



CROATIA

Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

Submitted April 2025 by Centre for Women War Victims - ROSA, a non-governmental organization

and

The Advocates for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

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Centre for Women War Victims – ROSA (Centre ROSA) is a non-governmental, feminist, anti-militaristic organization founded in 1992 in Zagreb, Croatia. Its mission is to empower women and combat all forms of patriarchal violence, misogyny, and nationalist politics in Croatia and the countries of the former Yugoslavia. The organization is dedicated to improving women's human rights and enhancing their position in society, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, religious beliefs, status, age, or sexual orientation.

Initially established to support women affected by war-related violence, Centre ROSA has expanded its services to address various forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, human trafficking, and domestic abuse. The organization provides free legal aid and court representation for survivors of sexual violence during the war, human trafficking victims, and asylum seekers as well as offers psychological counselling, translation services, cultural mediation, and practical aid such as securing accommodation and employment. Centre ROSA actively engages in advocacy and policy change to enhance women's rights in Croatia. Centre Rosa is a member of the National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as its Operative and Mobile teams.

The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. The Advocates has published more than 30 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This stakeholder report is submitted for Croatia's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and addresses human trafficking—specifically the sexual exploitation of women—violence against women with a focus on survivors of sexual violence during conflict, and the rights of women who are refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, internally displaced persons and foreign workers. The report highlights gaps in the implementation of international human rights standards and provides recommendations to strengthen Croatia's response to these critical issues.

II. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

2. Croatia has ratified several key human rights treaties, including the CAT,ⁱ ICCPR,ⁱⁱ CEDAW,ⁱⁱⁱ and CRC.^{iv} It adopted the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action^v and the Beijing Platform for Action.^{vi} At the regional level, Croatia signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention^{vii} and ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.^{viii} Croatia also ratified the Palermo Protocol.^{ix} The Croatian constitution ensures that binding international treaties take precedence over conflicting domestic law.^x

A. 2020 Universal Periodic Review

3. Croatia received several recommendations concerning human trafficking, violence against women—including sexual violence—and the rights of migrants during its last UPR in 2020. Croatia accepted most of these recommendations without reservations, except those related to the rights of migrants.^{xi} This section assesses whether the government has fully implemented, partially implemented, or not implemented selected recommendations.

Compliance with International Human Rights Standards

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Implemented

4. A number of countries recommended that Croatia ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Croatia ratified the Convention on 31 January 2022.^{xii}

Constitutional and Legislative Framework

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

5. Croatia received recommendations from four countries to adopt the National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and one recommendation to adopt the National Policy for Gender Equality.^{xiii} Croatia adopted both although there are issues with the adopted documents. The government drafted and passed the National Plan for Gender Equality for the period until 2027,^{xiv} which was adopted in 2023 as a strategic planning act of the Croatian Government. Unlike

previous frameworks, which were all national policies, the National Plan for Gender Equality was not voted on or passed by the Croatian Parliament; instead, it was adopted solely by the Government. This shift in procedure was viewed by many women's NGOs and female politicians as a setback for women's equality, as the new document does not carry the same legal and political weight as its predecessors.

Human trafficking & contemporary forms of slavery

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

6. Croatia received five recommendations aimed at combatting trafficking in persons, which include ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice, providing better protection for victims, increasing awareness efforts, and ensuring training for law enforcement and the judiciary.^{xv} While Croatia continued to identify victims of trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, and provide support, the recommendations to combat human trafficking in Croatia have only been partially implemented due to several key issues. The National Plan for Suppression of Human Trafficking fails to address the specific victimization of women and girls, particularly those trafficked for sexual exploitation, due to its gender-neutral approach.^{xvi} Support for victims is based on protocols^{xvii}, which do not have the full strength of legal provisions, leaving some of the measures open to questioning during proceedings. Additionally, there is insufficient victim-centred training for authorities, and the country has struggled to adapt to the challenges posed by large-scale migration and foreign victims. Legal frameworks fail to curb demand for trafficked individuals, and victims face significant barriers to seeking compensation. These gaps have hindered the effective implementation of anti-trafficking measures, resulting in small numbers of identified victims, few convictions for this crime and low sentences.^{xviii}

Human rights education, trainings and awareness raising

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

7. Croatia received a recommendation to expand training on gender equality and gender-based violence for police, civil servants, and court officials to improve understanding and consistent application of international and EU standards^{xix}. While there are indeed trainings on these issues carried out in Croatia, training is often sector-specific, missing victims' perspectives. While there was some progress in 2024 with human trafficking training at the Judicial Academy, it is not consistently included in 2025, making the progress sporadic and not institutionalized.

