



**STATE OF ISRAEL**

**Ministry of Justice**

**Annex No. I – Attached to  
Israel's 3<sup>rd</sup> Periodic Report Concerning**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Additional Protocols**

*Compiled by the Office of the Deputy Attorney General (International Law),*

*Ministry of Justice*

**2019**

## **II. GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Article 4 - The Convention's Legal Status**

#### **Dissemination, Review and Implementation of Concluding Observations**

1. All of the Human Rights Conventions and Protocols that Israel is party to can be found on the website of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in Hebrew, English, and Arabic. Also, the full body of work with the UN Human Rights Committees, including Israel's initial and periodic reports, List of Issues and replies to the List of Issues, Concluding Observations, follow-up to Israel's oral presentations as requested by the various Committees in their Concluding Observations and other related documents, can be found on the MoJ's website. The Concluding Observations regarding Israel and Israel's Initial and Periodic reports on the implementation of the Conventions and Additional Protocols since 2012, are translated to Hebrew and Arabic and published in this website.
2. A joint inter-ministerial team, headed by the Deputy Attorney General (International Law), was established in 2011 in order to further the implementation of the concluding observations of UN human rights committees. The work of this inter-ministerial team has brought about several significant changes.

#### **Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

3. As part of the legislative process in Israel, there is a wide participation of civil society and NGOs that are involved in discussions on bills and amendments in the Knesset committees, and meet with Government representatives in different frameworks. Civil society is also invited to comment on early drafts of bills and comments received are considered by the Government Ministries. NGOs also participate in public committees, such as the Gross Public Committee, as well as in joint forums with the academy.

#### **Dissemination, Training and Integration of the CRC into School Curriculum**

4. Special Educational Programs on the CRC implementation: **A joint program of the MoE and UNICEF (2012-2016)** - 22 groups of middle school pupils acted in order to raise awareness to the issue of children's rights and how to implement and exercise these rights in their school or locality. The groups conducted a study of the

CRC and the relevant Israeli legislation, and later on were authorized as trustees of the issue. Their role is to inspect how children's rights are implemented in their locality, support decision-making processes in the schools or localities, and to alert regarding cases where rights of children are infringed.

5. The MoE was requested by the MoJ to inspect the perceptions of youth on the CRC and present suggested changes and improvements of the Convention. For that end, discussions were held in three (3) national youth groups: members of "Igy organization" – a gay youth organization; a group of pupils diagnosed with ADHD; a group of pupils from the national (Jewish and Arab) and national-religious education system.
6. **Collaborative learning (2014-2018)** - the MoE operated a program for 40 elementary and middle schools all across Israel (both Jewish and Arab) which included collaborative learning online alongside meetings between teachers and pupils, discussing the CRC implementation in their school and community.
7. **The Journey towards 2035** - a joint venture of the MoE, "Amdocs" and the U.S. Embassy in Israel, in which high school pupils build a model for the future schools. The program's importance lies in enabling pupils to take part in designing future education institutions, which corresponds to the rights of children to participate in decision-making, in accordance with the CRC.
8. **Teachers Training Program with UNICEF** - a network of teachers for the rights of children was created together with UNICEF Israel, with regular sessions.

#### **Projects Carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) for The Benefit of Children**

9. Israel, through MASHAV, implemented several programs for children during 2014-2018, both in Israel and abroad:
  - a. **Programs in Israel:**

A training program on educational methodologies in order to prevent pupils' dropout and facilitating reintegration (given in English); training programs in

Israel for Russian educators (given in Russian) on the integration of children with special needs in general education.

**b. Programs abroad:**

**In Cameroon** - a follow-up seminar for educators who were trained in Israel on identifying and aiding at-risk youth who might not complete their studies; a follow-up teachers training seminar for integrating Information, Communications and Technology tools (ICT) into classrooms and modernizing teaching methods; as part of "The International Day of Good Deeds", the Israeli Embassy in Cameroon, in cooperation with MASHAV, organized a day of activities for 120 orphans in Cameroon with both recreational activities and medical examinations for the children. For most children this was the first time they were examined by a medical expert since being abandoned by their families; the Israeli Embassy donated medicine and medical equipment to the "Mother and Child" Medical Center for the treatment of children suffering from sickle cell disease; the Embassy, in collaboration with the Israeli organization "Save a Child's Heart" located and transported a Cameroonian girl to Israel for heart surgery and rehabilitation for the first time; in cooperation with a Cameroonian LGBTQ organization, MASHAV funded and established a shelter for Cameroonian LGBTQ youth who were rejected by their families; Mashav funded the establishment of the first HIV diagnosis laboratory for the Cameroonian LGBTQ community, mainly made up of youths, in cooperation with a Cameroonian LGBTQ organization; the Israeli Embassy established the first computer and internet class at a school, used by 2,000 children; the Embassy also sponsored two (2) Cameroonian schools and assisted them by connecting them to the internet and assigning tablets to students.

**In India** - the Israeli Consulate held a seminar for over 200 teachers on introducing innovation and entrepreneurship into education and teaching methods.

**In Nepal** - The Israeli Embassy, together with MASHAV graduate members of and representatives from IsraAID marked the 'Good Deeds Day' by spending a day painting and decorating the walls of a local Hospital; the

Embassy donated medicine, books, toys and games especially shipped from Israel; the Embassy organized a Health Camp during which more than 1,800 children, women and elderly persons received free health check-ups and treatments. The Embassy donated free medicine in the camp.

**In Macedonia** - As part of its continuous humanitarian aid, Israel donated 50 lightweight wheelchairs for children's use.

c. **Other Programs on Sustainable Development and Early Childhood Education:**

Training programs on Education for Sustainable Development took place in Kenya, Columbia and Panama; Training programs on Understanding the Early Childhood Education System took place in Liberia; a training program on Construction Guidelines for Standards and Competency Framework of Early Childhood Education took place in Thailand; a training program on Early Identification and Early Childhood Development Intervention took place in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

A training program on Early Childhood Education took place in Panama (for educators from Panama, Costa Rica, Peru, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, and El Salvador in 2017).

#### **IV. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

##### **Article 2 - Non-Discrimination**

##### **Fight against Racism**

10. Since its establishment, the Unit for the Coordination of the Fight Against Racism (hereinafter: the "Unit") received and handled several complaints regarding racism against children: two (2) complaints regarding the refusal of schools to enroll pupils of Ethiopian descent were submitted and resolved, and both children were enrolled in the designated school. A similar complaint received by the Unit regarded the refusal of a religious school to enroll a pupil due to her mothers' religion (Christianity). The Unit also handled a complaint regarding the discrimination of seven (7) Ethiopian pupils by a bus driver who refused their entry. A civil suit against "Dan" Public Transportation Company was filed with the assistance of the

Unit. The Unit received further complaints concerning racial discrimination by the Police and the MoE.

### **Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child**

#### **Preserving the Best Interests of the Child in Out-of-Home Care**

11. The best interests of the child are considered according to their needs and rights including: physical and mental well-being, age and evolving capacities, desires, feelings, opinions and standpoint on the matter at hand, life stage, gender, characteristics and attributes, ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background, the anticipated effect on her/his life in the short and long term, the continuity of the contact and relationship with the parents and with other significant persons in the child's life, the standpoint of the parents, guardian or other significant persons, the ability of the parents or others to provide for the child's needs, and professional knowledge concerned.

### **Article 6(1) - The Right to Life**

#### **Steps to Eradicate Infanticide**

12. As part of its work, the Unit for Prevention of Suicidal Behavior conducts research on the scope and causes of suicidal behaviour in Israel, including among children and youth, and provides funding for trainings of psychologists and counsellors in the Ministry of Education (MoE). In addition, the Unit participates in the National Child Online Protection Bureau (NCOPB) headed by the Ministry of Public Security (MoPS) and provides expertise on suicidal behavior online. The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services (MoLSAaSS) fully cooperates with the suicide prevention program, mainly in two (2) aspects: providing "gatekeeper" training for welfare systems employees, and treating families who have lost a loved one to suicide. A new service supplier has been employed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and operates within the thirty (30) localities with the highest rate of suicides. The suicide rates in the country are steadily decreasing.

#### **Measures to prevent cases of children accidentally forgotten in cars**

13. The Ministry of Transportation has taken several steps to eradicate cases of children accidentally forgotten in cars. The Ministry formed a standard for the car alert system

which alerts the driver if a child has been left behind in the car. As of April 2017 it is a mandatory requirement that this system be installed in any child transportation vehicle. Moreover, the Ministry revised the second part of the above-mentioned standard and broadened the options available in the market for private vehicle systems aimed at preventing cases of children accidentally forgotten in cars.

## **Article 12 - Respect for the Views of the Child**

### **Representing Children in Civil Law and Administrative Proceedings**

14. The National Child Representation Unit (NCRU) represents an average of 4,367 children and youth each year, in approximately 3,183 legal proceedings (child protection, adoption, family law, mental health commitment, and other civil proceedings).
15. The vast majority of children represented by the NCRU (2,578 new children and youth each year) are involved in child protection proceedings (including proceedings concerning alternative care, mental health commitment proceedings, termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings). However, legal services are also increasingly granted by the NCRU to children in a wide array of civil proceedings (family law (including guardianship, divorce, alimony, child-custody and visitation rights), financial debt and debt enforcement, labor law, torts, social security entitlements, etc.).
16. Children are represented from birth until they turn 18. Based on a sample survey conducted by the NCRU. The median age of representation is 14; the minimum age – three (3) weeks; the maximum age - 17.5. The majority of children represented are female (60%), while 40% are male. 23% are immigrant children. 85% of children are Jewish and 15% are Arabs.
17. Child representation services are provided to children and youth by 90 lawyers (the majority of which are private practice lawyers, working with the NCRU on an outsource basis), who specialize in the field of child representation. The NCRU conducts an accreditation in-depth multi-disciplinary one (1)-year training, to all lawyers representing children on its behalf. In some cases, the NCRU provides "in

house" representation, mainly in high-profile and highly-contested cases. Lawyers for children are recruited, trained, supervised and remunerated by the NCRU.

18. The NCRU has been designed and operates in accordance with leading human rights principles and criteria: accessibility, affordability, quality and non-discrimination, as designated by the relevant human rights instruments and guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

#### Affordability

19. All child legal aid services are provided by the Legal Aid Administration (LAA) **free of charge**. Representation continues as long as the legal case is pending or until the child turns 18 (the latest).
20. Court appointed representation is not subject to any means-testing or qualification criteria. However, children who approach the LAA directly, requesting legal aid or separate representation, are subject to a basic individual means test (which the vast majority of children comply with).
21. In addition, children requesting legal aid are subject to a **substantive qualification criteria** - i.e. that the child demonstrates a specific separate interest from his/her parents, necessitating separate representation or legal aid, in accordance with CRC GC No. 12.

#### Quality and Effectiveness

22. The NCRU is undertaking various steps in order to improve the quality of child and youth legal representation and to develop a national standard of practice in child representation:
  - a. Training and professional guidance - One-Year accreditation multi-disciplinary mandatory training (in cooperation with *Haruv Institute*<sup>2</sup>) "A Lawyer of My Own" was launched in March 2016, providing the basic necessary professional tools for lawyers for children and youth.

