2	3
Total*	81	84	76	89	58	61	73	77	69	71	80	82	140	142	96	99

Source: SWB.

* Some cases involve more than one type of abuse, so the total number of cases and victims may be less than the sum of the categories of abuse.

46. In respect of paragraph 73 (f) of the concluding observations, currently there are 3 shelters for women victims of violence, including of domestic violence. Between 2011 and 2017, 72, 81, 71, 70, 139, 133 and 177 women benefited from temporary shelter respectively. The shelters and accommodation facilities take into account the needs of the occupants. The facilities are well ventilated, with sufficient sunlight and have enough space for bedrooms (private and shared rooms), bathrooms, kitchens, activity/recreation rooms, counselling rooms, study rooms, etc.

47. There are 9 shelters for minors. Between 2010 and 2017, 3, 1, 5, 4, 3, 3, 7 and 11 girls victims of violence, including of domestic violence, stayed in the shelters, respectively. The shelters accommodate minors according to their age, gender and specific needs. Experienced and caring staff, including caregivers and professional counsellors, provide minors with appropriate services based on their different needs, such as psychological assistance, health care, family contact, education, recreational activities as well as follow-up after being discharged.

48. In November 2015, the SWB established a 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline, in addition to the 3 existing support hotlines of the WGAM and Macao Caritas. The helplines offer 24-hour emergency assistance and continue to streamline different services, such as shelter, child protection and counselling for domestic violence perpetrators.

49. Targeted training courses on domestic violence, covering a wide range of fields, including law, social work and psychology, have been held by the SWB since 2011. The details are shown in the table below.

Year	Training on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control	No. of persons
2011	Legal knowledge workshops 2011 – Domestic violence: sanctions against victims and victims' protection	35
2012	Family case and legal knowledge training series workshop	30
2013	Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Infringement in Children	34
2014	How to make good use of the domestic crisis assessment list and crisis management strategy	225
	Workshops and training courses for victims of sexual violence	

<i>Year</i>	<i>Training on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control</i>	<i>No. of persons</i>
2015	“Domestic violence (male abusers) treatment skills” Zero Domestic Violence	134
2016	Zero Domestic Violence/Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence Explanation Guidelines for Handling Domestic Violence Cases “Domestic violence (male abusers) treatment skills” How to handle cases of male abusers – workshop Abusers treatment – working group	7,394
2017	“Zero Domestic Violence” Seminar Training courses on dealing with cases involving children and mentally disabled individuals as victims Exchanges at Hong Kong Training courses on dealing with cases involving children as victims of sexual assault Training courses on criminal investigation tactics and procedures in suspected child abuse	954
Total		8,806

Source: SWB.

Note: The courses were co-organized by the SWB and the PSPF.

50. Different kinds of training on domestic violence were provided to the PSPF and JP personnel. The details are shown below.

<i>Training on domestic violence targeted for PSPF and JP</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>Name/type</i>	<i>Entity</i>	<i>Trainees</i>	
			<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
2010	Seminar: Assessment tools for risks of spousal abuse	PSPF	5	0
2011	Seminar: Notification and coordination mechanism in response to “Combat against Domestic Violence Act	JP	2	0
2012	Conference: Love your children, zero violence	PSPF	0	4
2013	Meeting: Focus Group of Study on the Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Macao	PSPF	5	1
	Visit: Review Meeting on the Implementation of “Convention on the Rights of the Child”	PSPF	1	0
2014	Course: Domestic Violence	PSPF	20	12
2015	Visit to Hong Kong Family Conflict and Sexual Violence Policy Unit	PSPF	9	1
	Course: Prevention of Domestic violence	JP	5	1
	Lecture: Family Policy Legal Framework	JP	1	1
2016	Lecture: Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence	JP	98	27
	Course: Procedural Guidelines for Handling Domestic Violence Cases	JP	96	31
2017	Course: Handling Cases of Child abuse and Mentally Disabled Persons (Hong Kong)	PSPF JP	21	01
	Visit: Handling Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse of Children (Hong Kong)	PSPF	3	0
	Course: Handling Children in Domestic Violence (Sexual Assault)	JP	8	6
	Seminar: Criminal Investigation Strategies and Procedures on Handling Suspected Child Abuse Cases	PSPF JP	7613	1135
	Lecture: Domestic Violence Crimes Against Sexual Freedom and Sexual Self-determination	PSPF JP	14	10
	Course: Criminal Investigation Strategies and Procedures on Handling Suspected Child Abuse Cases	JP	6	7

Source: OSS (PSPF and JP).

51. To promote the value of the family and the importance to prevent and combat domestic violence and the protection of children, the *Happy Family Serial Activities and Campaign against Domestic Violence* were organised for 6 consecutive years, attracting more than 134,000 participants.

52. According to the data provided by the SWB, between 2010 and 2017, a total of 12,740 public awareness-raising activities, targeting the public, focused on the promotion of the rights of women and girls, were organised by the SWB. Of those, 12,102 activities specifically focused on their rights and interests, in which 3,722,902 persons participated, while 638 activities centered on gender equality discrimination/anti-gender discrimination, with 101,639 participants.

53. As regards violence against women and girls in the form of sexual exploitation, related information/data is given in relation to Article 6 of the Convention.

54. As described in the last report, a special financial compensation may be applied by a victim of a violent crime or by his/her relatives in case of death even if the offender's identity is unknown or if, for any reason, the offender cannot be accused or convicted (Law 6/98/M).

55. According to the Commission for the Protection of Victims of Violent Crimes, in 2010, there were 3 applications, 2 were granted in the amount of MOP\$180,000 and MOP\$50,000, respectively, while 1 was not approved. In 2014, of 3 applications, 2 were granted in the amount of MOP\$80,000 and MOP\$370,000, respectively, while 1 was not approved. In 2016, 1 application was granted in the amount of MOP\$120,000.

56. In relation to HR bodies, it should be noted that, in 2016, a HR inter-departmental working group was created to follow up the implementation of HR treaties and their treaty bodies' recommendations.

57. It is worth mentioning that Law 13/2012 superseded Decree-law 41/94/M, on the legal aid system and partially revoked some provisions of Law 21/88/M, regulating the access to the law and to the courts. This new legal framework regulates the access to legal protection and legal aid. The protection of rights and interests is guaranteed and the right of access to the courts and to the respective judicial remedies may not be denied based on any discriminatory grounds or on the grounds of insufficient economic resources. Under this circumstance, MSAR residents (individuals and non-profit legal persons) as well as non-resident workers, holders of refugee status and holders of special permits, such as foreign students may apply for legal aid.

58. The Law created the Legal Aid Commission, which is the body that assesses and approves applications as well as appoints *pro bono* lawyers (AR 1/2013).

59. According to the data of the Legal Aid Commission, between 1 April 2013 (entry into force of Law 13/2012) and 31 December 2017, there was a total of 2,156 applications, of which 1,016 cases were submitted by female applicants (47.12%). Among the applications received, 259 cases were related to violations of women's rights (247 cases for petitioning for divorce and 12 civil actions court cases). In compliance with the duty to report provided for in Law 2/2016, 6 and 7 cases of domestic violence were reported by the Commission to the SWB, in 2016 and 2017, respectively. In addition, 1 case of domestic violence was granted emergency legal aid in 2017.

60. During the covered period, there were 13 complaints involving violence or other forms of unfair treatment lodged by female prisoners in the Coloane Prison against prison guards. In 2010, there were 2 complaints related to violence against female prisoners while in 2011, there was 1 complaint related to discrimination. There was 1 complaint related to violence in 2012 and of the 4 complaints in 2013, 1 was related to violence, 1 to discrimination, 1 to inappropriate use of the complainant's personal data and 1 to unfair treatment. Of the 3 complaints of 2014, 2 were related to violence and 1 to unfair treatment. There were 1 complaint in 2015 and 1 in 2017, both related to violence.

61. The investigation outcomes of the complaints were as follows: the cases of 2010 and 2011 were dismissed for lack of evidence; the case of 2012 was withdrawn; as regards the 4 cases of 2013, 2 were dismissed for lack of evidence and 2 were unsubstantiated; of the 3 cases of 2014, 2 were dismissed for lack of evidence and 1 was unsubstantiated; the cases of 2015 and 2017 were dismissed for lack of evidence.

62. The table below shows the number of prisoners, including persons on pretrial detention, in the Coloane Prison between 2010 and 2017.

<i>No. of prisoners</i>									
<i>As at 31 December</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
	M/F	929	1,030	1,112	1,154	1,205	1,280	1,271	1,284
	M	788	872	933	959	994	1068	1085	1,105
	F	141	158	179	195	211	212	186	179

Source: OSS.

63. As for the number of persons on pretrial detention in the Coloane Prison during the same period, was as follows: 227, 186, 238, 256, 223, 281, 248 and 262, respectively, of which 35, 32, 33, 45, 35, 38, 24 and 31 were women.

64. The Juvenile Offenders Institute (now the Youth Correctional Institution (YCI)) merged with the Prison Establishment on 1 January 2016. Currently, both constitute part of the Correctional Services Bureau (CSB) (AR 27/2015). Data on juvenile offenders is as follows.

<i>No. of juvenile offenders</i>									
<i>As at 31 December</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
	MF	43	26	20	20	14	17	15	13
	M	36	21	17	16	10	15	14	13
	F	7	5	3	4	4	2	1	0

Source: OSS.

65. According to the information provided by the CSB, between 2010 and 2017, there were no complaints involving violence or other forms of discrimination lodged by female juveniles in the YCI against staffers providing education and supervision.

Article 3 (Measures to uphold women’s equality and advancement)

66. The MSAR Government, through its different entities and/or in partnership with NGOs, continues to carry out public awareness campaigns and educational training programmes on women’s rights, in particular on gender equality and the prevention of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation.