Violence against women

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

8. Croatia received 23 recommendations regarding violence against women, including ensuring an adequate response to sexual violence, protecting all victims—particularly vulnerable groups—and providing compensation for survivors.^{xx} While progress has

been made in addressing sexual violence during conflict, limitations still persist. The 2015 Law on Victims of Sexual Violence is limited, excluding non-military crimes and failing to recognize all forms of abuse, such as sexual harassment and forced marriage^{xxi}. It also requires proving lack of consent, leading to secondary victimization, and denies rights to victims without registered residence. The Ministry of Croatian Veterans' narrow definition of victims results in the denial of requests for compensation, especially in cases where the victims were assaulted by Croatian soldiers, and there has been insufficient outreach and support for victims. Psychosocial care is limited, and victims receive no follow-up mental health support, hindering full implementation of the recommendations. Furthermore, gender-based violence is still not sufficiently recognized as grounds for granting asylum, and violence against migrant women is not acknowledged as intersectional discrimination. The impact of this violence and its consequences are not adequately addressed in Croatia's policies, further limiting support for affected women.

Migrants (Women refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and internally displaced persons)

Status of Implementation: Noted, Partially Implemented

9. Although Croatia noted all 17 recommendations related to migrants, key recommendations on ensuring effective access to asylum and treating migrants in accordance with international human rights law are still crucial.^{xxii} Croatia does not protect women refugees and asylum seekers, particularly those fleeing domestic violence. In 2023, only nine women asylum requests were granted due to domestic violence. NGOs report limited access to reception centres, inadequate screening for vulnerable groups, and insufficient support for women to disclose gender-based violence. Law enforcement has not fulfilled its obligations to address rising sexual harassment of women refugees, and Croatia's border practices have been criticized for human rights violations, including pushbacks of vulnerable groups. Despite the establishment of the Independent Mechanism for Monitoring, concerns remain over its effectiveness, and women's specific needs continue to be overlooked.

B. Domestic Legal Framework

10. **Human trafficking** is prescribed as a criminal offense in Article 106 of the Criminal Code, punishable by one to 10 years imprisonment (three to 15 years if committed against a child).^{xxiii} In 2002, Croatia established the National Mechanism for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons. Since then, Croatia has been a country of origin, transit, and destination for victims of human trafficking.^{xxiv} Human trafficking is a form of gender-based violence against women and girls (GBVAW), as most victims are women and girls who have been sexually exploited through prostitution^{xxv}.
11. Croatia adopted a special **Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during the Armed Aggression** against the Republic of Croatia in the Homeland War in 2015.^{xxvi} According to this law, victims of sexual violence during the armed

aggression against Croatia are entitled to various forms of support. They receive financial compensation, psychosocial support, and legal aid.^{xxvii} Additionally, they have access to medical assistance, rehabilitation, and physical examinations.^{xxviii} They are provided with both mandatory and supplementary health insurance.^{xxix} Accommodation is available in institutions offering support and services to war veterans and victims.^{xxx} Furthermore, transportation costs are covered to ensure they can exercise their rights effectively.^{xxxi}

12. Concerning applicants for international and temporary protection within the framework of national legislation, the primary legislation is the **Law on International and Temporary Protection**.^{xxxii} Women are recognized as a vulnerable group, especially pregnant women, single parents with minor children (mostly women), victims of human trafficking, victims of torture, rape, or other forms of psychological, physical, and sexual violence, including victims of female genital mutilation. As such, these groups enjoy special procedural and reception guarantees.^{xxxiii}