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<sup>1</sup> UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems General Assembly, NY, 2013; Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice November 2010 (art. 37-43).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.haruv.org.il/eng/>



- b. The drafting of the NCRU Guiding Principles for Lawyers Representing Children in Civil Proceedings (Code of Ethics) - defining the scope of representation, the role of the representative and basic duties, ethic obligations (related to confidentiality, conflicts of interest, loyalty, mandatory reporting, direct/best interest representation).
- c. Case load - the maximum case load has been recently set at ten (10) child representation cases per month, per lawyer, and a total of no more than 100 pending cases.
- d. Remuneration - Legal aid remuneration regulations have been revised though an internal application guidance aiming to adapt the general remuneration standards to the specific aspects of child representation. Remuneration is granted based on specific actions (such as meeting with the child, filing petitions, attending family meetings and court hearings, etc.) and not on a case-by-case basis.
- e. Multidisciplinary approach to legal services provided to children - recruitment of therapeutic consultants specializing in relevant social sciences fields (social workers, child protection workers, pediatricians, psychologists, psychiatrists, criminologists, etc.). The consultants advise and assist the child lawyers in their work (according to need).

### Accessibility

- 23. An average of 150 children approach the NCRU independently each year, requesting counseling, legal assistance or representation regarding various civil law issues.
- 24. The NCRU is undertaking various efforts (social media campaign, news items, ongoing contact with relevant counterparts and professionals dealing with children at risk) with the aim of raising awareness to the rights of children for legal aid services.
- 25. The NCRU also undertook various steps to make its services more accessible to children - by creating a dedicated email inbox for children, training the Legal-Aid Call Center staff to provide child-sensitive and urgent responses to children's

applications, simplifying the legal aid request form so that it is adapted to children and youth, expanding the representatives cadre so that it includes lawyers from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities, and legal specializations.

### **Religion Conversion**

26. With respect to the presence of children in the Rabbinical Court, in case of conversion to Judaism - up to the age of ten (10), only the parents are present in the court hearings; from the age of ten (10), the child's written consent to the conversion is required, without an obligation for her/his participation in the court hearings; and from the age of accountability according to Judaism ("mitzvot") (girls - age 12, boys - age 13) and even soon before it, the child is present and partakes in the proceedings together with the parents or guardians, and the Rabbinical Court examines her/his desire to convert.

### **Respect for the Views of the Child in the Educational System**

27. There are many instruments that deal with inclusion such as: DG Directives, including pupils in different committees (such as: removal committees), disciplinary inquiry processes, children's status committees in cities including pupils in committees regarding school culture, mediation committee, including pupils as representatives in municipal parliaments, school councils, green councils, etc.

### **Youth and Pupils Councils and Youth Movements**

28. The Rotlevi Committee<sup>3</sup> indicated in its report that the school council is an important body for promoting the rights of pupils to participate in the education institution and their representation, and that the *Pupil Rights Law* should promote the establishment of the council and the children's right of participation. The 2015 MoE DG Directive on the matter, states that the school council is an educational challenge for nurturing representative youth leadership that promotes values, and as such, its role is to represent the pupils in all forums of policy-makers.
29. As part of the efforts to enhance trust between the Israel Police, and the society in which it operates, the Police has created a youth movement, in order to expose the participants to the State's legal system. In September 2017, the Police began a pilot

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<sup>3</sup> For data on the Rotlevi Committee, see CRC Second Report, p. 11-14.

program for a unique police youth movement called "Shchakim" (Skies) in five (5) local authorities, among them the Bedouin city of Rahat. The pilot in Rahat was successful, and the youth who participated have demonstrated commitment to the youth movement and the Police as well as involvement in various activities with the community. In 2018 the Police decided to expand the youth movement "Shchakim" to 30 Police departments in Israel.

30. Elected representatives of the institutional school councils together with representatives from community centers, youth movements, youth organizations, etc., comprise the locality's pupils and youth council. Representatives of these councils comprise the district pupils and youth council, and representatives of these councils comprise the national pupils and youth council. The number of representatives is determined according to the number of pupils and youth represented in that institution. The areas of involvement of the school councils are jointly determined by the education institution staff and pupils.
31. There are 915 elementary and secondary schools with active school councils. There are approximately 10,000 young instructors of the MoE active in the local authorities. There are 217 youth councils in local authorities.
32. About 20 municipal parliaments in elementary education take place in the various localities instructed by MoE guides, to include pupils in municipal decision-making. The MoE initiated a Leadership, Values, Children's Rights Parliament that operates in several localities. The program includes 120 representatives from every elementary school in each city. The pupils are partners of the city council and meet with mayors and Knesset members, in order to share study processes in issues they would like to change or add in the city, such as: bicycle routes, designed gardens for meetings, privacy rules in WhatsApp, rules for riding electric bikes, etc.
33. A noteworthy example includes the involvement of representatives of the youth council in the drafting process of the regulations regarding advertisement of unhealthy food by the MoH.

## V. CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

### **Article 7 - Registration of Children at Birth, Name and Nationality**

### **The Right to Know One's Parents**

34. During 2018, 682 adoptees requested to inspect their adoption listing; 602 in 2017; 585 in 2016; 500 in 2015; and 522 in 2014.

### **Article 17 - Access to Appropriate Information**

#### **Children's Television Programs**

35. The Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation, the State broadcaster, often broadcasts interviews, news broadcasts, and documentary programs relating to or containing awareness-raising messages on the rights of the child on television and on radio, as well as streams content relating to children on social media platforms. Several of the programs are in Arabic. These Programs deal with the rights of the child in accordance with the CRC, such as: protection from violence, abuse and sexual exploitation, the right to education, the right to health, and non-discrimination.
36. In 2015 the Council launched an action plan for strengthening the protection of children from harmful content on cable television. In this framework, in 2016 the Council formulated voluntary Guidelines on the content of children's programs for children's television networks, in light of the rights enshrined in the CRC. The Council also grants an annual award to productions which best implement these Guidelines.

### **The NCOPB Headed by the MoPS**

37. Representatives of all Ministries operate together as a joint team with the purpose of forming a holistic solution sequence for the child in order to protect her/his security, with an emphasis on a cultural sensitive response.

### **The National Child Online Protection Bureau (NCOPB) Headed by the MoPS**

38. The NCOPB is that it combines police capabilities - including advanced capabilities from the cyber world - and capabilities from the fields of education, therapy and protection of minors. The NCOPB handles the entire sequence of assaults against minors online, beginning with breaches of civil law and up to assaults which constitute criminal offenses. The bureau's ultimate goal is to create a safe cyberspace

environment for children and adolescents, as well as strengthening the public's sense of personal security online.

39. The NCOPB operations are executed by a professional headquarters and an operational police unit:

- a. The professional headquarters engages in developing a preventative scheme and a practical national prevention plan, providing information and raising awareness, promoting legislation, leading research within the field of children' protection online and developing relevant technologies.
- b. The operational unit of the NCOPB is a Police unit designated for fighting crimes against children in cyberspace. The unit operates various enforcement, technological and other measures, in order to investigate, expose and prosecute criminals operating in cyberspace, and investigates, *inter alia*, sexual offenses, violation of the prohibition on the publication of videos which constitute sexual harassment pursuant to the *Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law 5758-1998* and violence offenses where the victim is a minor.

As part of the operational unit, a national call center operates with the phone number 105, for reporting and providing response in cases of assault of children online. The 105 call center is a unique call center operating 24/7, staffed by police officers who had been given designated training within the program's scope of operation, and alongside it operates an inter-ministerial partnerships desk staffed by experts from the online children assaults field from the relevant Ministries. The partnerships desk is entrusted with providing an integrated inter-ministerial response for events, as well as coordinating the continued treatment of the minor within the community.

The 105 call center started operating on February 2018 and was launched officially 24/7 on November 2018. Since its establishment, more than 6,000 complaints have been received from parents and children.

40. The NCOPB activities are directed by an inter-ministerial steering committee headed by the MoPS's DG and which includes the Chief of Police and the DGs of the participating Government Ministries, which outline the program's policies and procedures.

41. As part of the NCOPB activities, it engages in forming partnerships on the national and international levels regarding operations in cyberspace, in Israel and abroad. Additionally, as part of the operational unit's activities, there is collaboration with international enforcement and policing entities, which is required for coping with the global nature of the cybercrime.

### **Prevention of Distribution of Harmful Materials Online**

42. As of 2018, the MoJ has trained hundreds of lawyers which have taught around 3,000 lessons on the prevention of distribution of harmful material online in many schools over a period of three (3) years. These lessons were aimed at providing a holistic solution to the harm that can be caused to minors online, which includes raising awareness and providing information on the issue.

### **Libraries Accessible for Children**

43. The Ministry of Culture and Sport (MoCS) operates 650 public libraries in the community which are free of charge and available to children, pursuant to the *Public Libraries Law 5735-1975*. These libraries are in addition to school libraries, and other private libraries.

## **VI. VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

### **Article 19 - Violence against Children - Abuse and Neglect**

#### **The Israeli Authority for the Prevention of Violence, Drugs and Alcohol Abuse**

44. The Authority acts to prevent violence, criminality, anti-social behavior and drugs and alcohol abuse. The Authority operates several programs that were formerly operated by the MoPS, such as: "The Anti-Drugs Authority" and "Metzila".
45. The Authority further acts, among others, to raise public awareness to violence, sexual and general child abuse, by increasing the ability of the local authorities and community to identify, prevent and respond to events of sexual abuse in children. The Authority conducts several programs such as: "School Safety Counselors", training "Gatekeepers" in localities, recruiting, training and guiding parents etc.

46. Activities of the Israeli Authority for the Prevention of Violence, Drugs and Alcohol Abuse:

**a. Information Campaigns**

Information materials were produced and distributed, including information on the activity of aid organizations and treatment centers run by the Government. Community seminars were held, intended for various professionals. Each year, about 3,000 professionals participated in the seminars.

**b. School Safety Counselors**

The Authority operates the school safety counselor program in schools across the country. The counselors increase the adult presence in the school, notice problems and serve as “older brothers” and role models to whom pupils can turn to with problems and dilemmas. The counselor advises and encourages pupils to contact the school personnel when necessary, and is part of the informal education program at the school.

**c. Training “Gatekeepers”**

In recent years the prevention programs in the localities used the “Gatekeepers” model, according to which often those who are witness to children and youth exposed to sexual abuse and violence are not necessarily professionals, but neighbors or residents with no defined responsibility.

In this framework, over the past two (2) years, hundreds of various professionals that have work interfaces with children were trained, such as: school bus drivers, religious personnel, secretaries and maintenance staff in schools, kindergarten teacher’s assistants, bartenders and waitresses in hangouts, taxi drivers, auxiliary worker in welfare departments (mentors, nurses).

The “Gatekeepers” received in these training sessions information on how to identify children and youth at risk of violence and sexual abuse, information about intervention manners and more.