67. During the covered period, the Legal and Judicial Training Centre (LJTC) organised, often in cooperation with other local and foreign entities, courses, seminars and workshops on HR protection, including on women’s rights, for legal professionals. Activities such as a seminar on “Sexual Violence against Children” (2012), lectures on “Human Trafficking” (2012 and 2014), seminars on “Crime of Domestic Violence”, on “Revision of the Criminal Code – Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Self-determination” (2016) and on “Domestic Violence and Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Self-determination” (2017), were offered to 453 participants.

68. Special editions of the “Macau Law Journal”, covering the implementation of the core HR treaties applicable to the MSAR, assembled in a systematic manner, in Chinese, Portuguese and English, with the aim of producing a user-friendly ground-breaking compilation for legal practitioners and the public were published, including one on the Convention. All are accessible

on the Legal Affairs Bureau's website (http://www.dsaj.gov.mo/ContentFrame_en.aspx?ModuleName=Content/en/dadidir/hrreport_en.ascx).

69. Information about the BL, HR conventions and legislation has been disseminated through TV and radio programmes, newspapers, seminars, leaflets, brochures, awareness campaigns, school activities, fairs and government websites (www.gov.mo/en/ and www.macaolaw.gov.mo/cn/index2.asp).

70. Relevant MSAR legislation such as the laws to counter human trafficking and domestic violence have been translated into English and made available online to reach a broader spectrum of the population (http://www.dsaj.gov.mo/ContentFrame_en.aspx?ModuleName=Content/en/dadidir/keyLeg_en.ascx).

71. A Q&A TV programme and a radio programme, addressing legal issues, including discrimination and violence against women, domestic violence or trafficking in persons, were produced by the Legal Affairs Bureau, between 2011 and 2016. From 2014, the TV programmes were also uploaded on the YouTube channel “普法園地” for public perusal.

72. Brochures of the Convention were made freely available at around 30 locations, including government departments, community centres and libraries. Between 2010 and 2017, a total of 4,092 brochures were distributed. During the same period, the Legal Affairs Bureau organised 351 seminars in primary and secondary schools with 16,014 participants, reinforcing gender equality and anti-bias.

73. In cooperation with women's NGOs, the Legal Affairs Bureau organised several legal awareness activities for women, including legal training, local and overseas visits (average of 5 per year). Accordingly, during the covered period, 8 seminars, for 490 women, and 7 legal quiz competitions targeting around 460 women were organised together with the WGAM.

Article 4 (temporary and special measures)

74. As detailed previously, Law 2/2016 expressly provides for a wide range of protection and assistance measures to victims of domestic violence (Article 16).

75. To encourage workers to continue to breastfeed their babies after the maternity leave, the MSAR Government created breastfeeding rooms in public services in 2016. Presently, there are 138 breastfeeding rooms in public services, of which, 114 are in services under the SSAC and 24 are in other services, and 60 in the private sector.

76. Subsidies continue to be available to persons in need and vulnerable families. The annual old-age allowance for senior citizens aged 65 or above (established by AR 12/2005, as amended by AR 17/2006) was subject of an amount update, which set out an allowance of MOP\$8,000 (Order of the CE 209/2016).

77. Progress was attained in the area of persons with disabilities, including women and girls, in particular with the adoption of Law 9/2011 on the Regime of Disability Allowance and Free Health Care Services and AR 3/2011 on the Assessment System of the Type and Degree of Disability, Registration and Issuance of the Disability Card that regulates the types and degrees of disabilities and their corresponding criteria for assessment.

78. Article 2 of AR 3/2011 classifies disability into 6 types and further defines them, namely, visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech impairment, physical disability, intellectual disability and mental disability and disability is classified into 4 degrees according to its degree of severity: mild disability, moderate disability, severe disability and very severe disability. The application for the Disability Assessment Registration Card has to be made by persons with disabilities or their legitimate representatives or other people (under special circumstances) on their behalf.

79. The Disability Assessment Registration Card has a maximum of 5 year validity and it contains the identification of the persons and their types and degrees of disabilities. If the disability is considered irreversible, the period of validity may exceed 5 years. Between 2011 till 2017, there was approximately a total of 18,000 applicants for the disability assessment services. As of 2017, there were 11,845 holders of the Disability Assessment Registration Card (equivalent to 1.8% of the MSAR population), of which 5,743 were women.

80. The Ten-Year Rehabilitation Programme Plan (2016–2025) (Ten-Year Plan) was introduced, covering 13 service areas: disability prevention and diagnosis, medical rehabilitation, pre-school training and nurseries, education, employment and vocational rehabilitation, residential care, community support, social security, the development of self-help organisations for persons with disabilities, accessible construction (passages, facilities and transportation, information and the application of communication technology), recreational and cultural activities and public education.

81. As already mentioned, a proposal to review Law 7/2008, on labour relations in the private sector, was subject to a public consultation, to increase the period of maternity and paternity leaves.

Article 6 (Eradication of trafficking in women and forced prostitution)

82. Following the information provided in the last report, Law 6/2008 establishes a comprehensive and integrated legal, institutional and assistance framework to prevent and combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and support its victims. The Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee continues to be deeply and actively involved in most of the actions undertaken to prevent and suppress TIP, in cooperation with other government departments and NGOs.

83. To enhance public awareness, considerable efforts have been undertaken to disseminate information on combating and reporting TIP in schools and the community through videos, posters, calendars, booklets, newspapers, radio programmes, TV commercials (including at border checkpoints) and seminars.

84. Several seminars on TIP have been organised by the Legal Affairs Bureau. Between 2015 and 2017, 17 seminars were offered to 1,030 secondary students. From 2013 to 2015, 7 seminars for 670 participants were jointly carried out with the LAB. In 2014, 2016 and 2017, 3 seminars, with the Macao Caritas, were offered to 430 non-resident workers. 3 seminars with 350 participants were held in 2014 and 2016 with the Philippine Consulate. In 2017, 1 seminar was carried out for a casino's management team (70 workers).

85. Furthermore, TV and radio commercials on the fight against TIP (in Chinese and Portuguese) were produced. TVs and radio stations (Chinese and Portuguese channels) were broadcasting those commercials from 2010 to 2017.

86. Newspapers columns, TV and radio programmes were uploaded on the website of the Legal Affairs Bureau and the Macao Law Portal. TV commercials, in Cantonese, Putonghua, Portuguese, English, Korean, Thai, Filipino, Indonesian, Burmese, Vietnamese and Mongolia, and TV programmes from 2014 were also uploaded on the mentioned YouTube channel.

87. Between 2010 and 2017, around 129,600 leaflets on TIP in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese, English, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Filipino, Indonesian, Burmese, Vietnamese and Mongolian were available at around 40 public services, as well as were distributed in relevant seminars and mailed to different social services institutions. Equally, around 500 posters on TIP have been posted at the external service points of services such as the PSPF and the LAB, as well as at associations such as the WGAM during the same time.

88. In 2010, the SWB held a seminar on “Experiences and Challenges in Combating Human Trafficking” and an outdoor promotional activity, and in 2012, held a prize quiz game on “How much you know about combating human trafficking” in the newspapers.

89. The MSAR law enforcement agencies (Unitary Police Service (UPS), Customs Services, JP and PSPF) continue to prevent and suppress TIP. Regular raids and targeted operations against TIP for sexual exploitation are carried out in potential black spots, such as saunas, massage establishments, night clubs and illegal guesthouses.

90. In the 33 operations carried out by the PSPF between 2010 and 2017, 281 suspects of prostitution were detected. In the same period, in the 23 large-scale raid inspections were conducted, with 5 nightclubs, 73 massage/spa parlours and 30 sauna parlours being checked.

91. Enhanced preventive measures were adopted, stricter control at the border checkpoints, in particular concerning visitors/non-resident workers from high-risk countries, as well as random checks and questionnaire surveys targeting arriving visitors (females aged between 18 and 35) was imposed by the Migration Services of the PSPF.

92. For young female illegal immigrants and workers engaged in prostitution, the PSPF scrutinizes whether they are TIP victims and/or labour exploitation victims. In the affirmative case, prompt rescue operations and protective measures will be provided in cooperation with relevant government departments.

93. Law enforcement agencies have also tackled exploitation of prostitution by blocking certain mobile apps and prohibiting the distribution of pornographic leaflets. Hence, information on sex services is much less available to tourists and residents.

94. Cooperation with neighbouring jurisdictions has been strengthened; intelligence sharing and collection system(s) has been established and large-scale tripartite anti-crime joint operations have been organised with the Mainland Chinese and Hong Kong police authorities yearly. The Macao Sub-bureau of the National Central Bureau of China of INTERPOL plays a significant role in strengthening communication with countries/regions to counter TIP. Within this context, 2 cooperation agreements in respect of assisting victims to return to their places of origin were signed: the Agreement between the Governments of the MSAR and Mongolia on the Cooperation to Combat TIP (2010) and the Agreement on the Risk Assessment and Escort Service for Victims of TIP between the Hong Kong Office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the SWB (2011).

95. As to factual information, disaggregated data on TIP is shown in the following tables.

TIP cases investigated by police

Year	No. of cases investigated	No. of cases qualified by the Procuratorate as TIP	No. of cases filed	No. of cases pending	No. of cases prosecuted	No. of persons prosecuted	Judgment (No. of persons)		
							Acquittal	Convicted as TIP	Other Convictions
2010	14	17	12	0	5	8	1	3	4
2011	13	11	10	0	1	1	0	0	3
2012	19	14	9	0	5	17	1	7	9
2013	34	31	30	0	1	2	0	0	2
2014	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	5	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
2016	4	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
2017	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Source: OSS.