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Human trafficking

13. Human trafficking is a form of GBVAW. From 2002 to 2021, 432 victims have been identified in Croatia, of which 302 (69.91%) were women.^{xxxiv} A total of 21 victims of human trafficking were identified in the Republic of Croatia in 2024,^{xxxv} same as in 2023 and less than in 2022 when 29 victims were identified, representing a decrease of 27%.^{xxxvi} Data sorted by sex shows that out of the 21 identified human trafficking victims, seven were female (33.3%). This is a retrogression from 2023, when the majority of victims (14) were female.^{xxxvii} More than half of all female victims were sexually exploited.^{xxxviii} Croatia is increasingly becoming both a destination country and an origin country for victims of human trafficking.^{xxxix} It is concerning that there is a significant decrease in identification of female victims of human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, indicating that there may be victims unaware or unable to access help. Most identified cases of human trafficking are related to work exploitation, but most cases where the victims are women are related to sexual exploitation.
14. The Government has not developed any specific measures for victim protection or prevention activities. The National Plan for Suppression of Human Trafficking until 2030^{xl} shifts the focus away from women and girls as victims of sexual exploitation and fails to emphasize their vulnerability. Special measures have not been proposed to address these issues, even though statistics showing women and girls as the majority of victims have been acknowledged.^{xli} The document's gender-neutral

approach neglects the gender dimension of human trafficking and the specific trauma faced by survivors of sexual exploitation.^{xlii}

15. Furthermore, while trafficking is a criminal offense, Croatian legal response to this issue is based on a government decision that is not rooted in law. The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking has no legal foundation for its establishment and depends solely on a government decision.^{xliii} There is no legal requirement for a National Action Plan, despite it being called for under the Protocol on the Prevention, Suppression, and Punishment of Human Trafficking.^{xliv} While protocols based on national plans are enforceable, they are more guidelines than actual legislation, leaving them vulnerable to challenge in court by traffickers.^{xlv}
16. Human trafficking has been exacerbated by the large-scale migrations and conflicts over the last seven years. However, there is insufficient screening for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers, discouraging victims from cooperating and self-identifying.^{xlvi}
17. The deterioration in response and protection by the State regarding trafficking victims is partly due to the absence of holistic and victim-centred training for governmental actors. Further, training and education programs have the tendency to be conducted within each professional sector, which leads to the absence of victims' perspectives.^{xlvii} Women's NGOs and specialist service providers offering a gender-specific approach are best suited to provide this crucial perspective.^{xlviii} There was some progress in 2024 at the Judicial Academy, when training by Centre ROSA's psychologist on the topic of human trafficking was included in the syllabus, but in 2025, the topic as such is not included, making this progress sporadic and not institutionalized. The Academy of Social Work also included Centre ROSA representative as one of the trainers in its curriculum related to human trafficking.^{xlix}
18. Croatia has been unable to adapt to recent changes in circumstances, including large-scale population migrations from Asia and Africa to Europe, regional conflicts, and the influx of foreign workers into Croatia, which pose significant challenges for the national referral mechanism for the suppression of human trafficking. The number of potential foreign victims of human trafficking is increasing.¹ Previously, victims were primarily domestic or from neighbouring countries, with minimal linguistic and cultural differences.^{li} Currently, Croatia is encountering new forms of violence and exploitation linked to harmful practices, along with challenges due to the lack of translators for some languages spoken by the victims.^{lii}
19. Croatia has not enacted laws to curb demand for vulnerable individuals, fuelling human trafficking, especially for sexual exploitation. This affects at-risk groups, including girls in state care, women in prostitution, migrant and undocumented women, and asylum seekers. The Law only criminalizes those knowingly using trafficked victims' services,^{liii} which favours perpetrators, as victim identification

remains a major challenge. It also fails to address the link between demand and trafficking, making prosecution difficult.