**The MoPS** intends to continue training relevant personnel by the perception on which the “Gatekeepers” model is founded, as part of the program the Authority will operate in various localities, and further expand this activity.

**d. Accommodated Prevention for the ultra-Orthodox Population Needs**

The MoPS activity for prevention of violence in the ultra-Orthodox population included special reference to issue of sexual abuse of children. In this framework, community workers were used to recruit rabbis and Yeshiva leaders to receive training on identification and intervention in situations of sexual abuse of children. Unique information materials were produced for the ultra-Orthodox population, and actions were taken to increase their trust in the assistance units in Police stations. Also, community campaigns took place to organize volunteers and information to prevent situations of child neglect during holidays. The activity took place in three (3) ultra-Orthodox localities and four (4) localities that have many ultra-Orthodox residents.

**e. Recruiting, Training and Guiding Parents**

In recent years, as part of the various prevention programs, seminars and workshops took place, information materials were distributed to about 20,000 parents in specific or prolonged activities. In this framework, parents received information and tools (in various languages) to identify involvement of children in dangerous behaviors and risk situations (such as sexual abuse online), tools to increase presence and supervision over children in their leisure time and information about the assisting authorities that can be contacted. The MoPS intends to continue training parents of children and adolescents in these subjects and expand activity in the subject.

**f. Community Safety Teams**

Over the years, the MoPS assisted in establishing and training thirty (30) Safety Teams in communities in small localities. These are teams of professionals and volunteers who are trained and receive tools to respond to sexual abuse incidents.

**g. Activity in Youth Villages**



As part of the prevention program, the MoPS leads, together with the Youth Villages directors and the MoE various programs for violence and drug and alcohol use prevention in 24 Youth Villages, and participates in their funding. About 4,500 at-risk youth and children are educated in these Youth Villages. The prevention programs included also children and youth who are victims of offenses. Note that Youth Villages often serve as alternative for arrest/detention for delinquent youth, and in this framework the youth receive response in various prevention programs.

#### **h. Activity for Girls at Risk and Dangerous Situations**

As part of the activity for at-risk girls in localities and Youth Villages, various prevention programs were run for self-empowerment, preventing violence, warm home for girls at-risk, developing leadership, integration in employment and schools for disengaged youth, clubs, etc. These activities included content on healthy sexuality, preventing violent courting, and providing resilience factors for coping.

#### **i. Parents Patrols**

The MoPS participated in financing “parents’ patrols” operation in local authorities. In this framework volunteer parents act in public spaces where adolescents stay within the relevant localities and identify adolescents involved in risky behaviors such as violence, using drugs and alcohol. The volunteers listen to the adolescents and according to their need contact community enforcement and treatment entities. As of 2018, there were about 4,490 volunteers in the parents’ patrols, in about 211 active patrols across Israel, operating in about 88 localities.

### **Article 24 (3) - Elimination of Harmful Practices**

#### **Preventing Polygamy**

47. According to recent findings of the National Insurance Institute (NII), in 2016, there were 1,762 polygamous families in Israel, most of them within the Bedouin population in the South of Israel.

### **Article 34 - Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse**

### **Legislation Amendments**

48. On November 25, 2014, the Knesset amended the *Penal Law* (Amendment No. 118). The Amendment criminalizes not only the possession (*inter alia* by means of downloading from the internet) of an obscene publication that includes the image of a minor, but also accessing (e.g., through streaming) such material. This is an innovative Amendment, which allows law enforcement authorities to tackle the problem of offenders who possess pornographic materials without knowingly saving a copy on their computer.
49. On January 8, 2014, the Knesset amended the *Sexual Harassment Law* (Amendment No. 10). This Amendment criminalizes another form of sexual harassment by providing that publishing a photograph, film or recording of a person that focuses on a person's sexuality, in circumstances in which the publication is likely to humiliate or degrade a person, and against that person's consent, constitutes sexual harassment. According to the Law, such an act constitutes a violation of the *Protection of Privacy Law* 5741-1981, and is a criminal offense punishable by five (5) years of imprisonment. **In addition, it constitutes a civil tort. The Amendment aims, *inter alia*, to tackle the** phenomenon of minors distributing sexual photos of other minors through social networks, which sometimes involve attempts at extortion.

### **Treatment of Victims of Sexual Crimes**

50. According to data from the MoLSAaSS, in 2016 there were 11,150 reports of suspected violence and physical abuse concerned 11,150 children. In 2016 there were 5,375 reports of social workers of suspected sexual abuse concerned children, according to the *Youth Law*. In 2015, there were 4,532 reports of social workers of suspected sexual abuse of children, under the *Youth Law*.
51. Furthermore, in 2018 (until November) 11,739 children and adolescents who suffered sexual injury were treated by designated treatment services of the Ministry, the treatment takes place together with the minors' parents, where appropriate. In 2017, 1,808 were treated; in 2016, 1,739 were treated; in 2015, 1,556 were treated; and in 2014, 1,620 children were treated.

52. In addition, in each year between 2014-2018, about 450 more minors who suffered sexual injury were treated in private treatment institutions, financed by the Ministry.
53. Additional treatments of minors who suffered sexual injury take place in the Ministry's residence institutions (boarding schools, foster care organizations, Youth Custody institutions) by local or external therapists.
54. Furthermore, the MoH operates primary medical response in designated acute centers, these centers operate in general hospitals and provide 24/7 responses to victims of sexual abuse (minors and adults) by designated teams who undergo training in the field and provide adjusted and sensitive treatment. The service is designated only for persons who underwent abuse in the past seven (7) days.
55. The service includes: personal support by a social worker; preliminary inspection by a nurse; general inspection by a physician; treatment of physical injury; pregnancy prevention treatment; medical treatment, if needed, to prevent sexually transmitted disease; urine and blood samples to discover drugs and alcohol if needed; assessments of the mental condition and providing information about options to receive mental treatment; collecting forensic evidence to serve for filing a complaint with the police.
56. Noteworthy are the two (2) following amendments to the *Supervision over Schools Law* 1969-5729. On September 1, 2015, Amendment No. 8 entered into force. The Amendment regulates the suspension of an education employee against whom an indictment was issued for a sexual offense or an offense of grave violence against a minor or a helpless person dependant on the accused. The suspension is imposed due to the risk posed by the employee to the security of the children in light of such allegations. On November 28, 2016, Amendment No. 9 was adopted. According to this Amendment, a similar regulation to that included in Amendment No. 8 was imposed against a service provider in a school or a locality.

**Article 37(a) and 28(2) - The Right not to be Subjected to Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**  
**Interrogators of the ISA**

57. The Inspector has received and reviewed a very small number of cases regarding minors in recent years. In general, interrogations of minors receive special attention in order to ensure that they are treated accordingly and that their rights are upheld.

### **Alleged Abuse in Out-of-Home Facilities**

58. The Commission has inspected one (1) complaint received regarding a facility for adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Commission's findings referred mostly to the staff's attitude towards the resident, and to the proportionality of the staff's reaction, in that case. The Commission's findings and recommendations were implemented, and there are follow-up meetings on improving shortcomings by the supervisors.
59. In 2017 there were 110 reports of social workers regarding suspected abuse in minors with disabilities in these facilities - 16% were allegedly committed by the staff. Out of the 100 reports 30% were suspected sex offenses; 70% of these reports included suspected physical violence.
60. MoLSAaSS has approved the establishment of a new post within the Commission for an Arabic-speaker, and is in the process of publishing a tender for that role.

### **Article 39 - Physical and Psychological Recovery and Social Reintegration**

#### **Programs for the Reintegration of Children**

61. One of these programs is "Ma'atefet" ("Envelope") Program which is operated jointly with the local authorities and the MoLSAaSS and is intended for children that are in increased risk to themselves or to their surroundings, to the extent they need to be removed from their home with a court order. The purpose of the program is to enable the children to remain with their family and in the community while ensuring their safety and the safety of their family by providing an "envelope" of tailored services at home and in the community. At any given time, 35 children partake in the program.

#### **Programs for the Reintegration of Children in conflict with the law**

62. The MoLSAaSS initiated several unique programs on this issue, including:

**a. Integrating group method in the Youth Probation Service** - In recent years, group therapy was added to personal therapy for children in conflict with the law, as part of recognition of the importance of providing group therapy to children who have a common denominator of age or offense type. Over the years, therapeutic groups were held for children in conflict with the law for various offense types such as sexual predators and those who committed traffic offenses and an unauthorized use of vehicle.

**b. Contribution in the Community** - This program provides children in conflict with the law the possibility to work in their spare time without financial consideration. Usually, the work takes place in public institutions, as a rehabilitative measure in the community that has an educational and social aspect. Public Benefit Service is usually issued with a judge order.

**c. Joint sponsorship programs with various community bodies:**

C.1. **“Derekh Hamelekh”** (the "High Road") – the program was developed with Elem, an NGO, and specializes in recruiting volunteer sponsors for youth at-risk. A volunteer sponsor is paired with a child and serves a positive role model and guide for the child. The sponsor’s activity is accompanied by a Probation Officer.

C.2. **“Siku’im”** ("Chances") - a program based on the principles of culture awareness approach towards populations of various cultural backgrounds. The program is intended to provide close and personal support for new immigrant children, and includes pairing a sponsor to the child.

**d. “Supportive family” program** - This program provides support and assists parents and families of children of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who are in conflict with the law. The purpose is to strengthen the relationship between the children and their parents, and with the Youth Probation Service through a personal family supporter. The personal supporter assists the family with other authorities in order to exhaust the resources available to them in the community.

**e. “Haderekh Hakhadasha”** (the "New Road") - The action plan for promotion of optimal integration of persons of Ethiopian descent in Israeli society was formulated in July 2015 by ten (10) Government Ministries and included

public representatives of Ethiopian descent. The action plan was adopted in Government Resolution No. 324, (31.7.15), and this framework, the MoLSAaSS operates two (2) of its youth programs, the “Ma'atefet” program and the "Supportive family” program, in localities that have a large population of youth of Ethiopian descent who are at risk.

## **VII. FAMILY ENVIROMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE**

### **Article 5 - Parental Guidance and Responsibilities**

#### **Special Guidance Programs for Parents**

63. These programs include:

- a. “Breathe in Relief” – an intervention program to assist families living in poverty to improve their condition - 3,080 families (including 8,000 children) are participating in the program, almost half of the participating are from the Arab population;
- b. “Together” – a group program for mothers of children aged 0-11 to improve their parental abilities - 200 families (with 800 children) are participating in the program;
- c. Relationship Centers – centers specializing in maintaining and enhancing the relationship between parents and their children - 2,571 families (including 4,092 children) are participating in the program.

### **Article 9 - Separation of Children from Their Parents**

#### **Out-of-Home Placement**

64. According to data from MoLSAaSS, at the end of 2016, 30 children with intellectual-developmental disabilities stayed under court order in residential facilities as a result of a perilous situation in their homes. At the end of 2017, fourteen (14) minors with intellectual-developmental disabilities were removed from their homes. Approximately 30% were removed due to suspicion of sexual injury and 70% due to physical violence against them.