<i>Cases qualified by the Procuratorate as TIP</i>								
<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>No. of victims</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Age</i>		<i>Nationality</i>		
				<i>≥18</i>	<i><18</i>	<i>Mainland China</i>	<i>Others</i>	
2010	17	31	F	21	10	31	0	
2011	11	11	F	6	5	11	0	
2012	14	25	F	13	12	25	0	
2013	31	34	F	14	20	32	2	
2014	4	4	F	1	3	4	0	
2015	2	2	F	2	0	1	1	
2016	2	2	F	1	1	2	0	
2017	2	2	F	1	1	2	0	

Source: OSS.

96. As regards data on cases that were qualified and tried as TIP (Article 153-A of the MCC), the available information is as follows: in the 4 cases tried in 2010, 1 defendant was accused and convicted of TIP and was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment in 1 case; in another TIP case, 1 defendant was found not guilty; 2 defendants of a TIP case were found guilty of procuring and abetting illegal migration (the crimes were converted) and both were sentenced to 5 years imprisonments; and, in another TIP case, 1 defendant was found guilty of procuring (the crimes were converted) and was sentenced to 1 year and 6 months imprisonment. In 2011, there was 1 case tried in which 3 defendants of 1 case that was merged from another case in 2012 were found not guilty of TIP, however, they were found guilty of other crimes and were sentenced to 2 years to 4 years and 6 months imprisonments. One of them was given 2 year probation. In March 2013, 10 male suspects (7 from Mainland China and 3 from Macao) were accused of TIP for sexual exploitation. Of the 10 suspects, 9 were found guilty: 1st defendant: sentenced to 13 years and 3 months for TIP and procurement; 2nd defendant: 13 years for TIP, procurement, illegal immigration and illegal sheltering; 3rd defendant: 13 years and 1 month for TIP, procurement and false declarations; 4th to 7th defendants: 12 years and 9 months for TIP and procurement; 8th defendant: 5 years for procurement and illegal employment; and 9th defendant: 4 years and 6 months for procurement and illegal employment. There was another case in April 2013, where 2 male suspects from Mainland China were accused and convicted not for TIP but for procurement (imprisonment of 1 year and 6 months and 1 year and 3 months, respectively). Both cases were from 2012. In one TIP case of 2013, the defendant was found guilty of aggravated procuring, criminal syndicate and possession of illegal weapon (the crimes were converted) and was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. In one case of 2014, 1 defendant of a TIP case was found not guilty. In 2016, 1 case of 2010 was tried and 1 defendant was sentenced to a total of 16 years imprisonment for the crime of TIP together with exploitation of prostitution and forgery crimes. In 2017, 1 case of 2010 was tried and 1 defendant was sentenced to a total of 9 years imprisonment for the crime of TIP together with illegal shelter.

97. It should be stressed that prosecuting and sentencing individuals for the crime of TIP is a challenge considering the difficulty to gather strong *indicia* and the difficulty to persuade victims to testify as they are often afraid to collaborate. Most TIP cases are converted during court proceedings (lack of evidence) to crimes of procurement, illegal lodging, assisting illegal immigration or organised crime.

98. Victims of trafficking whose lives are in danger are entitled to receive physical protection (be placed under police protection), as well as to access to an interpreter, legal counselling and aid and compensation.

99. The SWB is the main provider of assistance to TIP victims, such as financial assistance (including living expenses, transportation expenses of the return trip, fees for certificates, etc.), drug treatment services, shelter, medical referral and legal counselling.

100. The SWB's data as regards services provided to TIP victims is displayed in the table below.

<i>Services to TIP victims and potential victims</i>								
<i>Service / Year</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Shelter for adults ⁽¹⁾ (No. of persons)	10	8	14	13	2	2	1	-
Shelter for minors (No. of persons)	1	3	9	19	4	4	3	2
No. of counselling & follow up	122 ⁽²⁾	62	119	133	55	20	12	5
No. of medical and health care referrals	16	10	25	49	8	7	4	2
No. of skills trainings	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Repatriation Service IOM (No. of persons)	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-

Source: SWB.

Note: ⁽¹⁾ From 2010 to 2012, this shelter for adults also received minor victims between 16 and 17 years old. From 2010 to 2013, some victims did not stay in the shelter; ⁽²⁾ Of the 122 counselling sessions in 2010, 108 were provided by social workers and 14 were clinical counselling.

101. Details of victims receiving assistance from the SWB are shown in the following table.

<i>Assistance to victims and potential victims</i>						
<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of victims</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Age</i>		<i>Country of origin</i>	
			<i>≥18 Year</i>	<i><18 Year</i>	<i>Mainland China</i>	<i>Others</i>
2010	13	F	6	7	13	-
2011	13	F	7	6	12	1
2012	29	F	17	12	29	-
2013	33	F	13	20	31	2
2014	6	F	2	4	5	1
2015	6	F	2	4	5	1
2016	4	F	1	3	4	-
2017	2	F	-	2	2	-

Source: SWB.

Note: From 2010 to 2013, some of the victims did not stay in temporary shelters; however, they had received financial assistance or other services.

102. HR and TIP were among the subjects addressed in the training courses for law enforcement authorities/agencies, including training for prison guards and customs officers, held between 2011 and 2017.

103. Between 2010 and 2017, a total of 294 PSPF officers (49 female and 245 male trainees) participated in training activities on preventing and combating TIP and protecting victims, such as visits to other countries and regions and seminars/workshops. In the same period, 15 training activities, including lectures, meetings, conferences on strategies and tools to combat TIP with around 593 trainees/participants from the JP, were held.

104. From 2010 to 2017, training activities in relation to identification of TIP victims and respective assistance were conducted by the IOM to public departments and NGO personnel.

105. In reply to the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 73 (d), the adoption of Law 8/2017, which amended the MCC as regards crimes against sexual freedom and against sexual

self-determination, broadening the scope of these crimes should be underlined. The protection of physical and psychological integrity of persons, particularly minors, was thus reinforced.

106. Law 8/2017 amends Articles 157 (Rape), 158 (Sexual coercion), 159 (Sexual abuse of a person incapable to resist), 161 (Sexual fraud), 166 (Sexual abuse of children), 167 (Sexual abuse of pupils and dependents), 168 (Statutory rape), 169 (Sexual act with minors), 171 (Aggravation), 172 (Complaints) and 173 (Inhibition of parental powers) of the MCC. The main changes relate to the withdrawal of the reference to the gender of the offenders in the criminal provisions; to the express reference to anal intercourse and oral sex; to the inclusion of compelling the victim to endure or to perform a relevant sexual act upon himself/herself; to the inclusion of the introduction of any parts of the body or objects into the vagina or anus.

107. Additionally, Articles 158 and 159 have been qualified as public nature crimes. For the crimes against sexual freedom and against sexual self-determination that are of semi-public nature, the Procuratorate may initiate *ex officio* criminal proceedings against the offender when the victim is a minor under the age of 16 (Article 172).

108. Three conducts were autonomously typified with Law 8/2017, giving rise to 3 new criminal provisions of the MCC - Articles 164-A (Sexual harassment), 169-A (Recourse to the procurement of a minor) and 170-A (Pornography of minor).

109. Amended paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 166 broaden the scope of the conduct to whoever performs a relevant sexual act with or upon a minor under the age of 14, or induces the minor to perform such act with him/her, a third person or upon the minor himself/herself (previously, it only covered whoever performs a relevant sexual act with a minor under the age of 14, or entices him to perform such act with another person). Likewise, paragraph 3 was broadened to include whoever practises vaginal or anal intercourse or oral sex with a minor under the age of 14, or induces the minor to perform such act with him/her or with a third person, or subjects the minor to the introduction of any parts of the body or objects into the vagina or anus. Penalties shall be imprisonment from 3 to 10 years.

110. Article 170-A of the MCC provides for the crime of pornography of minor. Under paragraph 1, regardless of the age of the minor, whoever: a) uses a minor in a pornographic performance or induces him/her for that purpose; b) uses a minor in a pornographic photo, film or recording, regardless of its medium, or induces him/her for that purpose; c) produces, distributes, sells, imports, exports or disseminates in any name or by any means or acquires or detains for those purposes the above materials, shall be punished with imprisonment from 1 to 5 years. Under paragraph 2, whoever transmits, exhibits or provides in any name or by any means, or acquires or detains for those purposes the above materials, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to 3 years. Paragraph 3 of Article 170-A envisages that whoever performs the acts described in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 as a means of living or for profit shall be punished with imprisonment from 2 to 8 years and 1 to 5 years, respectively.

111. Article 170 of the MCC (Procurement of a minor) was reinforced with Article 169-A which establishes that whoever performs a relevant sexual act with a minor between the age of 14 and 18, by providing or promising to provide remuneration or any other form of return by himself/herself or by a third person to the minor or to a third person, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to 3 years. If, by the means provided for in the previous paragraph, the relevant sexual act consists of vaginal or anal intercourse or oral sex, or of the introduction of any parts of the body or objects into the vagina or anus, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of up to 4 years.

112. Apart from other aggravated circumstances provided for in Article 171 of the MCC, in any of the given situations (Articles 166(4), 169-A, 170 and 170-A), penalties shall increase by one third in its minimum and maximum limits if the victim is an ascendant, descendent, adopter or adoptee or a relative or has kinship with the offender up to the second degree, or if the victim is under his guardianship or curatorship (Article 171(1)).

113. Additionally, according to Article 173 (Inhibition of parental powers), whoever is convicted of the crime provided for in Articles 157 to 170-A may, considering the concrete seriousness of the fact and its connection with the function performed by the perpetrator, be inhibited from the exercise of parental power, guardianship, or curatorship for a period of 2 to 5 years.