20. Croatia's laws and policies fail to address the gender-specific experiences of women trafficked for sexual exploitation. There is limited understanding by the institutions of their trauma, mental health needs, and the challenges they face in seeking help or testifying. State professionals lack awareness of their unique vulnerabilities, cultural differences, and the impact of coercion, especially in cases of forced marriage or when young women, though legally adults, cannot make independent decisions^{liv}. Based on the experience of Centre ROSA activists, Croatia's anti-trafficking response faces issues such as a low number of identified victims, few convictions, and a small proportion of victims accepting protection programs.^{lv} Some judges and prosecutors have shown a lack of understanding of human trafficking, prosecuting traffickers under lesser offenses such as "prostitution," "assault," "sexual abuse," and "pimping," which carry lighter sentences.^{lvi} Additionally, some prosecutors have charged individuals suspected of human trafficking with lesser offenses that require a lower burden of proof and carry reduced penalties to manage a high case volume.^{lvii}
21. Women's NGOs criticize the National Plan for misinterpreting data and drawing incorrect conclusions. Instead of analysing trafficking victims by gender, the Plan categorizes them by age and type of exploitation,^{lviii} leading to misleading findings. Although women make up the majority of identified victims (55%), the plan claims the largest group is men and women aged 19–30.^{lix} It also fails to acknowledge gendered differences in exploitation, despite data showing that men are primarily exploited for unlawful activities (67.27%),^{lx} while women, especially girls, are mostly trafficked for sexual exploitation (58%).^{lxi} An additional issue is the inclusion of prostitution in the category of unlawful activities, which may include potential victims of sexual exploitation.
22. Victims face significant barriers in seeking compensation from perpetrators, leading to re-traumatization. Centre ROSA is the only legal aid provider for trafficked women in Croatia, but despite criminal convictions, claims for damages are often denied, forcing victims into impractical civil proceedings.^{lxii} This is particularly challenging for those who have experienced violence and exploitation. According to the 2020 GRETA report, no trafficking victims received compensation in criminal proceedings,^{lxiii} and subsequent restitution was either never awarded or dispensed.^{lxiv} Civil suits, though capable of addressing emotional pain, are costly, lengthy, and further traumatize victims through repeated testimony.^{lxv}
23. An additional concern is the issue of data leaks. During the investigation phase, media outlets sometimes publish details about human trafficking victims, providing descriptions that could lead to their identification.^{lxvi} Furthermore, the Constitutional Court publishes decisions on its website without proper anonymisation.^{lxvii}

Sexual violence against women during conflict

24. Croatia adopted a special Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during the Armed Aggression against the Republic of Croatia in the Homeland War in 2015,^{lxxviii} which limited acts of violence to wartime operations directly tied to the aggression against Croatia, excluding crimes in non-military zones,^{lxxix} overlooking that, during the war, the entire country was on war alert, with limited capacity to protect everyone.^{lxxx} The Law's "closed list" of unlawful acts fails to encompass all victims of sexual violence because it does not include indecent behaviour, sexual harassment, torture, and other degrading actions, forced marriage, and gender-based persecution.^{lxxxi} The definition of wartime sexual violence as a war crime or crime against humanity is flawed due to the unnecessary requirement of proving lack of consent, force, or threats, despite the inherently coercive nature of such crimes in the context of war, leading to secondary victimization.^{lxxxii} Article 14(2) excludes victims of wartime sexual violence without registered residence, despite their subjection to Croatia's jurisdiction during the war.^{lxxxiii} This oversight denies them pension rights, social benefits, housing, and other economic entitlements, disregarding the realities of wartime displacement.^{lxxxiv}
25. Since the Law came into force until the end of 2024, the Commission has received a total of 309 (229 women – 75%) requests for acquiring the status of a victim of sexual violence during the war and exercising rights according to the mentioned Law. Of those, 218 requests have been positively resolved (166 for women) and 78 requests have been negatively resolved (55 for women).^{lxxxv}
26. Civil society organizations report that the Ministry of Croatian Veterans narrowly defines victims of wartime sexual violence, recognizing only those raped during military operations and excluding cases where women were assaulted by Croatian soldiers or raped in other contexts, such as in their homes or forests.^{lxxxvi} Women raped by Croatian military or police are often denied recognition, forcing them to sue the state to assert their rights, which leads to further trauma.^{lxxxvii}
27. Croatia fails in its outreach to victims of war. Psychosocial and legal support for victims of sexual violence during the war is primarily delivered through centres for psychosocial assistance and regional centres for psycho-trauma, including the National Centre for Psycho-trauma.^{lxxxviii} From the Law's inception until November 30, 2021, regional psycho-trauma centres conducted 39,983 interventions for women, constituting 19% of all interventions^{lxxxix}. Despite this, only 194 individuals—150 women and 44 men—were officially recognized as victims of wartime sexual violence.^{lxxx} This disparity suggests a lack of adequate specialized support programs tailored for women survivors. The current setup, dominated by war veterans, does not foster a sense of safety or inclusivity for women survivors seeking support.
28. Croatia has significant gaps in providing psychosocial support to victims during the reparation process. Women testifying before the Commission need a trusted person