65. According to data from MoLSAaSS, in 2016 the number of children removed from their home was 6,936, out of which 1,913 were new – i.e., their court order treatment began in 2016, while 5,023 continued from previous years.

### **LGBTQ Youth**

66. **Emergency shelters for LGBTQ youth ("The Pink Roof" in Tel Aviv-Jaffa)** - the emergency shelter provides for temporary accommodation for youth who were rejected by their families. In the shelter the youth may receive a warm meal, shower, exhaustion of rights (case management) and additional services to mitigate damage caused. The program operates all year long, 24/7, and can house twelve (12) youths at a time. The annual budget for this program is 1,540,000 NIS (439,131 USD).
67. **Hostel for LGBTQ youth ("Milestones" in Holon)** - the hostel operates to assist youth who were rejected by their families by providing them with shelter, protection, supervision, food, rehabilitative treatment and professional training, aimed at assisting them in reintegrating into society. The program operates all year long, 24/7. A participant may stay in the hostel for twelve (12) months, with an option to extend the stay to eighteen (18) months when deemed necessary, pending the approval of MoLSAaSS. The annual budget for this program is 1,240,000 NIS (353,549 USD).
68. **Half-way houses for transgenders in Tel Aviv-Jaffa-** these houses are designated to single transgenders without family support, who are able and willing to live together in a common house. Additionally, they are required to part-take in either work or educational program, and participate in the house expenses. The stay in the house and the therapy provided therein is intended to empower the participants and prepare them for independent life in the community. The annual budget for this program is 533,000 NIS (151,886 USD).

### **Article 10 - Family Reunification**

#### ***The Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Provision) 5763-2003***

69. In May 2002, following a horrendous wave of terrorist attacks against Israeli population, the Government decided to temporarily suspend granting individuals legal status in Israel through the process of family reunification, regarding

individuals who live in an enemy state or in an area from which terrorist activity is emanated against Israel. Subsequently, the *Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Provision)* 5763-2003 was enacted in July 2003, limiting the possibility of granting residents of the West Bank and Gaza Israeli citizenship or permanent residency pursuant to the *Citizenship Law*, including by means of family reunification. This, due to the fact that dozens of Palestinians that received such Israeli status for the purpose of family reunification, had used it in order to engage in terrorist activities. The wave of terrorist attacks that began in October 2015 has shown that status given for the purpose of family reunification is still being misused for terrorist activity.

70. That being said, the possibility of family reunification remains available in accordance with the law, the PIA procedures, lack of security preventions and following a gradual process. The Law sets several easements regarding population with low security risk, to which, subject to all the relevant examinations, family reunification permit may be granted (for example, a male spouse over the age of 35, who is a resident of the West Bank, or a female spouse over the age of 25, who is a resident of the West Bank, with their children).
71. In addition, the Law enables entry into Israel for the purposes of medical treatment, employment, or other temporary grounds, for an overall period of up to six (6) months. In addition, the Law allows for the granting of a temporary residence permit for humanitarian reasons or a permanent residence permit under special circumstances as a protective means.
72. The Law's constitutionality has been scrutinized and upheld by the majority of the Supreme Court sitting in an extended panel of eleven (11) judges for the second time in January 2012 (H.C.J. 466/07, 544/07, 830/07, 5030/07 *MK Zehava Galon et. al. v. The Minister of Interior et. al.*).
73. Nevertheless, following statements of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Interior has decided on a number of changes aimed at providing humanitarian relief for those to whom the Law applies. The Government gave notification that holders of temporary residency (A/5) visas will be able to extend the visa for a period of two (2) years, instead of one (1) year at a time.



74. In addition, the Government notified the Court that holders of temporary permits for stay in Israel granted by the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), whose family reunification applications were made before the end of 2003 (the year the Temporary Provision was enacted) and who have therefore been screened by the security services for many years, would be upgraded. These individuals are to be granted temporary resident status which includes registration in the Population Registry, social security benefits and national health insurance for them and their children. They will also receive an Israeli identity document. This upgrade will be made available to persons born after January 1, 1998, who comply with several standard criteria (namely, that their marriage is an authentic one, that they live in Israel and that there are no security or criminal obstacles to the upgrade).
75. In regards to health care, the *National Health Insurance Regulations (Registration to a Health Fund, Rights and Obligations of Persons Who Receive a Permit Pursuant to the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Provision) 5763-2003) 5776-2016*, which entered into force on August 1, 2016, established a health insurance that includes similar health services to those set by the *Health Insurance Law* relating to persons who hold temporary permits for stay in Israel pursuant to sections 3, 3A(2) or 3A1(a)(2) of the *Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law*.

#### **Article 11 - Illicit Transfer and Non-Return**

76. According to their data, between the years 2014 and 2018, the Department of International Affairs in the SAO was asked in two (2) cases to extradite parents who had abducted their children. In the first case the child was returned to her country and to the custody of her other parent, while the abducting parent was extradited to her/his country. In the second case, the abduction had ended prior to the abducting parent fleeing to Israel (therefore, without the children). A petition for the extradition of the parent was recently filed in the Court in Israel, and proceedings are currently pending. In addition, Israel initiated extradition proceedings in five (5) other cases of abduction of children from Israel to other countries.
77. In 2017, the Department dealt with 17 cases of 23 children who were abducted to Israel: in four (4) cases the children were returned to the country from which they

were abducted; in two (2) cases the children remained in Israel following a Court decision; in two (2) cases the children were voluntarily returned to the country from which they were abducted; in two (2) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed; in two (2) cases the parties decided that the children will remain in Israel, and the cases of five (5) other children were still pending before the Courts by the end of 2017.

78. During 2017, the Department dealt with 33 cases of 36 children who were abducted from Israel: in eight (8) cases the children were voluntarily returned to Israel; in five (5) cases the children were returned to Israel following a Court decision; in four (4) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed, and the cases of sixteen (16) other children were still pending before the Courts by the end of 2017.
79. In 2016, the Department dealt with 19 cases of 28 children who were abducted to Israel: in five (5) cases the children were returned to the country from which they were abducted; in one (1) case the child remained in Israel following a Court decision; in one (1) case the child was voluntarily returned to the country from which he was abducted; in seven (7) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed, and the cases of four (4) other children were still pending before the courts by the end of 2016.
80. During 2016, the Department dealt with 44 cases of 44 children who were abducted from Israel: in nine (9) cases the children were voluntarily returned to Israel; in two (2) cases the children remained in the country to which they were abducted to following a Court decision; in two (2) cases the parties decided that the children will remain in the country to which they were abducted to; in eleven (11) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed, and the cases of nineteen (19) other children were still pending before the Courts by the end of 2016.
81. In 2015, the Department dealt with seventeen (17) cases of twenty one (21) children who were abducted to Israel: in eight (8) cases the children were returned to the country from which they were abducted; one (1) child remained in Israel following a Court decision; in five (5) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed; in one (1) case the parties decided that the child will remain in Israel, and

the case of two (2) other children were still pending before the Courts by the end of 2015.

82. During 2015, the Department dealt with 39 cases of 40 children who were abducted from Israel: in sixteen (16) cases the children were voluntarily returned to Israel; in three (3) cases the children were returned to Israel; in four (4) cases the children remained in the country to which they were abducted to following a Court decision; in three (3) cases the parties decided that the children will remain in the country to which they were abducted to; in seven (7) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed, and the cases of six (6) other children were still pending before the Courts by the end of 2015.
83. In 2014, the Department dealt with 20 cases of 30 children who were abducted to Israel: in eight (8) cases the children were returned to the country from which they were abducted; in two (2) cases the children remained in Israel following a Court decision; in two (2) cases the children were voluntarily returned to the country from which they were abducted; in four (4) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed, and the cases of four (4) other children were still pending before the Courts by the end of 2014.
84. During 2014, the Department dealt with 33 cases of 46 children who were abducted from Israel: in nine (9) cases the children were voluntarily returned to Israel; in three (3) cases the children were returned to Israel; in two (2) cases they remained in the country to which they were abducted to following a Court decision; in two (2) cases the parties decided that the children will remain in the country to which they were abducted to; in eight (8) cases the complaint or the request has been cancelled or removed, and the cases of ten (10) other children were still pending before the Courts by the end of 2014.

## **Article 20 - Children Deprived of a Family Environment**

### **The Children Foster Care Law**

85. The Law stipulates the rights of children in foster care: the right to personal development, the right to be protected from exploitation, injury, cruel treatment and punishment; the right to have contact with parents and family members; the right to

stability and other rights intended to ensure the ability of the child to live within an alternative family setting, providing her/him with all the necessary needs.

86. According to the MoLSAaSS data there are 714 children with disabilities who are integrated in foster care, in 650 foster families.

## **Article 21 – Adoption**

### **Recognition of Parenthood in cases of Adoption and Surrogacy**

#### **Foreign surrogacy**

87. Israel is actively involved in an experts group of the HCCH (Hague Conference on Private International Law) attempting to promote the drafting of a binding international instrument on recognition of foreign parentage, including in cases of international surrogacy arrangements, and also in an experts group on behalf of the ISS (International Social Service), developing international standards for such arrangements. Israel hosted a session of this experts group in October 2018.

#### **Freedom of expression regarding adoption**

88. On February 27, 2017 Amendment No. 10 to the *Child Adoption Law* 1981- 5741 was passed. The Amendment broadens the freedom of expression regarding an adoption, while maintaining a delicate balance between freedom of expression and the protection of the privacy of the adopted child. According to the amended law, with the consent of the adoptive parent and child, the fact of the adoption may be publicized so long as the following criteria are met;
- Information which may lead to the identification of the biological parent is not published.
  - The adoptive parent may publish the fact of the adoption of a minor. However, if the minor is above the age of nine (9), the adoptive parent must require their consent for the publication, so long as the publication will not lead to the identification of the biological parent.
  - If an adult adopted person has an adult sibling who was adopted by the same parent and the publication may lead to the identification of the biological parent, the information may not be publicized.
  - The court may suspend the publication under special circumstances relating to the best interest of the child.

## **Article 25 - Periodic Review of Placement**

89. **The Children Foster Care Law** - the review includes examining the following aspects of foster care: the processes of identification, recruitment, examination and training of foster families; the processes of matching foster families to the special needs of the child; the processes of planning and handling children in foster care; human resources in the foster care agency, including foster care counselors and their trainings and the activities of foster care counselors and the accompanying processes of the child and the foster family.
90. During the first year of the Commission's establishment (November 2017 - October 2018), it received 110 complaints concerning children and youth (including children and youth with disabilities), of which 67 complaints were in compliance with the Law, and their examination was under the authority of the Commission. The examination of 54 of the complaints has been completed and 70% of them were found to be justified. 40% of the complaints were related to an offensive treatment (insulting discourse, excessive punishment and lack of attention to their requests); 23% were related to the quality of food served in boarding schools; 23% were related to the functioning of counselors and social workers.
91. Of the 67 complaints mentioned above, nine (9) related to cases of children and youth living in foster families, six (6) of which were found to be justified.
92. In 2018, the Commission focused on study and improvement of its ways of conduct, in collaboration with relevant bodies, as well as from the Academia and from parallel institutions operating abroad. Partnerships were set up with graduates of boarding schools and persons who had grown up in foster homes, and with civil society, all with the aim of improving the establishment of the complaints inquiry mechanism so that it will be more available and accessible.