114. With the adoption of Law 8/2017, the crime of “Pornography of minor” was equally added to Law 6/97/M, against organised crime, where secret associations or societies are now punished for exploitation of prostitution, procurement and pornography of a minor.

115. It is worth mentioning that regarding the recommendation in paragraph 73 (b) of the Committee’s concluding observations, the MSAR Government has been improving the system of data collection as regards crimes against sexual freedom and against sexual self-determination.

116. The table below shows data on the crime of rape (Article 157 of the MCC).

Cases of the crime of rape registered by the police

<i>Cases / victims</i>		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of cases		19	21	27	24	33	30	29	35
No. of victims	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	19	23	27	24	35	30	29	35
Age ≤15	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	1
Age ≥16 < 18	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	1	3	1	1	0	0	5	0
Age 18-24	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	6	6	7	10	12	10	6	7
Age ≥25	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	12	13	17	11	21	18	17	27

Source: OSS.

117. According to the OPCFA, between 2010 and 2017, there were 45 cases of rape (Article 157 of the MCC) reaching the courts (4, 6, 5, 5, 5, 6, 9 and 5 respectively) which involved 49 female victims of which 10 were minors. During the same covered period, there were 31 cases of rape tried that resulted in 23 convictions and 19 acquittals. As regards compensation to victims of rape, an amount of MOP\$1,200,000, MOP\$100,000, MOP\$205,088, MOP\$120,000, MOP\$50,000 and 500,000, related with cases that reached the Court between 2012 and 2017, respectively, have been granted to victims.

118. Available data regarding the crime of sexual abuse of children (Article 166 of the MCC) is as follows.

Cases of sexual abuse of children registered by the police

<i>Cases / Victims</i>		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of cases		15	8	9	5	7	5	8	11
No. of victims	M	1	0	1	0	2	6	7	3
Age <14	F	14	9	8	5	31	4	2	9

Source: OSS.

119. The table below displays data related to the crimes of statutory rape and sexual act with minors (Articles 168 and 169 of the MCC).

Cases of statutory rape and sexual act with minors registered by the police

<i>Cases / Victims</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
No. of cases	8	10	11	12	6	5	8	7
No. of victims M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age ≥14<16 F	8	10	11	12	6	5	8	7

Source: OSS.

120. According to the OPCFA, between 2010 and 2017, there were 14 cases regarding the crime of statutory rape (Article 168 of the MCC) reaching the courts (the 14 victims were girls). During the same covered period, there were 12 cases of rape of minor tried that led to 5 convictions. In one of the cases, tried in 2017, there was 1 defendant convicted and a compensation of MOP\$50,000 granted to the victim.

121. As regards crimes of procurement and procurement of minor (Articles 163 and 170 of the MCC), please refer to the following table.

Cases of procurement/procurement of minor registered by the police

<i>Cases / Victims</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
No. of cases	40	36	39	62	45	36	34	22
No. of victims M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	104	161	149	220	138	254	38	44
Age <15 M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
Age ≥16 <18 M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	9	1	5	1	2	5	0	1
Age 18-24 M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	73	79	71	103	63	101	10	10
Age ≥25 M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	20	80	73	116	70	148	28	33

Source: OSS.

122. According to the OPCFA, between 2010 and 2017, there were 7 cases regarding the crime of procurement, involving 18 female victims. Seven cases were tried during that period, resulting in 14 convictions and 5 acquittals.

123. As regards cases of procurement of minor between 2010 and 2017, the Procuratorate filed 1 case in 2010, while in 2015, it qualified 1 case that was prosecuted. In 2016, there was 1 case in which 2 persons were prosecuted. During the same period, according to OPCFA's data on the crime of procurement of minor, there were 3 cases that reached the courts, involving 3 female victims, and there were 2 cases tried, 1 case in 2012 that led to 1 acquittal and 1 case, in 2016, which led to 1 conviction.

124. The table below shows data regarding the crime of sexual coercion (Article 158 of the MCC).

<i>Cases and victims of sexual coercion registered by the police</i>									
<i>Cases / Victims</i>		<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
No. of cases		2	7	2	10	9	17	8	12
No. of victims	M	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0
	F	2	7	2	8	11	12	8	12
Age ≤15	M	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
Age ≥16 <18	M	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Age 18-24	M	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	F	0	4	0	2	4	5	3	4
Age ≥25	M	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	F	2	3	2	6	3	5	4	6

Source: OSS.

125. During the covered period, 28 cases regarding the crime of sexual coercion reached the courts, involving 28 female victims, according to the data provided by the OPCFA. In the same period, there were 25 cases of sexual coercion tried that led to 11 convictions and 10 acquittals. In 3 of the cases, there was a compensation of MOP\$30,000 regarding 1 case tried in 2013 and a compensation of MOP\$40,000 related to 1 of the 4 cases tried in 2016.

126. As for the crime of sexual harassment (Article 164-A of the MCC), available data is displayed in the following table.

<i>Cases of sexual harassment registered by the police</i>										
<i>Cases / Victims</i>		<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017*</i>	<i>2017*</i>
									<i>(Jan – Aug 25)</i>	<i>(Aug 26 – Dec 31)</i>
No. of cases		24	28	29	28	45	36	30	20	22
No. of victims	M	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	F	25	31	30	29	46	41	34	19	21
	M/F	25	36	31	30	46	41	34	20	22
Age ≤15	M	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	F	3	7	1	1	4	8	1	1	1
	M/F	3	12	1	1	4	8	1	1	2
Age ≥16 <18	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	2	3	3	1	1	3	1	0	0
	M/F	2	3	3	1	1	3	1	0	0
Age 18-24	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	8	13	10	7	15	14	6	5	8
	M/F	8	13	10	7	15	14	6	5	8

Cases of sexual harassment registered by the police

<i>Cases / Victims</i>		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2017*
		(Jan – Aug 25)		(Aug 26 – Dec 31)						
Age ≥25	M	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
	F	12	8	16	20	26	17	26	13	12
	M/F	12	8	17	21	26	17	26	14	12

Source: OSS.

* According to Article 175 of the MCC, before 25 August, 2017, these crimes were of indecent assault in crimes of insulting. The amendment to Article 164-A of the MCC in accordance with Law 8/2017 was a crime of sexual harassment since 26 August, 2017.

127. According to the data provided by the OPCFA, there was only 1 case of sexual harassment reaching the court in 2017, which is still pending trial.

128. Relevant data on cases of crimes against sexual freedom and sexual self-determination (Articles 157 to 170 of the MCC) is as follows.

Cases of crimes against sexual freedom and sexual self-determination

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of cases*</i>	<i>Number of victims</i>	<i>Gender</i>		<i>Age</i>	
			<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>≥18</i>	<i>< 18</i>
2010	91	155	3	152	119	36
2011	91	216	1	215	190	26
2012	94	201	1	200	173	28
2013	116	274	2	272	252	22
2014	101	193	2	191	174	19
2015	97	322	11	311	297	25
2016	97	104	2	102	76	28
2017	111	140	6	134	115	25

Source: OSS.

* Number of cases investigated by the police.

Article 7 (Participation of women in public and political life)

129. As described in the previous report, women have the same civil and political rights and duties as men, in particular, the rights to vote and to be elected, to hold any public office and to perform any function at any level.

130. As of December 2017, of a total of 309,518 registered electors, 161,456 were women, which corresponded to 52.2% of all registered electors. Since the last report, there was a significant increase in the number of registered female electors, as illustrated in the table below.

Registered electors by gender

<i>Gender/ Year</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	122,108	122,428	133,577	135,790	136,181	137,499	147,170	148,062
Female	128,347	129,114	143,576	145,410	146,407	148,500	159,850	161,456
Total	250,455	251,542	277,153	281,200	282,588	285,999	307,020	309,518

Source: Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (PACSB).

131. As stated, access to and participation in public life by women, including the access to and the exercise of public office and positions within the MSAR political system and public administration, are guaranteed.

132. The table below shows a trend over the years regarding the number of men and women working in the MSAR public administration. It can be observed that between 2010 and 2017, the number of women increased.

Gender	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	14,692	15,248	15,624	15,990	16,536	17,041	17,507	17,719
%	59.0%	58.7%	58.0%	58.2%	57.6%	56.8%	56.8%	56.5%
Female	10,203	10,746	11,319	11,507	12,165	12,935	13,324	13,635
%	41.0%	41.3%	42.0%	41.8%	42.4%	43.2%	43.2%	43.5%
Total	24,895	25,994	26,943	27,497	28,701	29,976	30,831	31,354

Source: PACSB.

133. As of December 2017, the percentage of women working in the MSAR public administration was the following: 43.3% in the Government, 57.5% in the Legislative Assembly and 48.2% in the Judiciary.

MSAR civil servants by professional group and gender

Professional Group	Government					Legislative Assembly					Judiciary				
	M	M%	F	F%	MF	M	M%	F	F%	MF	M	M%	F	F%	MF
Directors and Head Officers	436	58.0%	316	42.0%	752	2	33.3%	4	66.7%	6	28	53.8%	24	46.2%	52
Magistrates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	50.6%	44	49.4%	89
Senior technicians	3,377	42.0%	4,671	58.0%	8,048	23	41.1%	33	58.9%	56	58	41.1%	83	58.9%	141
Teachers	150	24.4%	466	75.6%	616	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judicial clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	143	52.6%	129	47.4%	272
Clerical staff	3,713	46.5%	4,266	53.5%	79,79	9	40.9%	13	59.1%	22	35	27.8%	91	72.2%	126
Security	6,747	82.2%	1,461	17.8%	8,208	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Manual worker	2,701	59.0%	1,879	41.0%	4,580	10	50.0%	10	50.0%	20	126	79.2%	33	20.8%	159
Others	114	50.9%	110	49.1%	224	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2
Total	17,238	56.7%	13,169	43.3%	30,407	45	42.5%	61	57.5%	106	436	51.8%	405	48.2%	841

Source: PACSB.