for logistical and emotional support, as the process is painful and demanding. After testifying, victims receive no follow-up mental health care from Croatian authorities.^{lxxxix}

Women refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, internally displaced persons and foreign workers

29. Croatia does not adequately guarantee the right to seek asylum for women looking protection from domestic violence. Croatia granted asylum to 72 individuals (32 female – 13 women and 19 girls) in 2024.^{lxxxii} In 2023, it approved nine asylum requests for women seeking protection due to experiences with domestic violence.^{lxxxiii} The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) expressed its concern that, given the numbers arriving at the borders and the profile of the main countries of origin, the rates of both numbers of applicants and recognition is low.^{lxxxiv}
30. Croatia has failed to provide NGOs with adequate access to reception centres for asylum seekers. According to the experience of activists from Centre ROSA, only the Croatian Red Cross and Medicines du Monde are present in the Reception Centre in Zagreb, besides the police.^{lxxxv} Vulnerable groups have not been adequately screened and victims of human trafficking have not been recognized in the refugee population.^{lxxxvi} Women asylum seekers need adequate support to disclose gender-based violence during the asylum process, as fear, stigma, trauma, and cultural barriers make it difficult. If they mention violence later, their testimony is often dismissed, worsening their trauma.^{lxxxvii} The police recognize the criteria for gender-based asylum but deny that women meet them. When cases rely on women's testimonies without material evidence, their statements are dismissed as unreliable or contradictory. Even when evidence is undeniable, some sexual violence survivors have been advised by the police not to disclose these experiences,^{lxxxviii} claiming they are irrelevant to the asylum process—even in cases from the DRC, known as the "rape capital of the world."^{lxxxix}
31. Croatia's law enforcement has subjected many asylum seekers to a high degree of distrust by authorities implying ulterior motives to their relocation, as exemplified by cases on file with the authors.^{xc} Croatian law enforcement has not responded adequately to complaints of increasing sexual harassment of refugee and asylum seeking women.^{xcii} Lately, more and more refugee and asylum seeking women have been experiencing sexual harassment by individuals who approach them in cafes, by colleagues, or even by landlords in their apartments.^{xciii} In one case, the police did not respond to reports from a Ukrainian woman who was being stalked. They told her she didn't have the right to report sexual harassment because she didn't have evidence. She had it on her phone, and he was following her, but the police told her to block him. So, she filed a criminal complaint, to which she didn't receive any response at all.^{xciii}

32. Croatia has failed to ensure dignified treatment and protection of immigrants at the border. In November 2021, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on the case of *M.H. and Others v. Croatia* (Applications Nos. 15670/18 and 43115/18)^{xciv}. It found Croatia in violation of Article 2 (right to life) in the inadequate investigation into the death of an Afghan family's daughter.^{xcv} Additionally, there was a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture) for the applicant's children.^{xcvi} Violations of Article 5(1) (right to security and liberty) and Article 4 of Protocol No. 4 (prohibition of collective expulsions of aliens) were found for the applicant mother and her five children.^{xcvii} Moreover, a violation of Article 34 (right to individual applications) occurred.^{xcviii} The Court also highlighted mistreatment of civil society organizations and lawyers aiding the migrant family, including incidents of missing evidence and intimidation.^{xcix}