## **Article 27(4) - Standard of Living**

### **Alimony and Child Support**

93. In 2017, an average of 15,000 women per month received alimony from the NII, according to the amount determined by the court or according to the Regulations - the lower of the two. Recipients of alimony benefits may also claim income support

if the amount to which they are entitled as alimony is lower than that of income support.

### **Article 18(3) - Assistance to Parents and Provision of Childcare Services**

94. The Government of Israel is taking measures in order to promote parents working hours to better the work-life balance in the civil service. These include, for example: adding a parental hour to extend eligibility to a shorter working day during the first four (4) months after maternity leave for women who do not work full-time; work-from-home pilot in the civil service; Commissioner Guidelines on short work day in August etc. For more information on these initiatives, see CESCR Report, p. 7 and 20 and Annex I, p. 10-11; 25.

### **Article 23 - Children with Disabilities**

#### **Benefits for a Disabled Child**

95. On April 1, 2016, Amendment No. 177 to the *National Insurance Law 5755-1955* entered into force. It created a benefit to be paid in the event of the death of a child with disabilities in order to aid the family in the initial period of adaptation and assisting the child's parents in returning to the labor market following a long period of taking care of the child and after the mourning period.

#### **Out-of-Home Placement for Children with Disabilities**

96. The MoLSAaSS conducts trainings to staff in out-of-home facilities for children with disabilities, as well as to staff of boarding schools in order to assist them to cope with violent behaviors, both towards other children and towards the staff. Furthermore, educational and therapeutic programs are operated by different units of the MoLSAaSS. For example: 100 staff members who treat children with disabilities in the MoLSAaSS underwent such trainings in 2017-2018, at the cost of approximately 850,000 NIS (237,234 USD).

#### **Education of Pupils with Disabilities**

97. The necessary adjustments may be technical, such as adjusting the classroom's facilities to the pupil, as well as educational content related adjustments, e.g., adapting the curriculum or teaching method, all in accordance with the pupil's

specific needs. The accessibility adjustments should be carried out while preserving the dignity and privacy of a pupil or parent, and in general without causing a separation of the pupil with disabilities from the other pupils.

98. In 2017, the MoE launched an online portal which provides important information for parents of children with disabilities on their children's rights. The portal includes information regarding governmental support of children with disabilities and their parents, as well as information on the existing educational frameworks for children with disabilities.

### **Sexuality Education in Special Education**

99. Sexuality education in special education is aimed to provide a solution for pupils with disabilities while enriching the practical know-how in social skills and education for sexuality, to promote insights and exercising the pupil's judgment and nurturing her/his ability to best supervise her/his life and choose her/his personal style and preferences.
100. In the MoE there is a national instructor for education to healthy sexuality. In the school level - the school counsel and an appointed staff member for healthy sexuality formulate a school program that focuses on the emotional-educational aspects and pedagogic-educational aspects. They promote the subject through professional development for the staff and through the pupils, accommodating the curriculum to the characteristics of the pupils, building teaching programs and study materials, etc.
101. Each year, a national seminar takes place on a unique subject that is related to sexuality in special education, such as: school program, discourse with parents, etc.

## **Article 24 - The Right to Health**

### **Encouraging Breastfeeding**

102. According to the data collected by the Mother-Child Health Care Stations, which treat approximately 75% of children in Israel, exclusive breastfeeding rates are 53% for infants at one (1) month and 17% for infants at six (6) months.

### **Programs on Sexuality**

103. The MoE program includes the following contents: gender and sex stereotypes, self-image and body image, sexual orientation and identity, courting, friendship and love, boundaries in a relationship, intercourse, contraceptives, STDs including AIDS, pregnancy, birth and abortion, exposure to pornography, etc. During the sexuality lessons, there is emphasis on promoting wellness of all pupils and accepting the other and different, all with the purpose of promoting a school and social atmosphere that enables every individual to feel a sense of belonging, value and respect, and be free from prejudice and sexual, racial or stereotypical discrimination.

#### **Article 26 - Social Security**

#### **Legislation Amendments on Child Allowances and Other Financial Assistance for Children and Their Families**

104. In 2017, the number of families receiving child allowances reached an average of 1,167,000.

#### **Article 27 (1-3) - Standard of Living**

#### **Combating Poverty**

105. The MoH operates a pilot program concerning development of poverty-awareness responses; the Ministry leads establishment of rights centers across Israel; Child and Mother Stations services are given for free; children up to the age of eighteen (18) who are residents of Israel, are entitled to MoH subsidized dental treatment, via their HMO.
106. The MoE manages a financial aid apparatus through scholarships to pupils from a deprived socio-economic background in the education system. The MoE allots about 100 Million NIS (28 Million USD) each year to this aid apparatus. In the 2017-2018 school year, the MoE distributed this budget between 4,151 education institutions so that 207,000 pupils received assistance in financing parents' payments. 43% of the scholarships budget was distributed to pupils from the Arab, Bedouin and Druze population.

#### **Children and Young Adults at Risk**



107. According to MoLSAaSS data there are 171 "hostels for girls at-risk", 84 treatment centers for boys at-risk and 126 boys and girls circles. In total there are approximately 6,000 adolescents from a variety of populations in "hostels", which provide therapeutic solution that includes: treatment, meals, enrichment and support.

### **Services for LGBTQ Youth**

108. **LGBTQ circles-** Specialized social workers have been placed in forty (40) localities, charged with the identification and treatment of at-risk youth from the LGBTQ community. The budget for these social workers is 1,400,000 NIS (398,825 USD) per year. In the first half of 2019 this program has treated 147 youths in 28 localities.
109. **Prevention plans and response to at-risk situations-** this program offers guidance, and personal individualized and group support for youth members of the LGBTQ community. In addition, the program offers solutions for specific groups such as transgenders, members of the ultra-Orthodox community and the Arab population. The program is run by the IGY Organization for LGBTQ youth. Its annual budget is 1,435,000 NIS (408,975 USD). In the first half of 2019 there were 290 participants in the program, in 15 different groups.
110. **The program for the treatment and instruction of LGBTQ youth at-risk-** the program includes psychosocial treatment as well as group therapy. The training and organization of volunteers and the operation of a 24/7 response line is conducted by the Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel. The annual budget for the program is 1,600,000 NIS (456,208 USD). The program has been operating since March 2019. Following is data on the distribution of the aforementioned programs:

| <b>Program</b>                                      | <b>Annual Budget</b>        | <b>Number of recipients of the service</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| LGBTQ circles in the local authorities              | 1,400,000 NIS (398,825 USD) | 147  |
| Prevention plans and response to at-risk situations | 1,435,000 NIS (408,975 USD) | 290  |

|  |                               |      |
|--|-------------------------------|------|
| The program for the treatment and instruction of LGBTQ youth at-risk | 1,600,000 NIS (456,208 USD)   | 852  |
| Sum total:   | 4,435,000 NIS (1,264,008 USD) | 1289 |

### **Article 33 - Measures to Protect Children from Substance Abuse**

#### **The Authority's Activities on Drug Abuse Prevention**

111. The National Anti-Drug Authority (IADA) participated in the development of services for treatment and rehabilitation of youth affected by drug abuse, such as: the establishment of the youth treatment apparatus; actions taken for opening new treatment facilities across Israel; developing new services, including dual diagnosis services. Furthermore, the National Anti-Drug Authority conducted specific trainings on the treatment of drug-using and addicted youth to professionals from the relevant Ministries.

#### **Campaign Against Youth Drug Addiction to new psychoactive substances (NPS)**

112. In the summer of 2017 the MoH launched a designated campaign for teenagers and youth warning against use of NPS, as part of a wide scale campaigns in the media aimed to raise awareness of the risks involved in use of psychoactive substances. According to the MoH data, 6,500 teenagers arrive each year to the ICUs after using NPS and approximately 75 teenagers each year are hospitalized in psychiatric hospitals. There are more and more cases of multiple illnesses and disabilities, i.e., substance abuse alongside an active mental disorder, due to the NPS drugs leading to complex mental conditions. The MoH has been working since 2018 to promote solutions for teenagers who suffer from multiple illnesses and disabilities: a first clinic was opened in Lev Hasharon Hospital to handle teenagers suffering from both situations.

#### **Educational Programs for Promoting Healthy Lifestyle and Prevention of Exposure of Children to Addictive Substances**

113. In 2018, 1,550 schools were defined as health promoters. Programs for preventing the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and dangerous substances are incorporated into

the school program. At high school level, the program includes lectures for parents, pupils and educators.

114. Designated programs for prevention of drug and alcohol use among children developed and were operated by the Authority and the MoE, and are currently being operated by the MoE as of 2018:

- a. “Light Blue Day” program: an annual program raising staff awareness to the importance of maintaining a healthy body. The program trains the kindergarten's staff to develop an accommodated discourse with the children and parents on this issue. In the course of 2017, approximately 200 kindergarten teachers were trained in the program.
- b. “Big Kids Don’t Drink” program: a program for pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades and their parents, intended to reinforce the mental resilience, developing skills for coping in various life situations, with emphasis on events involving alcohol.
- c. “Addicted to Life” program: a program aimed at 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades pupils, that stresses the implications of drug use, and is provided using new technology tools.
- d. “Of”i” program: a program intended for youth that used to drink, smoke or use drugs, aimed to coach and develop coping skills. The program includes about 100 groups each year.
- e. “Anchor to Life” program: a program for at risk youth at the ages of 12-18. The program is an experiential educational process promoting values of discipline and taking responsibility, operated in small groups by a maritime instructor and social instructor weekly throughout the school year. In recent years, about 60 groups were operated each year.

#### **Data on Rehabilitation for Children Treated for Drug and Substance Abuse**

115. The total number of adolescents identified and treated for drug and substance abuse by the MoLSAaSS is 3,711: Boys – 2,568; Girls – 1,143.

116. There are 13 identification units for adolescents on the addiction spectrum aimed to identify adolescents who are victims of drug and substance abuse, make preliminary contact, diagnose the adolescents, provide immediate instrumental assistance and referral to appropriate treatment units, addiction treatment units or residence institutions. There are currently 92 units, day treatment centers, youth preliminary treatment centers of the MoLSAaSS which are spread across Israel and 40 designated educational therapy groups for treatment of new immigrants ("adolescents on the rise" project) who are victims of drug and substance abuse. The MoLSAaSS operates in the local authorities by social workers and instructors to identify and perform social intervention among adolescents aged 12-18 who use abusive drugs. The intervention activity includes performing street work and outreaching to the adolescents, diagnosis, individual therapy, group therapy, intervention with the families, checking the addiction status of the adolescents and placing adolescents in institutions for learning, occupation, therapeutic communities for drug addicts.
117. There are three (3) designated institutions for treating adolescents harmed by active use of drugs and alcohol: Returno, Malkishua, Tiberius Hostel.
118. The MoH provides services for teenagers aged 14-18 in two (2) designated withdrawal centers: "Malkishua" designated for boys only; "Returnu" designated for girls only. The gender segregation in treatment is specifically vital for treating teenagers and significant in the success of therapy and continued treatment in the community. In 2017, 106 girls were admitted to "Returnu", out of which 63 completed successful withdrawal treatment. 216 boys were admitted to "Malkishua", out of which 97 completed successful withdrawal treatment.