134. As data illustrates, women accounted 42% of all the high-ranking or leading positions in the Public Administration as of December 2017. It should be highlighted that the second most important member of the MSAR Government, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, and one of the deputies of the Commissioner against Corruption are women.

135. More specifically, the percentage of women in the professional group of directors and head officers was 42.5%; however, still in this group, the percentage of female civil servants in the Legislative Assembly was 66.7%. As regards the Judiciary, the percentage of female in the professional group of senior technicians was 58.9% while the percentage of female judges was 49.4%. In the professional group of clerical staff in the Government, Legislative Assembly and

Judiciary, the percentage of women was higher, corresponding to 53.5%, 59.1% and 72.2%, respectively. In the group of teachers, the percentage of women was definitely higher, corresponding to 75.6%.

136. As for the Legislative Assembly, data is as follows: 4 women, of the 29 members (2010 - Oct 2013), 7 women, of 33 members (Nov 2013 - Oct 2017), and 6 women, of the 33 members since November 2017.

137. As of December 2017, there were 92 magistrates (judges and procurators), of which 23 judges and 21 procurators were female. The tables below show a significant increase in the number of female magistrates during the covered time.

<i>No. of judges</i>								
<i>Gender</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Male	22	23	22	25	24	24	22	25
Female	16	17	18	21	21	21	21	23
Total	38	40	40	46	45	45	43	48

Source: OPCFA.

<i>No. of procurators</i>								
<i>Gender</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Male	18	20	20	23	24	22	22	23
Female	12	15	14	17	17	17	17	21
Total	30	35	34	40	41	39	39	44

Source: Procuratorate.

138. As happened in the 1st and 2nd training courses (2002-2009), figures show that in the 3rd, 4th and 5th training courses for the magistrates, held between 2009 and 2017, the number of female trainee magistrates, and consequently the number of magistrates appointed, has been higher than that of male as shown in the table below.

<i>Training courses for the judicial and Procuratorate magistracies</i>								
<i>Dates on which the courses were held</i>	<i>No. of trainees</i>			<i>No. of magistrates appointed</i>				<i>J/PP</i>
				<i>Judges (J)</i>		<i>Public Prosecutors (PP)</i>		
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
Course III 29/6/2009 ~ 28/6/2011	4	5	9	2	2	2	3	9
Course IV 18/7/2011 ~ 17/7/2013	6	6	12	3	3	3	3	12
Course V 7/9/2015 ~ 6/9/2017	6	8	14	4	4	1	4	13*

Source: LJTC.

* 1 trainee was not appointed.

139. Data related to the number of women in the advocacy is provided in relation to Article 11 of the Convention.

Article 8 (Participation of women in international affairs)

140. In respect of the participation of women in international affairs, the information provided in the previous report remains valid.

Article 9 (Equality of rights to nationality)

141. The information provided in relation to this subject matter in the previous reports remains unchanged.

Article 10 (Equality of rights between men and women in education)

142. A new law for tertiary education has been adopted – Law 10/2017 – which complements the overall legal framework on education with Law 9/2006 that sets up the non-tertiary education system legal framework, imposing as general principles of the education system the right to education without discrimination and the obligation of the Government to develop appropriate mechanisms to promote effective equal opportunities in education.

143. A Ten-Year Non-Tertiary Education Development Plan (2011-2020) has been implemented aiming at improving the quality of education in a comprehensive, and inclusive manner covering from kindergarten to secondary education, from special education and recurrent education to professional education adjusted to the new demands of the contemporary world, focusing on the healthy development of the student at physical, psychological and social levels.

144. At the time of the By Census 2016, the literacy rate of the population aged 15 or above was 96.5%. By gender, male literacy rate (98.2%) was higher than that of females (95%). However, growth in female literacy rate exceeded that of male compared to five years ago, with the gap narrowing from 4.1 % to 3.2 %.

145. From the academic years 2009/2010 to 2017/2018, the net enrolment rate of female students in pre-primary, primary and secondary education was generally higher than that of male students, as shown in the following table.

<i>Net Enrolment Rate</i>									
<i>Rate</i>	<i>Gender</i>	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Pre-Primary Education	M	87.5	87.4	90.5	93.3	97.8	99.4	94.4	89.4
	F	91.7	90.0	89.6	95.6	100.0	100.0	96.8	92.3
Primary Education	MF	89.5	88.7	90.1	94.4	98.9	100.0	95.5	90.8
	M	88.2	90.1	88.3	89.6	91.8	91.9	94.9	98.0
	F	89.8	92.2	91.4	92.6	96.1	97.3	98.3	100.0
Secondary Education	MF	89.0	91.1	89.8	91.1	93.8	94.5	96.5	100.0
	M	72.9	75.2	78.2	79.3	81.5	80.2	78.4	79.7
	F	75.9	78.4	81.0	81.6	84.7	86.1	87.1	84.9
	MF	74.4	76.7	79.6	80.4	83.0	83.0	82.5	82.2

Source: EYAB.

146. The following table displays the drop-out rate of male and female students of formal education, from the academic years 2009/2010 to 2017/2018. As shown, the female drop-out rate was generally lower than that of male students.

<i>Drop-out</i>									
<i>Rate</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>2009/2010</i>	<i>2010/2011</i>	<i>2011/2012</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>	<i>2014/2015</i>	<i>2015/2016</i>	<i>2016/2017</i>
Pre-Primary Education	M	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.1
	F	2.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.0
	MF	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.0
Primary Education	M	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3
	F	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	0.8
	MF	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1
Secondary Education	M	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.1	4.7	4.2	3.7	3.8
	F	4.7	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.3
	MF	5.2	4.4	4.3	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.2	3.1

Source: EYAB.

147. Tuition subsidies, meal and school supplies allowances continue to be granted by the MSAR Government to students with financial difficulties. The number of male and female students that were granted allowances, as well as the amount paid, from academic years 2010/2011 to 2017/2018 are as follows: 340 males and 347 females were granted tuition subsidies, totalling MOP\$1,443,100 and MOP\$1,421,330, respectively; 12,992 males and 13,495 females were granted school supplies allowances, totalling MOP\$27,564,000 and MOP\$28,844,600, respectively; and, 11,849 males and 12,459 females were granted meal allowances, totalling MOP\$31,816,000 and MOP\$33,040,600, respectively.

148. Equally, “free education subsidies” were granted by the MSAR Government to private schools that are within the “free education network”, in order to exempt students from paying tuition fees, as well as other related fees, including registration, enrollment and certification. From the academic years 2010/2011 to 2017/2018, 246,340 males and 220,918 females were granted free education subsidies, totalling MOP\$13,448,615,689.

149. Yet, in order to lower the financial burden of families of students in the “non-free education system”, between the academic years 2010/2011 to 2017/2018, tuition subsidies were granted to 41,087 male and 45,407 female students, totalling MOP\$665,531,870 and MOP\$739,337,305, respectively.

150. The following table shows, over the same period, the number of male and female students receiving formal education that were granted textbook/stationery allowances.

<i>Academic year</i>	<i>Female</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No. of students</i>	<i>Amount (MOP)</i>	<i>No. of students</i>	<i>Amount (MOP)</i>	<i>No. of students</i>	<i>Amount (MOP)</i>
2010/2011	34,854	52,281,000	37,681	56,521,500	72,535	108,802,500
2011/2012	34,021	56,697,300	36,922	61,544,200	70,943	118,241,500
2012/2013	33,384	60,993,200	36,293	66,337,900	69,677	127,331,100
2013/2014	32,903	76,416,400	35,839	83,246,400	68,742	159,662,800
2014/2015	33,502	83,480,400	36,417	90,785,200	69,919	174,265,600
2015/2016	34,770	91,216,600	37,744	98,962,600	72,514	190,179,200
2016/2017	35,480	92,539,600	38,452	100,177,200	73,932	192,716,800
2017/2018	36,194	93,912,400	39,302	101,901,200	75,496	195,813,600

Source: EYAB.

Note: Data of 2017/2018 updated till 31st December 2017.

151. The MSAR Government has been financially supporting the “*Continuous Education Plan*”. For this purpose, during the covered period, 3 subsidy plans were implemented: 62,300 males and 83,081 females receiving MOP\$523,133,563 (2011–2013), 69,515 males and 98,287 females receiving MOP\$747,390,618 (2014–2016) and 36,103 males and 60,816 females receiving MOP\$368,773,723 (2017–2019).

152. Also, to effectively support recurrent education, it has been providing subsidies. Between the academic years 2010/2011 to 2017/2018, subsidies to recurrent education amounted MOP\$308,030,000 (12,278 male and 8,352 female students were granted allowances).

153. The table below shows data on recurrent education.

<i>Academic Year</i>		<i>Gender</i>	<i>2010/2011</i>	<i>2011/2012</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>	<i>2014/2015</i>	<i>2015/2016</i>	<i>2016/2017</i>	<i>2017/2018</i>
Primary Education	M		151	142	127	68	80	57	47	37
	F		76	74	61	53	48	30	36	33
	MF		227	216	188	121	128	87	83	70
Secondary Education	M		1,742	1,498	1,325	1,196	1,107	1,099	932	998
	F		1,192	992	899	808	770	751	781	625
	MF		2,934	2,490	2,224	2,004	1,877	1,850	1,713	1,623

Source: EYAB.