33. In response to this ruling, Croatia set up the Independent Mechanism for Monitoring (IMM) the actions of police officers of the Ministry of the Interior in the area of illegal migration and international protection.^c But human rights organizations have expressed concern about its efficiency. The IMM lacks authority for unannounced visits to green border areas and access to the Ministry of Interior's information system. It reported unauthorized expulsions by individuals in dark uniforms and police involvement, particularly near suspected minefields, though these incidents were labelled as 'migrant difficulties' rather than illegal actions.^{ci} A recent Human Rights Watch report found that Croatian authorities continue pushbacks, even of vulnerable groups like unaccompanied children and families with young children, despite official denials and monitoring efforts. They frequently confiscate personal belongings and subject migrants to humiliating treatment.^{cii} This further results in treatment of women migrants at the border being unknown, their needs unidentified. About 14% of reported pushbacks involved women and girls.^{ciii} The ongoing pushbacks, especially of vulnerable groups like women and girls, highlight a troubling gap in Croatia's border policies, where the specific needs of female migrants, including protection from gender-based violence, are not adequately identified or addressed. This raises questions about the effectiveness of current monitoring efforts and the need for stronger gender-sensitive measures in border control practices.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations to the Government of Croatia:

- Establish specialized protection and support for trafficked women and girls, addressing their unique trauma and vulnerabilities.
- Improve victim identification, integration, and access to shelters, counselling, and reintegration programs, ensuring adequate funding for NGOs providing these services.

- Enhance identification and support for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers through frontline training and gender-responsive protocols.
- Provide interdisciplinary training for police, judges, and social workers on victim perspectives, gender-specific needs, and cultural sensitivity.
- Conduct public education campaigns to raise awareness of human trafficking and available support.
- Introduce legal measures to reduce demand for trafficked individuals and strengthen prosecutions, regardless of victim cooperation.
- Collect and analyse comparable data disaggregated by sex.
- Implement measures to reduce demand that fuels human trafficking for sexual exploitation.
- Ensure the confidentiality and protection of human trafficking victims' identities by preventing media leaks during investigations and enforcing strict anonymization of case details in official publications, including Constitutional Court decisions.
- Ensure institutions have culturally appropriate, victim-centred resources.
- Evaluate the implementation of the Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during the war.
- Modify the said Law to include the rights of children born out of wartime rape.
- Engage in bilateral dialogue to recognize and compensate women raped during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina who live in Croatia.
- Ensure specialized services for women survivors of sexual violence in war.
- Provide gender-sensitive guidelines and training for all officials interacting with migrant women on identifying, interviewing, and processing gender-based violence claims, in consultation with NGOs.
- Ensure trauma-sensitive, culturally appropriate, and gender-sensitive procedures in asylum screening interviews.
- Allow NGOs unrestricted access to support shelters for asylum seekers.
- Provide comprehensive information to asylum-seeking women on their rights and legal options for addressing mistreatment.
- Facilitate migrant women's access to both general and specialized support services.
- Address and ensure accountability for border police violence against women, preventing future occurrences.

ⁱ United Nations Treaty Collection. “*Status of treaties: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – Status as at 17/03/2025.*” Accessed Mar 17, 2025, https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-9&chapter=4&clang=_en

ⁱⁱ United Nations Treaty Collection. “*Status of treaties: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Status as at 17/03/2025.*” Accessed Mar 17, 2025, https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=_en

ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations Treaty Collection. “*Status of treaties: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – Status as at 17/03/2025.*” Accessed Mar 17, 2025, https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=_en

^{iv} OHCHR. “*View the ratification by country or by treaty. Ratification Status for Croatia.*” Accessed 17 Mar 2025, <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>

^v Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations. Statement by H.E. Minister of Health Prof. Dr. Željko Reiner: The review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International

Conference on Population and Development - New York, 30 June - 2 July 1999, (July 2, 1999), available at <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/croatia.pdf>.