## IX. EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### **Article 28 – The Right to Education**

#### **Legislation Amendments**

119. The Day Care Department at the MoLSSaSS supervises frameworks for children up to the age of three (3) and works to integrate parents into the labor market by subsidizing the children's stay in accordance with their employment and income tests. The recognized and subsidized frameworks include approximately 2,200 day

care centers and 3,700 family homes. Today, only about 25% of the children in these ages in Israel are placed in frameworks recognized by the Department, due, *inter alia*, to a lack of such frameworks.

120. Over the last three (3) years, the Day Care Department has invested more than one (1) Billion NIS (277 Million USD) in local authorities to finance the construction of day care centers by means of an efficient mechanism that accords special benefits to local authorities of certain populations (e.g., the Arab population, the ultra-Orthodox population, etc.). Thus far, 300 day-care centers were established, funded by the Ministry's budget.

### **Educational Programs for the Promotion of Children Rights**

121. The MoE is working towards establishing a rights supporting culture, rather than only distributing information on children rights. Such process-based education intensifies the continuous study of the CRC among teachers and school principals and among the pupils, according to the child's development. The schools enable pupils to express their views and take part in decision-making processes, in accordance with Articles 12 and 13 of the CRC.
122. The MoE conducts various programs for primary, middle and secondary schools, aimed to promote human rights awareness in general and awareness to the rights of the child in particular, for example:
  - a. A special education program in which pupils with disabilities learn about their rights and their implementation, in order to assist them to make better decisions regarding their lives and improve their independence;
  - b. A program in cooperation with the "House of Wheels" NGO, which seeks to create a personal encounter with the world of disabilities for non-disabled pupils, through experiential workshops;
  - c. A special program for high school and junior high school pupils aimed at creating better acquaintance with Israeli-Arabs through a series of meetings concerning the similarities and differences between persons, religions, and communities;

- d. The 'Nir Program', in cooperation with the Israeli LGBTQ Youth Organization, aimed to promote a dialogue on acceptance, equality and tolerance in schools, while focusing on topics such as homophobia, racism and the importance of social solidarity;
- e. A program for the implementation of the CRC and promotion of discourse on the child's rights, through the development of English language rhetoric, and through a program that encourages the establishment of community-based social initiative based on the CRC;
- f. Attendance Supervisors: the MoE operates a network of attendance supervisors in Israeli schools. These supervisors are present in the school throughout the day, in order to identify pupils in undetected dropout and risk situations and help connect them with professionals in the education system and community.
- g. Furthermore, the MoH conducts seminars for teachers and kindergarten staff on a variety of topics, such as rights of pupils all over the world, equality, rights of children in special education, rights of LGBTQ, decision making process according the CRC, moral thinking based on rights etc.

### **New Programs in The Primary Schools**

- a. **Second teacher's assistant** - in the 2017-2018 school year, second teacher's assistants were hired to work in 5,200 kindergartens - 500 Million NIS (140 Million USD) were allocated for this purpose.
- b. **Supplementing the differential budgeting model in elementary school** - additional treatment hours were allocated for pupils of deprived economical background.
- c. **Encouraging Achievement Amongst Students At Risk of Dropping Out** - The MoE runs classes nationwide for pupils at-risk of dropping out (via the "Mabar", "Etgar", "Amatz" programs). These programs have been implemented in schools with Jewish, Arab, Bedouin and Druze pupils, specifically in areas with populations of lower socio-economic status.
- d. **"Holidays Schools" - summer day camps** - In the 2017-2018 school year, these summer day camps first started operating. About 560,000 children, from

kindergarten to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, benefited from rich and orderly education. In light of the program's success, it will also operate in Passover and Hanukah 2018-2019.

- e. **The Northern Israel Program** - About 33,000 pupils from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades participated in 2017 in the after-school activity for every child program. These activities included a variety of areas - languages (English, Arabic, Hebrew), technology/science, nature, swimming/sports, music and art. Thanks to the program, for the first time about 20,000 pupils who never participated in after-school activities were able to do so. The program runs in Jewish and Arab populations and includes special assistance for children at-risk and populations of lower socio-economic status. The total budget for this program was 120 Million NIS (33.4 Million USD).
- f. **"Summer schools"** - As of July 1, 2018, approximately 3,500 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Israeli Summer School. The program will operate in 41 localities, and costs 4 Million NIS (1.1 Million USD). The program operates as part of the national program for enhancing spoken English in formal and recognized non-formal schools.

### **New Programs in High School Education**

123. In high schools there are several programs that include the participation of pupils in order to identify needs jointly with the pupils, incorporating pupils in planning and executing educational activities with self-reflection, implementing the principles of protected and respectful discourse and civil behavior, emotional and ethical self-inquiry and development of moral and ethical thinking, flexibility in conducting discussions about current and emotional affairs beyond the curriculum, space for choosing highlights and calendar days according to the school's educational perception. All programs are in accordance with the principles of the CRC. For example:

- a. In the Tel Aviv-Jaffa District there is a **national youth film festival** operating for a decade, in which the judges are pupils and adults. The festival takes one (1) long day with open discussions with content experts on subjects the pupils brought up in the films they created. The festival is open to all pupils in Israel of all segments and enables the pupils to openly express themselves;

- b. **Young Female Reporters Program** - between 2013 and 2015 the Head of the Women's Administration in the Municipality of Herzliya, together with the National Pupils' Rights Supervisor and the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center, established a group of secondary education female pupils specializing in the field of communications, and encouraged them to publish journalistic articles;
- c. Between 2012 and 2016 **about twenty (20) youth groups from middle schools all across Israel**, studied together with their teachers on the implementation of the CRC in their living environment together with UNICEF Israel;
- d. Between 2005 and 2018 the **"rights in the criminal proceeding" program** operated jointly with the Public Defender's Office at the MoJ. "The public defenders" hold meetings and discourse in schools with the purpose of preventing acts of violence and vandalism, while notifying the pupils of their rights as suspects in criminal proceeding. "The public defenders" raises open discourse with groups of pupils and they consult with them. This program was recognized by the Civil Service Commission as the most significant program in Israeli society in 2016. "The public defenders" were also trained by a special education supervisor and "Bizchut" organization to lecture and support pupils in special education. The workshops are generally held in Hebrew and Arabic, and are available also in Russian, French and Amharic.
- e. In 2018 a national program in secondary education "Youth Labor Rights" was led by the MoE and MoLSAaSS, aimed to educate pupils on their labor rights.
- f. "From life story to video story" - a program aimed to incorporate pupils from populations of lower socio-economic status in secondary education under the "promoting communication" in Seminar Hakibbutzim College, where various populations study under one roof, such as pupils with disabilities, at-risk youth and pupils in general education. The program operates in dozens of education institutions in Israel, specifically in the periphery. The goals of this unique program are: exercising the right of pupils of lower socio-economic status to exhaust their personal capabilities and formulate their perception of the future out of mutual respect, trust in them and in their ability to hold a dialogue to



impact their reality, enhancing resilience and self-efficacy of the youth to being mature, independent, caring and responsible in the society, while observing themselves and society, to strengthen and build their social and cultural identity by creating personal “video stories”. Between 2014 and 2018, approximately 150 education institutions were guided each year.

### **An Action Plan for the Promotion of Integration of Pupils of Ethiopian Descent**

124. An example for the promotion of integration of pupils of Ethiopian descent is the program for the advancement of final matriculation grades which operates virtual group meetings for tutorship preparation for the matriculation exam. As of December 2017, 110,000 NIS (30,700 USD) have been donated to 734 pupils from Ethiopian descent in 70 groups in sixteen (16) local authorities participating in the program.
125. Additionally, a specialist for the advancement of learning functions was appointed in various middle schools, charged with the identification and care of struggling pupils. As of December 2017, 2,888,000 NIS (806,040 USD) have been devoted to 60 schools in 27 local authorities for the advancement of this program.

### **Educational Initiatives in the Eastern Neighborhoods of Jerusalem (ENoJ)**

126. As of July 2019, there is a shortage of 4,000 classrooms and kindergartens in Jerusalem, for all populations of the city, 2,000 of which are required in the ENoJ. This is as a result of an increase in the number of children, the demand for education frameworks and decades of insufficient budgeting for this issue.
127. In order to address the immediate problem, the municipality rented 850 classrooms all over the city with an estimated cost of 50 Million NIS (13.9 Million USD). An additional 1,000 classes are in planning and construction stages and land required for additional 400 classes is in the process of expropriation. As part of this plan, regular meetings are held between the municipality and senior officials, including the MoE DG.
128. Every year, the Jerusalem Municipality opens on average more than 100 new classrooms. Temporary solutions are provided where needed, including adding

transportation to existing schools, renting buildings and "evening schools". In the years 2011-2015, roughly 20 Million NIS (5.6 Million USD) were allocated for renting 255 classrooms.

129. In 2018, new science labs in three (3) schools in the ENoJ are planned to be built, and sixteen (16) school yards are to be renovated. During 2018, 9 Million NIS (2.5 Million USD) were allocated to the renovation of one (1) elementary school and one (1) high school in the ENoJ.
130. In 2017, 250 classes in the ENoJ were computerized in fourteen (14) schools and the plan is to computerize all classes in these neighbourhoods.

### **Children Enrolled in Universities and Higher Education Programs**

131. Universities and higher education institutions in Israel run programs intended for children and youth, including enrichment programs for children and undergraduate degree programs for youth.
132. The number of children studying for an undergraduate degree in higher education institutions is approximately 2,000. About 60% of them are enrolled in selective courses in the Open University of Israel and are not a part of a designated undergraduate program for youth. These designated programs are run by universities and colleges, such as the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv University, and enable outstanding middle-school and high-school pupils to study for an undergraduate degree in certain fields.
133. Academic enrichment programs include after-school programs and summer camps for children of various ages, which are intended to expose children to academic fields and experience and provide them with advanced learning skills. Some of the programs are intended specifically for children from low socio-economic backgrounds.

### **Article 29 - The Aims of Education**

#### **Special Programs to Promote Education for Democracy**

134. As part of the general knowledge education for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, a class on current affairs and democracy was added, where the discourse revolves around civil and democratic values.