154. Furthermore, the MSAR Government also provides the necessary conditions and resources in order to ensure access to education by women or girls that are temporarily or permanently prevented from their right to education namely due to pregnancy, maternity, illness, disability or being in prison or in other institutions.

155. Thus, the EYAB assigns teachers to the prison to provide relevant education to prisoners interested in enrolling in recurrent education. Between the academic years 2011/2012 and 2017/2018, the number of female prisoners attending primary recurrent education was 26, 28, 16, 26, 24, 25, and 24, respectively.

156. About measures aimed at promoting the principle of gender equality in schools, the MSAR Government, through the EYAB, provides guidelines to strengthen moral and cultural development. Further, guidelines for protecting students from sexual violence were also drawn up (e.g. awareness-raising work through school-based counsellors to enhance students’ knowledge on preventing sexual violence, on seeking help, on reporting and handling related cases, etc.).

157. Data on tertiary education is provided below.

<i>Academic Year (No. / %)</i>		<i>Gender</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>2009/2010</i>	<i>2010/2011</i>	<i>2011/2012</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>	<i>2014/2015</i>	<i>2015/2016</i>	<i>2016/2017</i>	<i>2017/2018</i>
Tertiary Education	M	No.		7,371	7,575	7,116	7,281	7,647	8,021	8,384	8,604	8,598
		%		31.37	33.97	30.41	32.65	35.90	38.94	41.50	42.81	42.35
	F	No.		9,911	10,361	10,086	10,441	11,077	11,461	11,816	11,905	12,111
		%		43.28	49.10	41.17	46.20	52.00	57.88	59.68	58.94	58.51
	MF	No.		17,282	17,936	17,202	17,722	18,724	19,482	20,200	20,509	20,709
		%		37.09	41.23	35.91	39.47	43.95	48.22	50.50	50.89	50.51

Source: Tertiary Education Services Office.

158. The EYAB continues to carry out the Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme, comprising student loans, scholarships, accommodation subsidies, travelling subsidies, etc. through the Student Welfare Fund, to support students from families with economic difficulties and encourage outstanding students to continue tertiary education.

159. Between the academic years 2010/2011 and 2016/2017, 19,664 males and 27,942 females were granted allowances, totalling MOP\$719,485,215 and MOP\$1,031,207,355, respectively. More specifically, over the same period, under the Interest Subsidy Loan Scheme, 3,881 male and 3,911 female students were granted allowances to support their bank loans, totalling MOP\$14,699,350 and MOP\$15,230,526, respectively, while, under the Subsidy Scheme for Outstanding Students to Study Education Programmes purport to increase the number of MSAR's teachers, 164 male and 799 female students were granted allowances totalling MOP\$11,580,000 and MOP\$56,835,500, respectively.

160. According to the data provided by the Tertiary Education Services Office, allowances and scholarships were granted to students by numerous MSAR tertiary institutions, between academic years 2009/2010 and 2017/2018. Of the 12,115 students who were granted allowances and scholarships, 5,060 were males and 7,055 were females.

161. According to the same source, the number of teaching staff (male and female) in tertiary education institutions, between the academic years 2009/2010 and 2017/2018, was 2,052, 1,840, 1,840, 1,916, 1,941, 1,993, 2,015, 2,265 and 2,303, respectively, of which 649, 638, 662, 720, 717, 734, 744, 820 and 861 were females.

162. In 2015, the Tertiary Institution Gender Equality Promotion Board was established, comprising 10 tertiary education institutions, aiming at improving the campus mechanisms/policies on gender equality and on the prevention of sexual harassment. The Policy Framework of the Macao Tertiary Education Institutions for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (2015) and the Procedural Framework of the Macao Tertiary Education Institutions for the Handling of Sexual Harassment Incidents (2016) were drawn up.

163. Distinguished foreign experts/professors introduced the concept of sexual harassment and mechanisms to prevent and to handle it, as well as the ways to promote gender equality and to prevent sexual discrimination in the context of tertiary education to the Board members and staff from tertiary education institutions in 2 seminars: "Combating Sexual Harassment: Concept, Policies and Practices" (2015) and "International Training Workshop On Promoting Gender Equality and Combating Sexual Harassment" (2016). In 2017, the Board members participated in a meeting with the Gender Research Centre of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies and Committee against Sexual Harassment, held in the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

164. Between 2010 and 2017, several activities/workshops promoting gender equality and anti-discrimination were organised by the University of Macau. Among them, it is worth mentioning the "Sex Education Workshop", which takes place 4 times per year, with around 30 participants each time (2010 to 2018), "Say "No" to Sexual Harassment", with around 30 participants (2015), "First Step to UM", with around 1,600 participants each time (2015, 2016 and 2017), "Feminism", with around 950 participants, staff and students (2016) and "Introduction to Campus Life", with around 800 participants each time (2016 and 2017).

165. Still, according to the data provided by the University of Macau, activities/workshops were organised for its staff and students, as part of education promoting gender equality and anti-discrimination. In 2015, "How to Handle and Investigate Sexual Harassment Complaints" and "Campus Sexual Harassment Investigation Training" were organized with 24 and 27 participants, respectively. From 2015 to 2017, "Welcome Reception and Orientation for New Academic Staff" was held with 305 participants.

166. It is worth mentioning that several tertiary education institutions have taken measures to actively promote gender equality and to prevent and combat sexual violence in the respective

university campus. For instance, in 2015, the University of Macau established the “Committee on Gender Equity” to provide support and counselling, as well as training of staff and students relating to gender equality; the Institute for Tourism has also adopted some measures such as lactation rooms; procedures to handle possible complaints on gender inequality and sexual violence; and "Gender equality" video production competition. In 2015, the University of Saint Joseph also introduced an Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy which states that gender based discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and stalking, are strictly prohibited.

167. As to the dissemination of the principles and rights enshrined in the Convention, youth centres under the EYAB organise activities regularly, such as programmes, courses, workshops and seminars, on equal opportunities, sexual education and prevention of violence, targeted at educators, school counsellors, school medical staff, students and parents.

Article 11 (Equality of rights between men and women in work)

168. The legal framework related to labour relations remains basically unchanged (Law 7/2008, on Labour Relations (as amended by Law 2/2015), Law 21/2009, on the Employment of Non-resident Workers (as amended by Law 4/2010 and Law 4/2013), Law 4/98/M, the Framework Law on Employment Policy and Worker’s Rights and Decree-law 52/95/M on Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment).

169. Positive changes should be underpinned, such as the improvement of the legal system for compensation of damages arising from work accidents and occupational diseases (Decree-law 40/95/M as amended by Law 6/2015) and a Labour Creditor’s Rights Protection System (Law 10/2015), available to all workers without any type of discrimination.

170. Revision of Decree-law 32/94/M that establishes the licensing regime of employment agencies is currently undergoing and a proposal for revision of Law 7/2008, in respect of maternity and paternity leaves, has already been mentioned in relation to Article 4 of the Convention.

171. In December 2017, women accounted for 50.2% of the total labour force.

Employment, unemployment and underemployment rates

Rate (%) / Gender / Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Employment	7.2	72.5	72.4	72.7	73.8	73.7	72.3	70.8
Male	7.8	78.1	78.6	78.4	79.9	79.6	77.8	76
Female	66.6	67.5	66.8	67.5	68.1	68.0	67.2	66.3
Unemployment	2.8	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	2
Male	3.5	3.0	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.4
Female	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.6
Underemployment	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Male	2.8	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.8
Female	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1

Source: Statistic and Census Bureau (SCB).

172. In respect of gender discrimination at work, from 2010 to 2017, the LAB received one complaint (2010) that was found unsubstantiated.

173. As previously mentioned, labour laws expressly determine the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value (Article 9 of Decree-Law 52/95/M, Article 6 of Law

7/2008 and Article 10 (3) of Law 14/2009, respectively). However, as data shows, in practice, there are still gaps between male and female earnings in the private sector.

174. The table below shows that the wage gap between men and women dropped from MOP\$2,500, in 2010, to MOP\$1,300, in 2017, demonstrating that there is no widening on the persistent wage gap between men and women but a gradually narrowing trend instead.

<i>Median monthly employment earnings by gender</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>Median monthly employment earnings</i>			<i>Wage gap (MOP\$) *</i>
	<i>Global</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
2010	9,000	10,000	7,500	(2,500)
2011	10,000	11,000	8,500	(2,500)
2012	11,300	12,000	10,000	(2,000)
2013	12,000	13,000	11,000	(2,000)
2014	13,300	15,000	12,000	(3,000)
2015	15,000	15,000	14,000	(1,000)
2016	15,000	15,700	14,000	(1,700)
2017	15,000	16,300	15,000	(1,300)

Source: SCB.

Note: The figures are calculated by the LAB on data extracted from the employment surveys of the SCB.

175. Specifically, in the gaming sector, it is worthwhile to note that the average earning gap between male and female workers has oscillated, as shown in the table below. In 2010 and from 2012 to 2015 the gap was 0.

<i>Average wage in the gaming sector (MOP\$)</i>								
<i>Gender</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
M	13,000	14,000	15,000	16,000	17,000	19,000	19,500	20,000
F	13,000	13,000	15,000	16,000	17,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
Gap M/F	0	-1,000	0	0	0	0	-500	-1,000
%	100%	93%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	95%

Source: SCB.

Note: Based on the data published by the SCB.

176. Still, within this context, the new criminal provision of Law 8/2017 should be stressed. Sexual harassment is an autonomous crime under Article 164-A of the MCC. Any person that harasses another person by compelling him/her to suffer or to engage in, with him/her or with a third person, physical contacts of a sexual nature through body parts or objects, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to 1 year or with a fine of up to 120 days, if a heavier penalty is not imposed under another legal provision. The offender may also be subject to disciplinary and civil actions.