^{vi} The Office for Gender Equality, Government of the Republic of Croatia. The Republic of Croatia: A Comprehensive Review of the Situation at the National Level on the Occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (May 2019), available at

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/64/National-reviews/Croatia.pdf>.

^{vii} Council of Europe Treaty Office. "Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 210: Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CETS No. 210) – Status as of 17/03/2025." Accessed Mar 17, 2025, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treaty-num=210>

^{viii} Council of Europe Treaty Office. "Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 197: Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197) – Status as of 17/03/2025." Accessed Mar 17, 2025, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treaty-num=197>

^{ix} United Nations Treaty Collection. "Status of treaties: 12. a Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – Status as at 17/03/2025." Accessed Mar 17, 2025, https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=xviii-12-a&chapter=18&clang=_en

^x Croatian Constitution, Art. 141, translation available at:

<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/hr/hr060en.pdf>.

^{xi} Human Rights Council, periodic review Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Croatia, (16 December 2020), U.N.DOC, A/HRC/46/16

^{xii} United Nations Treaty Collection. "Status of treaties: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance – Status as at 17/03/2025." Accessed Mar 17, 2025, https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iv-16&chapter=4#EndDec

^{xiii} UPR of Croatia (3rd cycle – 36th session): Thematic list of recommendations. Recommendations no. 137.25 – 137.28.

^{xiv} National Plan for Gender Equality for the period until 2027, available at chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://ravnopravnost.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/NPRS%202027%20APRS%202024/Nacionalni%20plan%20za%20ravnopravnost%20spolova,%20za%20razdoblje%20do%202027..pdf>

^{xv} UPR of Croatia (3rd cycle – 36th session): Thematic list of recommendations. Recommendations no. 137.72 – 137.76.

^{xvi} National Plan for Suppression of Human Trafficking until 2030, available at chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Nacionalni%20plan%20suzbijanja%20trgovanja%20ljudima%20do%202030.pdf>

^{xvii} Protocol on the Integration/Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings 01.04.2019., Protocol on Identification, Assistance and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, Protocol on Procedures during Voluntary return of Victims of Human Trafficking, all available in English at <https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/suzbijanje-trgovanja-ljudima/599>

^{xviii} Interview with Centre ROSA worker, Mar 15, 2025.

^{xix} UPR of Croatia (3rd cycle – 36th session): Thematic list of recommendations. Recommendation no. 137.169.

^{xx} UPR of Croatia (3rd cycle – 36th session): Thematic list of recommendations. Recommendations no. 137.136 – 159.

^{xxi} Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during the Armed Aggression against the Republic of Croatia in the Homeland War, Official Gazette 64/15, 98/19, available at <https://reparations.qub.ac.uk/assets/uploads/Law-on-the-Rights-of-Victims-of-Sexual-Violence-during-the-Armed-Aggression-against-the-Republic-of-Croatia-in-the-Homeland-War.pdf>

^{xxii} UPR of Croatia (3rd cycle – 36th session): Thematic list of recommendations. Recommendations no. 137.208 – 224.

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- ^{xxiii} Criminal Code, Official Gazette nos. 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23, 36/24, Art 106, available at <https://www.zakon.hr/z/98/Kazneni-zakon>
- ^{xxiv} Council of Europe, Newsroom, Croatia should strengthen human trafficking investigations and sanctions and access to compensation for victims (3 December 2020), available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/croatia-should-strengthen-human-trafficking-investigations-and-sanctions-and-access-to-compensation-for-victims>
- ^{xxv} Ombudsperson for Gender Equality Year Report 2023, 206.
- ^{xxvi} Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during the Armed Aggression against the Republic of Croatia in the Homeland War, Official Gazette 64/15, 98/19, available at <https://www.zakon.hr/z/794/Zakon-o-pravima-%C5%Bertava-seksualnog-nasilja-za-vrijeme-oru%C5%BEane-agresije-na-Republiku-Hrvatsku-u-Domovinskom-ratu>
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