### **The Dissemination of Nutritional Principles**

135. The MoH operates a number of projects with the purpose of promoting healthy nutrition and eating habits among children and youth, especially in schools, and promotes legislation and regulations on the matter. The Nutrition Department in the MoH specifically, takes part in the dissemination of knowledge of healthy nutrition, including amongst populations of lower socio-economic status. The MoH's initiatives include lessons on healthy nutrition and public campaigns for healthy eating.
136. Following a thorough process, including public presentations and meetings, the Committee for Nutritional Regulation published its report in November 2016, which included its recommendations for the economic accessibility of healthy food; food labeling; re-formulation of various foodstuffs to reduce sodium, sugar, and saturated fats; regulation of nutrition within the education systems; promotion of healthy nutrition in large factories; encouraging medium and small manufacturers to manufacture healthy foods, granting of support and incentives for research grants to encourage the manufacture of healthy foods; and promotion of nutritional education and national advocacy within the education system and in the media. One of its major recommendations was to restrict marketing and advertising of harmful food and drinks, and especially marketing which targets children and youth. A committee on preventing harmful food marketing was appointed by the DG of the MoH in July 2017 in order to implement this recommendation and its work has commenced. Its members include health professionals from the MoH and media officials from bodies such as the Second Authority for Television and Radio and the Association for Advertising Agencies in Israel.
137. Some examples of the measures taken to promote healthy nutrition include:
- a. **Additional guidelines** - New guidelines have also been adopted or updated in order to ensure and encourage proper nutrition: *Nutrition and Food in Summer Camps for Children and Youth* (2016); *MoH Protocol on Healthy Food in*

*Hospitals* (2017); and *MoH Directive on Healthy Food in Mental Health Institutions* (2012).

- b. **National Universal Nutritional Safety Program** - This is a pan-European program intended to advance healthy nutrition for populations suffering from nutritional deprivation. Israel is one of fourteen (14) countries participating in this important initiative. The program has included several round-table discussions with stakeholders on issues such as the prevention of malnutrition in hospitals and in the community and communication and education for therapists and patients. It has so far led to significant changes such as, the addition of malnutrition screening tools in health systems; the creation of quality indexes for the treatment of nutritional jeopardy; improvement of the nutritional quality of food served in hospitals.
- c. **The Nutrition Department's Website** - This website is updated annually, and contains information in three (3) languages - Hebrew, Arabic, and English, with recommendations for healthy eating for the holidays for the various religions.

138. As a part of the development of manpower in this field, extensive work has been carried out in managing practical training on nutrition, in-service training of a large number of professionals, and a specialized course for dietitians in different specializations.

### **Article 30 - Cultural Rights of Children belonging to Minority Groups**

139. The MoCS runs the "Athena" project for the promotion of women and girls in sports, which includes support, training, programs in the local authorities and public campaigns, and for which a combined budget of 71 Million NIS (20 Million USD) was allocated in 2013-2017.

### **Article 31 - The Right of the Child to Rest, Play, Leisure, Recreation and Cultural and Artistic Activities**

#### **Guidelines on the Allocation of Land for Public Use**

#### **X. SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES**

### **Article 22- Child Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

### **Health Services Provided to Asylum Seekers, including children**

140. A range of medical services are available to asylum seekers in Israel, as follows:

- a. **Community Program for HIV/AIDS treatment** - The MoH operates a community follow-up and treatment program for HIV positive migrants without medical insurance. This is a joint project which involves AIDS clinics, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies and other commercial organizations. This program is to be further expanded, with the MoH assuming full responsibility for its financing. Treatment is also provided to pregnant women who have no health insurance, including monitoring during pregnancy and six (6) months after birth, in the regular course of operation of the MoH.
- b. **Diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis** - The treatment of tuberculosis patients in the tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment center in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, and hospitalizing tuberculosis patients in "Shmuel Harofe" hospital, is fully funded by the MoH as part of the national tuberculosis treatment program.

### **Intervention program for Eritrean families**

141. "Healthcare centers" is a family health intervention program for Eritrean families. It includes cultural mediation programs which are operated in relevant family health stations in order to coordinate preventative medical services for this community. This program was constructed in order to answer the needs of asylum seekers families, mostly from Eritrea, who reside in the City of Ashdod. This is a multi-professional program operated by the nursing staff in the station, jointly with the District Health Promoter, translators to Tigrinya and an expert for play and developmental incentives. Individual and group meetings are held for parents and children. The contents deal with the healthcare differences between Israel and the origin country, parenting, child development, age-appropriate nutrition, safety, family planning and prevention of infectious diseases. A nurse and a translator are present in every meeting and during the meetings, breakfast is provided. The group has become a support group where persons share their hardships with the staff and often, the nurses serve as change agents towards other community frameworks.

## **Article 35 - Child Sale, Trafficking and Abduction**

### **Reducing the Purchase of Sexual Services**

142. The final report of the inter-ministerial committee, headed by the DG of the MoJ, published in January 2018, included specific sections on prostitution of minors. According to the report, the number of minors in prostitution is estimated as approximately 970-1,260 girls and 30-40 boys per year. The overall number of sexual service providers is about 12,000.
143. The Report also included a number of recommendations regarding minors in prostitution, such as: raising awareness of youth to the issue; establishing additional workshops for practicing safe sex among teenagers who have been victims of sexual abuse; expanding specialized services provided to persons in prostitution; establishing additional rehabilitation centers for minors in prostitution, and enhancing enforcement efforts with regard to minors in prostitution, especially online.
144. Recently, the MoPS has initiated round-tables aimed to promote joint efforts to reduce the number of minors in prostitution, both in terms of enforcement and rehabilitation. For example, in December 2017 a round-table on information-sharing between authorities regarding minors in prostitution took place with representatives from the MoPS, the Police and MoLSAaSS.
145. Further efforts to reduce the purchase of sexual services have included:
  - a. To launch the inter-ministerial principles, the MoPS held a day long seminar on prostitution of minors, with the participation of Police officers and MOLSSAS social workers, as well as the NATU, the Deputy Attorney General's Office (Criminal Law), the SAO and NGO representatives - including ELEM and the Task Force Against Trafficking in Women.
  - b. Trainings and lectures among youth investigators in different Police districts. In this context, the initial training of a youth investigator includes a two (2)-hour lecture on the topic of prostitution of minors and a video on the subject.

- c. Explanatory and training materials: an explanatory document on the offense of receiving prostitution services from a minor (Section 203C of the *Penal Law*) was distributed to district investigation and intelligence officers; every police station in the country received a DVD on the offence.
- d. The Offense was added to the Police's list of "Disclosure Offenses", i.e., offenses that require instigated investigations that are not contingent upon a complaint. The monitoring and assessment of prostitution of minors' cases are managed by the Police Juvenile Department.

### **Treatment of Minors in Prostitution**

- 146. The MoLSAaSS leads programs for the identification, prevention and treatment of adolescents in prostitution, in cooperation with Elem NGO, and has allocated budget for the local authorities to deal with the issue. All prostitution treatment programs currently treat approximately 700 adolescents and youth on the spectrum of prostitution situations.
- 147. The "Heart 24/7" has been operating since 2014 and offers 24/7 support for minors in prostitution in the Tel Aviv-Jaffa area. The program offers two (2) main treatment tracks: damage reduction, and treatment and rehabilitation.
  - a. **Damage reduction**: a 24/7 center operated by staff and volunteers. Services include meals, hygiene needs, showers, laundry, medical assistance, consultations, and a place to stay and rest. Furthermore, the center also offers numerous workshops.
  - b. **A national helpline**: the helpline operates on a 24/7 basis and assists youths and young adults in prostitution through listening and crisis management; it also provides referrals to professionals when necessary.
  - c. **Assistance with education and employment**: the program provides assistance and support with education and employment, to assist in building a future.
  - d. **Personal support**: the youth and young adults are each assigned a mentor who accompanies them personally throughout the process, providing them

with support.

**Expansion of the Programs to Minors and Young Adults in Prostitution**

148. In 2017, thirteen (13) programs for youth in commercial sexual exploitation were established. The open centers serve as an alternative to the street or to an abusive home, and provide basic assistance, personal mentoring and mediation with services available in the community, and the Heart 24/7 center in Tel Aviv-Jaffa offers more holistic support to youth from all over the country.
149. In 2017, about 160 youth and young adults were in outreach process, and over 350 were in a process of treatment.

**Article 37(b)-(d) - The Right not to be Subjected to Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**  
**Representation of Minors in Legal Proceedings by the PDO**

150. The PDO's main activities regarding minors are:

- a. Counseling during Police investigation - the PDO operates a detention call center, available 24/7. The call center receives notifications from the Police of detained suspects, or suspects about to be detained, and sends an on-call Public Defender who arrives at the Police station, explains to the suspect minor her/his rights and advises them prior to the investigation. Between 2014 and 2017 the PDO provided 16,982 consultations to minors during investigation.
- b. Representation of detainees in court - between 2014 and 2017 the PDO represented in 10,413 arrests prior to indictment procedures. In this regard, 1,717 appeal procedures on arrests for investigation were filed.
- c. Official visits to detention facilities - the PDO holds official visits in detention facilities where minors are held, according to Section 72B of the *Prisons Ordinance*. The PDO reports to the relevant authorities when the official visits reveal extraordinary findings concerning harm to minors in detention facilities.
- d. Representation of minor prisoners - in 2016, the minor prisoner domain apparatus was established in the PDO, specializing in representation of minors in parole committees.



### **Minors in IPS Detention Facilities**

151. **Therapeutic Programs** - the programs provided in the prison for the youth prisoners are part of a holistic approach. The treatment of minor prisoners focuses on the individual and group levels - anger management, interpersonal communication, healthy sexuality. Currently, there are three (3) therapeutic projects operated in Ofek Prison: “Tnufa” (Leverage), “Eitan” (Strength) and “Oz” (Bravery), including about 40 boys.
152. Subject to the *Youth (Trial, Punishment and Modes of Treatment) Law 5731-1971*, the IPS conducts ongoing training sessions for prison staff involved in youth imprisonment. During 2018, 140 staff members went through such trainings, and in 2017, and in 130 staff members went through such trainings. During the trainings, emphasis is placed on conveying the concept guiding the IPS, according to which minors have unique and different needs than those of adults, which the IPS strives to comply with. Furthermore, the IPS staff trainings deal with certain principles of the CRC and their implementation in the IPS facilities, such as: ensuring that all minors will be protected against discrimination; the implementation of the principle of the best interests of the child; and respect for the child's wish to be informed and heard in decisions related to her/him.
153. The Youth Division in the Police conducts occasional inspections of Police stations which have a Youth Unit in order to ensure that the liberty of minors is maintained and that their detention is used as a measure of last resort, in accordance with the procedures on the matter and with the CRC principles. The approximate number of such visits conducted during the reporting period (2014-2018) is as follows: fourteen (14) in 2014, sixteen (16) in 2015, 23 in 2016, 28 in 2017 and ten (10) in 2018.
154. During 2018, the Authority for the Rehabilitation of Prisoners has treated 185 adolescents and young adults. Adolescents from the Arab population comprise about 50% of the recipients of the Authorities services, which is similar to their percentage in the prison system. The services provided by the Authority do not distinguish between persons from the Arab population and the rest of the population, and the staff aspires to act with the appropriate cultural sensitivity. There are four (4) rehabilitation centers for prisoners spread throughout Israel. These rehabilitation

centers provide services which include: emotional - individual therapy, group therapy, parental guidance, employment guidance, education, exhaustion of rights (case management), leisure and recreational activities, food and more. In Jerusalem, a Hebrew study class was established due to the fact that many of the released prisoners from the Eastern neighborhoods of Jerusalem have difficulty in Hebrew. All adolescents treated are eligible for special personal assistance (for needs such as travel, economics and clothing) and professional training and study scholarships.