177. The LAB received 2 complaints of sexual harassment in the workplace, both in 2013. The cases, involving 2 female victims, were found unsubstantiated after investigation.

178. The LAB has undertaken numerous actions to prevent discriminatory situations at the workplace, in particular, by means of awareness campaigns. Information regarding women workers' rights and interests provided in the law (covering pregnancy, marriage and maternity leaves) was widely disseminated to the public through short videos, mobile app, *WeChat*, *YouTube*, TV and radio advertising, video advertising on buses and in lobbies of residential and

commercial buildings. Infographics and promotional leaflets on labour rights are available in various languages (Chinese, Portuguese, English, Vietnamese and Indonesian).

179. Specifically, between 2014 and 2017, in cooperation with different government departments and associations, the LAB organised a series of talks to employers and workers on women workers' rights, with case analysis and discussion (in different languages). During the period, 96 talks were held, with 5,516 participants.

180. It should also be stressed that the LAB provides counselling on labour legislation, including on women workers' rights and obligations. There is a 24-hour "Interactive Voice Response System", a hotline for labour issues (Cantonese, Putonghua, Portuguese and English) and an email enquiry system. These services are freely available to employers and workers.

181. The LAB remains committed in organising technical and vocational training to create new job-opportunities and re-qualification of workers, regardless of gender. It is worth mentioning that even though there are no training programmes tailored specifically for women, there are courses that are more popular among women, such as the "Vocational Training Programme for Elderly Persons", the "Professionalism Training for Gaming Practitioners", the "Training Programme for Domestic Helpers" and the "Training Plan for Fishermen during Fishing Moratorium".

182. In order to enhance residents' vocational skills and their employment opportunities, between 2010 and 2017, the LAB organised pre-employment training courses and continual training courses, enabling the trainees of those courses to integrate into the labour market. The data is as follow:

No. of trainees of the vocational training courses of the LAB

Training courses / programmes		Gender	Year							
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pre-employment Training	Apprenticeship Training	M	174	177	151	135	93	95	80	85
		F	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	8
	Vocational Qualification Training	M	35	--	9	--	--	--	--	--
		F	45	--	11	--	--	--	--	--
	Training Programme for Technician Trainees	M	--	39	39	38	30	11	--	--
		F	--	1	0	0	0	0	--	--
Continual Training	Enhancement Training	M	1,832	1,414	1,193	2,266	1,959	2,616	2,551	1,515
		F	1,537	563	961	1,815	615	2,046	1,720	402
	Re-training Programme	M	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
		F	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Employment Assistance Plan for Middle-aged Persons	M	930	1,189	1,156	652	347	--	--	--
		F	5,495	6,185	5,173	2,691	1,507	--	--	--
	Secondary Skills Training Scheme	M	1,239	723	852	750	382	--	--	--
		F	525	390	672	588	271	--	--	--
	Training Plan for Fishermen during Fishing Moratorium	M	169	183	174	179	167	174	176	248
		F	192	207	222	244	239	251	276	347
	Refresher Courses for Skills Evaluation	M	10	786	399	414	505	677	988	1,283
		F	164	187	269	82	194	98	18	22
Temporary Assistance Plan for Underemployed Workers in the Construction Industry	M	1,494	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	F	462	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

No. of trainees of the vocational training courses of the LAB

Training courses / programmes	Gender	Year							
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mainland Internship	M	--	54	39	13	--	--	--	--
Program for University Graduates	F	--	41	22	7	--	--	--	--
Training Programme for Domestic Helpers	M	--	--	0	1	0	0	--	1
	F	--	--	144	90	44	16	--	23
Facility Maintenance Technical Training Programme	M	--	--	--	--	--	29	371	358
	F	--	--	--	--	--	1	11	7
Vocational Training for Rehabilitated Persons	M	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	--
	F	--	--	--	--	--	11	--	--
Vocational Training Programme for Elderly Persons	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	4
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	24	60
Professionalism Training for Gaming Practitioners	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	605
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	934
Training for Job-seekers	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Intensive Training for Skill Competition	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	70
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	34
Subtotal	M	4,861	4,565	4,012	4,448	3,483	3,607	4,166	4,190
	F	9,472	7,574	7,475	5,518	2,870	2,425	2,053	1,842
Total		14,333	12,139	11,487	9,966	6,353	6,032	6,219	6,032

Source: LAB.

Note: ⁽¹⁾ The above data refers to the number of trainees attending the training courses/programmes each year, and some of the courses/programmes straddled two years; ⁽²⁾ “--” means no course was held.

183. Furthermore, in relation to equal access between men and women to the profession, data related to women in the advocacy is provided as follows.

<i>No. of lawyers</i>								
Gender/Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
M	-	147	159	185	191	210	216	211
F	-	84	86	101	117	140	146	144
Total	-	231	245	286	308	350	362	355

Source: Macao Lawyers Association.

<i>No. of trainee lawyers</i>								
Gender/Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
M	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	68	66	61	79
F	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	42	49	47	53
Total	-	115	106	108	110	115	108	132

Source: Macao Lawyers Association.

Article 12 (Equality of rights between men and women in health)

184. The information provided in the previous report in relation to the legal framework and available health services is still valid. Additionally, specific health services for women continue to be offered by the MSAR Government. Family planning programmes, free primary health care services as well as medication and devices used in family planning are available. The family planning programme comprises routine health checkups, gynaecological consultations, pap smears screening, pre-marital and genetic issues counselling, birth control methods, breastfeeding, treatment of infertility and prevention of genetic and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Data on gynaecological consultations is displayed in the table below.

<i>Gynaecological out-patient consultations in health centres</i>								
<i>Age group</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
	<i>(Jul–Dec)</i>							
< 18	70	118	124	86	78	113	109	110
18 - 24	832	1,607	1,546	1,466	1,379	1,262	1,317	1,329
25 - 29	1,710	3,442	3,937	4,156	4,126	4,271	4,566	4,319
30 - 34	1,868	3,600	3,730	4,069	3,932	4,604	5,321	6,018
35 - 39	2,570	4,656	4,343	4,028	3,713	3,886	3,955	4,332
> 39	13,726	26,039	25,228	25,779	25,646	26,665	28,034	29,041
Total	20,776	39,462	38,908	39,584	38,874	40,801	43,302	45,149

Source: HB.

185. Free cervical smear screening services are now provided to women by health centres, in cooperation with non-profit health institutions. In addition, from September 2013, HPV vaccine has been included in the MSAR Immunization Programme, which is free for local female residents aged 18 years or below. Data from 2014 to 2017 is shown below.

<i>Cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination (%)</i>				
<i>Service</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Participation rate of cervical cancer screening ⁽¹⁾	94.4%	96.0%	93.3%	85.5%
1st dose HPV vaccine coverage ⁽²⁾	-	91.5%	92.0%	92.2%

Source: HB.

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Of women attending women's healthcare consultations in health centres; ⁽²⁾ Coverage of 1st dose of HPV vaccine of 13-year-old females.

186. According to the data provided by the HB, between 2010 and 2017, out of the 57,338 pregnant women who underwent the HIV test as part of the pre-natal checkup (5,741, 6,944, 7,437, 7,149, 7,526, 7,378, 7,798 and 7,365, respectively), 8 were found infected of HIV (2, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1 and 1 respectively). In these cases, all women were provided with chemical prophylaxis to prevent vertical transmission to safeguard the baby's health, as well as therapy and related services. Consequently, no HIV vertical transmission (mother-to-child) has been reported.

187. Furthermore, the HB has been providing outreach services targeting sex workers based in hotels, guesthouses, private homes and streets, as well as promoting, in cooperation with women's NGOs, the prevention of HIV and other STDs through the distribution of free condoms and lubricants. Between 2010 and 2017, 7,460, 5,415, 8,140, 14,815, 18,441, 17,878, 15,778 and 13,112 persons, respectively, including female sex workers and other sexually active

individuals, were contacted during outreach visits, of which 227, 319, 295, 388, 302, 405, 423 and 395 persons received free rapid HIV tests.

188. From 2010 to 2017, a total of 58,225 HIV tests targeting female sex workers and non-resident workers of saunas and nightclubs were provided. Among them, 29 cases were tested HIV positive. Health education on STD prevention, including HIV, were also offered during the tests.

189. With regard to cases of violence against women handled by the HB during the covered period, data is shown in the following table.

<i>No. of female victims of violence*</i>								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Children	3	1	8	2	2	4	5	7
Spouse	1	1	5	1	0	1	3	3
Elders	2	4	0	2	1	2	0	2

Source: HB.

Note: Women victims of domestic violence, trafficking in persons, sexual abuse, rape, etc.

190. Following assessment, the HB provides assistance according to victims' needs. If necessary, cases are transferred to the SWB, to follow-up with the required social services including temporary shelters or residential homes upon victim's discharge from hospital. In cases related to domestic violence and sexual abuse, the HB has counselling in order to facilitate the work of social workers and the police.

<i>No. of cases and type of violence</i>								
Type of violence	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Physical	1	2	5	3	1	2	2	3
Sexual	1	0	4	1	3	1	1	3
Psychological	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1
Negligence	1	5	3	2	0	0	1	2
Domestic violence	3	4	9	4	1	2	3	10

Source: HB.

Note: One single victim may suffer from multiple abusive behaviour.

191. Data in respect of deliveries in the public hospital between 2010 and 2017, is displayed in the table below.

<i>No. of deliveries in the Conde de São Januário Hospital</i>								
Delivery mode	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	2,670	2,995	3,693	3,435	3,580	3,274	3,715	3,166
Natural birth	1,717	1,965	2,425	2,208	2,363	2,139	2,548	1,973
Breech delivery	0	0	0	2	0	1	12	11
Vacuum delivery	59	102	115	114	107	86	100	209
Caesarean section	883	923	1,144	1,101	1,099	1,038	1,050	970
Forceps delivery	11	5	9	10	11	10	5	3

Source: HB.

192. To encourage breastfeeding, considerable efforts have been undertaken by the HB. Health education talks/activities are delivered by nurses and volunteers targeting pregnant women, new mothers and their family members, comprising information on breastfeeding and experience sharing. In 2016 and 2017, 3,012 activities on Family Support towards Breastfeeding, Preparation of Breastfeeding and Skills of Breastfeeding, with 33,112 participants, were organised by the HB.

193. Moreover, since 2017, the HB has also been celebrating the annual World Breastfeeding Week launched by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, during which, MSAR's organisations supporting breastfeeding and mothers who have breastfed their children for a continuous duration of at least six months are praised and recognised. Also, the HB provides updated information on breastfeeding to the public via mobile app, including breastfeeding rooms locations, upcoming talks/activities, as well as general information on breastfeeding.

194. Specifically, to support mothers in handling difficulties encountered during breastfeeding, the HB makes postpartum nursing/breastfeeding follow-up phone calls and has established a breastfeeding support hotline. Breastfeeding rates are shown in the table below.

<i>Breastfeeding (%)</i>				
<i>Year of birth</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>
Breastfeeding rate	84.1%	87.3%	88.4%	92.5%
Breastfeeding rate up to 4 months	66.6%	61.6%	64.6%	55.0%

Source: HB.

Note: The percentage relates only to mothers being followed-up in health centres.

195. In what concern health care for older women, the HB has undertaken measures on prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation. Among the actions are the establishment of a geriatrics specialty department with outpatient healthcare, a dementia centre, an inpatient ward and a community rehabilitation ward and improvement of the elderly healthcare in Taipa, as well as the creation of a discharge plan in order to give priority to the elderly in check-in and consultations. A comprehensive free medical services for the elderly such as an elderly health support hotline and counselling service on nursing and drug use were also made available.

196. According to data provided by the HB, the average life expectancy of local females slightly increased in the past years. From 2010 to 2016, the average life expectancy (years old) was 85.3, 85.5, 85.8, 86.0, 86.3, 86.4 and 86.4, respectively.

Article 13 (Equality of rights between men and women in other areas of economic and social life)

197. In what concern participation of women in cultural life, it is worth mentioning that the MSAR Government continues to be deeply and actively involved in promoting the work of local and foreign female artists to the public, as well as in offering an array of high standard non-profit oriented cultural events and activities to female audiences, including concerts, recitals, classical ballet, contemporary dance, musical, drama, experimental theatre, cinema, seminars, workshops, literary competitions and multi-media shows.

198. Between 2010 and 2017, different cultural auditoriums and churches held 42 concerts and recitals performed by 60 female musicians.

199. During the same period, 13 concerts targeting female students and elderly were offered in schools and in nursing homes. "Art Education Concert" (2014–2016), "Care Promotion Concert", including to celebrate the International Women's Day (2015–2017), and "School Concert" (2017) were some of the concerts held, with an audience of around 2,700 women.

200. From 2010 to 2017, the Macao Museum of Art organised 16 individual exhibitions/displays of female artists and 43 joint exhibitions/displays in which women artists participated, accounting for 33% of the total exhibitions/displays, presenting, from the perspective of women, topics of concern to artists. Among the women artists' works were sculptures, ceramics, installations, paintings, prints, photography and multimedia.
201. In 2017, the Museum launched a research project to explore how the image of women and women artists are presented in the history of art and held the exhibition "Representing Women through MAM Collection – 19th and 20th Century", with more than 70 pieces such as oil paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures, among others, to reveal the evolution of women's image in the history of art.
202. Moreover, the "Women Artists - 1st International Biennial of Macao" will focus on women's status in the contemporary art world, with one hundred women from MSAR's local artists community as well as from Mainland China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, São Tomé e Príncipe, Brazil, East Timor, Russia, Georgia, Iran, India, Japan, South Korea, USA, Australia.
203. With regard to financial support to women for cultural and art/creative events during the covered period, 42 female artists received allowances, totalling MOP\$3,453,700 for their events, including exhibitions, performances, fashion shows, documentary and film productions, catalogue publishing, film shooting and promotion, song production and albums release.
204. For cultural and art studies, including for master's degrees and short-term courses, a total of MOP\$2,584,100 were awarded to 16 women, between 2010 and 2017. During the same period, women applying for special grant programmes were also awarded: 25 women were granted a total of MOP\$2,928,584 related to the "Fashion Design on Sample Making", 2 women received MOP\$3,000,000 related to the "Production of Feature Films", an amount of MOP\$610,000 was granted to 3 women for the "Production of Original Song Albums" and the "Production of Original Animation Short Films" had 2 women granted MOP\$413,000.
205. As regards the participation of women in physical culture and sports, it should be reinforced that the MSAR Government continues its anti-discrimination sports policy and encourages professional sport through the strategy "*Sports for All*" carried out by the Sports Bureau of the MSAR (SBM).
206. Further, the SBM, in partnership with the WGAM, holds the *Women's Sports Festival* annually, aimed at encouraging women to engage in recreational and sports events and enjoy teamwork and fun of sports. Between 2010 and 2017, an increasing number of women participated, being 5,654, 5,883, 6,000, 7,740, 8,035, 8,025, 8,530 and 8,730, respectively.
207. Additionally, during the covered period, under the *Sport-for-all Fitness & Recreational Classes* event, 343,556 women participated in 24,585 regular classes, such as yoga, aerobic dance and line dance and 55,056 women took part in summer recreational and sports activities between 2012 and 2017. It should be mentioned that these events provided advantageous conditions for enhancing broad participation of women in sports.
208. The SBM has been supporting athletes to participate in competitions and trainings, financing sports associations, hiring coaches and sending representatives to meetings. Equality between men and women is applied in respect of funding policies.
209. Notwithstanding athletes with high-level of performance in international sports competitions are awarded, on an equal basis, irrespective of gender, by the SBM with bonuses and certificates of merit, it is worth mentioning that out of a total of 3,310 athletes awarded in 316 competitions held between 2010 and 2017, 1,494 were women.
210. In 2017, out of the 36,158 athletes registered in 57 sports associations, 14,573 were female.

Article 14 (Rural women)

211. The MSAR has no rural area.

Article 15 (Equal treatment of men and women as to legal capacity and choice of place of residence and domicile)

212. The information provided in relation to this Article in the previous reports remains valid.

Article 16 (Equality of rights between men and women in all matters related to marriage and family relations)

213. The MSAR Government, either by itself or in collaboration with NGOs, continues to provide individuals or families who are at risk, in need or vulnerable with a range of social services, including family service centres, day care centres, crisis situation management, marriage counselling, family education, free meals and economic assistance. Prior to the allocation of resources, a review of economic conditions, as well as of family relationships, social adaptation, living environment and physical and mental health must be conducted.

214. According to the SWB, the number of households/families in crisis or instability receiving regular economic assistance between 2010 and 2017 was 3,819, 6,197, 5,930, 5,684, 5,413, 4,637, 4,456 and 4,118, respectively.

Families receiving the SWB's social assistance ^{(1) (2)}

<i>Type/Year</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Study aid to children in single-parent family</i>								
No. of families	1,003	924	880	815	745	664	593	552
No. of girls	854	761	712	637	563	483	432	389
No. of boys	767	699	641	589	536	471	403	382
Total No. of beneficiaries ⁽²⁾	1,621	1,460	1,353	1,226	1,099	954	835	771
<i>Nursing assistance</i>								
No. of families	1,661	1,726	1,747	1,749	1,759	1,602	1,565	1,478
No. of girls	815	842	875	876	879	823	788	778
No. of boys	861	880	852	874	856	784	767	738
Total No. of beneficiaries ⁽²⁾	1,676	1,722	1,727	1,750	1,735	1,607	1,555	1,517
<i>Disability assistance</i>								
No. of families	509	507	528	587	615	554	502	451
No. of girls	214	203	220	258	272	240	214	199
No. of boys	311	317	318	341	350	319	292	275
Total No. of beneficiaries ⁽²⁾	525	520	538	599	622	559	506	474

Source: SWB.

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Provided in accordance with Order of the SSCA 18/2003, "Regulation on Special Assistance for Vulnerable Families"; ⁽²⁾ Since the number of beneficiaries in each household is allowed to be more than one, the total number of beneficiaries of study aid to children in single-parent family, nursing assistance and disability assistance will count more than the number of beneficiary households.

Cases handled by the SWB

<i>Type/Year</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Suicide	-	34	22	17	16	11	10	23
Emotional distress	-	282	235	225	246	254	203	214
Child abuse (M/F)	23	22	17	24	10	16	32	22
Wife abuse	35	33	24	34	31	46	90	68
Husband abuse	3	1	1	1	10	4	7	5
Elder abuse	1	3	1	4	2	5	2	1
Child neglect ⁽¹⁾	-	4	2	12	7	⁽¹⁾	⁽¹⁾	⁽¹⁾
Marriage problems	-	234	227	213	207	201	175	209
Parent-child relationship	-	186	183	176	169	141	121	120
Individual counselling ⁽²⁾	-	509	480	453	448	733 ⁽²⁾	748 ⁽²⁾	924 ⁽²⁾
Family counseling	-	198	198	157	137			

Source: SWB.

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Statistics will no longer be included from 2015; ⁽²⁾ Two categories were combined from 2015.