#### **Article 40 - Children in Conflict with The Law, and Administration of Juvenile Justice**

##### **Inter-Ministerial Committee on Minors Recidivism**

155. The Inter-ministerial Committee's recommendations, which were adopted in a Government Resolution, include shortening timeframes for the review of the release of the minor or non-custodial alternatives by establishing consultations with the relevant professionals and the minor's parents, adjacent to the time the indictment is filed. The recommendations also included creating additional non-custodial alternatives, establishing a mandatory rehabilitation program for all released minors, developing a Re-entry Court model, expanding the "Ma'atefet" support program for at-risk youth, and reviewing out-of-home placement for minors released.
156. The Inter-Ministerial Committee also recommended creating cooperation between the different authorities responsible for minors and creating a contentious long-term treatment strategy for each minor.
157. The steering committee concluded its work in August 2018 after formulating a holistic work method regarding minors in conflict with the law, from the moment of their arrest until immediately following their release from detention, on the basis of the Inter-Ministerial Committee's recommendations. Emphasis is also given to the re-integration of the minor in society following his/her release, through a comprehensive program addressing the needs of the minor and his/her family. The steering committee devised a unique inter-ministerial work model aimed to ensure the continuous treatment of minors, by translating the Inter-Ministerial Committee's recommendations into specific tasks for which the relevant Ministries are responsible, either separately or jointly. The work model is holistic, continuous and

puts a special emphasis on cooperation between Governmental Authorities. The steering committee also developed a Re-entry Court Model, which will operate similarly to the existing parole board. A pilot of the work model is to be launched in the near future.

### **Data on Indictments against Minors and Minors Convictions**

158. In 2017, 277 minors were convicted and sentenced to a period of imprisonment or to a community service. Of the 230 minors which were sentenced to imprisonment, 63 were sentenced to up to six (6) months' imprisonment, 67 received a sentence of 6-12 months, 52 were sentenced to 1-2 years and 48 were sentenced to two (2) years or more. The other 47 minors were sentenced to a community service. 232 of the minors were convicted and sentenced as part of a plea bargain.
159. During 2017, the most common offenses minors were charged with included assaulting an officer (38), arson (27), robbery (21), harm with aggravating intent (16), maliciously endangering people on a traffic route (13), rioting (12), attempted murder (10) and sodomy (5). Three (3) minors were convicted of manslaughter and 85 were convicted of other offenses such as extortion and rape.

### **Trainings of Professionals on Children in Conflict with the Law**

160. During the years 2014-2017, the Institute of Legal Training for Attorneys and Legal Advisers in the MoJ conducted training seminars for attorneys and legal advisers specifically relating to the rights of the child on various issues: children in conflict with the law; legal aid for minors; children as victims of sex crimes; children's rights as victims of crimes. Furthermore, during the years 2014-2018 the Institute of Advanced Judicial Studies for Judges conducted various lectures, seminars, and three (3) day courses on subjects specifically relating to the children's rights, including: an annual seminar for Youth Court judges; an annual seminar for Family Matters Court judges; youth related issues and specifically on arrest, detention and hospitalization of minors; sexual exploitation and human trafficking; prostitution and domestic violence.
161. Medical and paramedical teams in the healthcare system are obligated to undergo periodic training concerning identification and screening of violence and sexual

abuse victims, including children who are victims of those crimes. Furthermore, in recent years, the MoH developed interactive educational software for self-study and conducts periodic training sessions and recently, the issue of screening and identification of victims of violence was included in various incentive programs.

162. The Youth Division in the Police conducts approximately seven (7) training sessions each year on youth related subjects, including the CRC, for all officers who work with youth.

### **Restorative Justice: Alternative Models to the Criminal Proceeding**

163. The purpose of restorative justice is to help heal the victim and obtain remedy based on the material and non-material wrongs caused to victim by the offender. The actions may be monetary compensation, apology, service for the victim or the community, and additional acts which are appropriate to the needs of the parties. Assuming responsibility on the part of the perpetrator also means willingness to actively participate in therapy. Accordingly, a treatment program is formed for the perpetrator so that she/he does not reoffend.
164. The Youth Probation Service in MoLSAaSS has been developing together with the Police, the MoPS and the MoJ, two (2) programs based on the principles of restorative justice:
  - a. Mediation between the perpetrator and the victim;
  - b. Family discussion groups - the program operates all across Israel by an NGO as an alternative or supplement to the criminal proceeding. The program includes meetings between the minor perpetrator and her/his family, and the victim and her/his supporters, with the participation of a Probation Officer, Police Officer and other professionals. The purposes of the meeting is to discuss the offenses and its consequences, to design a treatment program for the perpetrator to prevent the commitment of additional offenses, and curing the damage the perpetrator caused the victim. The program is reached with the consent of all participants.

### **XI. FOLLOW UP TO THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY (CRC-OP-SC)**

### **The Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking or Children of Victims**

165. Specifically regarding the protection of children, the following advancement in their protection took place during the reporting period:

- a. Transitional apartments - In 2018, three (3) transitional apartments were opened for victims of trafficking in persons and their children. These apartments are operated in a format that offers a full year of rehabilitation and an alternative to shelters. The transitional apartments were fully converted to family apartments, and relevant services, including a new social worker specializing in children, a new therapy play room, specialized training of staff, new family orientated approach and more, were added to support the children and families.
- b. Medical care - Children of victims of trafficking receive free and full medical care through the health insurance provided to them by the "Meuhedet" HMO. Furthermore, Mother and Child Health Care Stations provide child development screening tests, and all the required vaccinations. Childbirth services are provided without a condition of prepayment in every hospital in Israel, including full treatment for babies and for preemies, in addition to dental care services for women, men and children.
- c. Parental group training - The National Center for survivors of slavery and human trafficking was established on 2013 by the MoLSAaSS in order to provide services for victims of trafficking while they are staying in the community - either before entering the shelter, as an alternative to the shelter, or as a follow-up service after leaving the shelter. In 2014-2016 the Center set up a group on the subject of parental training, designed for mothers of children aged between one (1) to eight (8), and dealing with issues of parenting styles, setting limits, permitted and not permitted punishment, etc. The group was facilitated by a social worker and cultural mediator, attended by about ten (10) women, and included ten (10) sessions.

### **Sex Tourism involving Children**

166. According to the Police data, there is no information indicating a problem of child sex tourism, both inside Israel or by Israeli tourists abroad. In addition, no Israeli

nationals were prosecuted and/or convicted during the reporting period under the extra-territorial provisions for traveling to other countries to engage in child sex tourism. Tourist visas to Israel (when required) are never issued to a minor without the written consent of a parent or guardian, and will be issued only after a review of their reason for arrival in Israel and the submission of supporting documents.

167. The Ethics Code was adopted at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization. The Code states explicitly that the exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly sexual exploitation and when applied to children, clashes with the fundamental aims of tourism. The Ethics Code further prohibits travel press from advertising or promoting sex tourism. On 6 February, 2018, during the International Mediterranean Tourist Market held in Israel, leading organizations in the Israeli tourism industry joined the Code. A total of six (6) organizations have now joined the Code: The Israel Hotels Association, the Israel Tour Guides Association, ORTR - Conference Organizing and Destination Management, the Israel Incoming Tour Operators Association, the Israel Association of Travel Agencies and Consultants, and MDTGU - "Moreshet Derech" - Tour Guide Union for Incoming Tourism.

#### **Indictments and Convictions on Crimes in the Additional Protocol**

168. During the years 2014-2018, 99 indictments were filed by the SAO in regards to offenses relating to exploitation of minors for prostitution and obscene publication of minors (Sections 203B, 203C, 205A, 205D, 208 and 214B of the *Penal Law*):
  - a. In 2017, out of eighteen (18) cases in which indictments were filed, in one (1) case the judicial process was concluded. In 2018, indictments were filed in two (2) cases and the judicial proceedings in their regard are ongoing;
  - b. In 2016, indictments were filed in twenty-six (26) cases and in nine (9) of them the judicial process was concluded;
  - c. In 2015, out of twenty-six (26) cases in which indictments were filed, in twenty (20) cases the judicial process was concluded.

- d. In 2014, indictments were filed in twenty-seven (27) cases and in twenty-four (24) of them the judicial process was concluded. An additional case was closed due to the defendant's death.

169. Between 2016-2018, there was one (1) case of two (2) defendants convicted for the offense of Procurement (Section 199 the *Penal Law*); one (1) case with one (1) defendant with a conviction for the offense of inducement to an act of prostitution (Section 201) and one (1) case of one (1) defendant convicted for the offence of inducement to engage in prostitution (Section 202). Moreover, there were nine (9) convictions in the offense of receiving prostitution services from a minor - which is also criminalized in Israel under Section 203C of the *Penal Law*, and carries a penalty of five (5) years imprisonment. Furthermore, there are five (5) convictions of two (2) defendants in the offence of an indecent act.

#### **International Cooperation for the Prevention, Exposure and Punishment of the Crimes in the Additional Protocol**

170. An International Workshop was held in Israel in 2015, in cooperation with UNESCO, on "Combating Violence Against Women and Children". One of the main objectives of the workshop was to examine international forms of violence, such as trafficking in persons. This workshop is being held annually.

#### **Data from the Department of International Affairs in the SAO**

171. Between the years 2014 and 2018, the Department of International Affairs in the SAO received eleven (11) requests from foreign countries regarding the extradition of persons accused of various sexual offenses in minors, one (1) of which relates to minors' pornography. Three (3) of the requests resulted in extradition, three (3) resulted in declaring the persons accused as extraditable and their matter is still pending. Of the remaining requests: two (2) are currently in process in the requesting State, which has not yet requested extradition; in two (2) requests, the persons accused left Israel before the request was submitted; and in one (1), the statute of limitations had expired and therefore alternative measures are examined. During this period of time, four (4) requests from previous years were processed.

172. In the field of legal mutual legal assistance, the Department dealt with twenty-three (23) different cases involving violence against minors, sexual offenses committed against minors and trafficking in minors. Of these cases, three (3) dealt with investigative procedures in child abduction investigations; four (4) cases dealt with violence against minors, including one (1) large-scale case requiring the cooperation of multiple countries; sixteen (16) other cases dealt with sex offenses committed against minors, two (2) of these cases were large-scale cases involving extensive cooperation with several other countries and resulted, in at least one (1) case, in the identification, arrest and prosecution of a sex offender who operated over an extended period of time and abused a large number of victims.

XII. FOLLOW UP TO THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT (CRC-OP-AC)

**Schools Operated by or under the Auspices of the IDF**

173. In addition to specialized training, IDF operated schools that abide by the same curriculum as every other school in the Israeli educational system. Except for specific military style training, and during their basic training, pupils in the school do not receive or carry arms and they do not take part in combat. For additional information on this issue see Israel's Initial Report to the CRC-OP-AC paras. 52-60.