**Response by the Czech Republic**

**Questionnaires: Thematic reports of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons**

**Contact point:**

Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

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**ANNEX 2**

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER WOMEN**

**1. What legal instruments, policies and programmes exist to address the particular challenges faced by older women, and how are they implemented and monitored?**

Anti-Discrimination Act defines direct and indirect discrimination based on several grounds, including gender and age. Anti-Discrimination Act is described in responses to the questions from the Annex 1.

Government *Strategy for Equality of Women and Men in the Czech Republic for 2014 – 2020*[[1]](#footnote-1) reflected fragile position of older women in relation to their position on the labour market, and risk of social exclusion and gender-based marginalisation of older women. Follow-up Action plans were issued on a yearly basis. Overall report was prepared by the end of term of the strategy.

On 8th March 2021, a new *Strategy for Equality between Women and Men for 2021 – 2030*[[2]](#footnote-2) has been adopted by the government. The strategy includes several measures aiming to improve the position of older women in society. In relation to socio-economic position, the strategy suggests to reduce the risk of poverty of older women, by amending the pension system. Several measures are targeting the intersectional disadvantages. The strategy also tackles the domestic violence among senior citizens (institutional violence or violence from their children). Similarly, as in the case of previous strategy, there will be follow-up action/implementation plans. The strategy tackles most challenges described in the below sections.

The drafted the *Strategic Framework for Preparing for an Ageing Society 2020–2025* tackles, among others, the discrimination of older women/LGBTI+ in accessing the services and labour market and their quality of life. The Strategy aims to reduce gender pension gap by taking several measures, such as expanding services focusing on criminality prevention and inter-generational cohabitation.

One of the main priorities of the *Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2019 – 2022*[[3]](#footnote-3) is to ensure sufficient attention to persons facing multiple discrimination. Specific measures include financial support of specialised safe houses for persons affected by domestic violence (incl. older women) and financial support of specialised crisis beds for persons affected by domestic and gender-based violence. The ministries are responsible for the implementation of measures, the evaluation is carried out by the Committee for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women. In following weeks, the update of the Action Plan is being prepared. The drafted measures focusing specifically on the violence against older people are described in the response on question 12.

**4. What type of statistical data are collected on older women, if any, and is it disaggregated by age, gender, and other relevant factor? How are older women defined for the purposes of law, policy and data collection?**

Czech Statistical Office issues most statistics disaggregated by age and gender. It issues an annual yearbook *Focused on women and men* that covers various fields, such as labour, health, social security etc.[[4]](#footnote-4)

From other cross-cutting statistics, the data related to senior citizens[[5]](#footnote-5) as well as foreigners[[6]](#footnote-6) in the Czech Republic are issued.

**3. Please indicate how older women take part in participatory mechanisms?**

Older women are represented in many organisations that participate in public politics. The Czech Women ‘s Lobby is an umbrella organisation that defends the right of women in the Czech Republic. This organisation has its representative in the Government’s Gender Equality Council. Older women’s organisations were also involved in the preparation of the new *Strategy for Equality of Women and Men for 2021-2030*. In both, Government Council for Older Persons and the Population Ageing and Working Group and on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons older women are represented.

**4. What are the specific challenges and concerns faced by older women, including the basis of their accumulated life experience as compared to older men, in enjoying their economic, social and cultural rights (for example in terms of social protection, health, education, work, adequate standard of living, land and property ownership)? Please provide related data and statistics, including disaggregated data, where available.**

Despite the fact that the Czech Republic has one of the lowest gender pension gaps in EU (13%)[[7]](#footnote-7) older women are disproportionally more affected by the risk of poverty than men. They are among groups that are at risk of poverty material deprivation.[[8]](#footnote-8) According to a report[[9]](#footnote-9) by Czech Statistical Office, older women pay 31% from their income on housing costs, which is the highest proportion.

From the perspective of health – women have higher life expectancy (82,0) than men (76,2)[[10]](#footnote-10) and may spent their final years in social isolation.

**5. What forms of gender-based discrimination and inequality experienced by women throughout the life cycle have a particular impact on the enjoyment of their human rights in older age?**

Distribution of household work and childcare is not equal among men and women, who care disproportionally more and are leaving labour market for up to 4 years (parental leave allowance can be received up to 4 years of age of a child). This leads to lower income of women. Also, the horizontal segregation is present in the Czech Republic and the fields dominated by women are typical by lower income. These factors lead to gender pay gap and eventually to gender pension gap (which, as previously mentioned, is relatively low).

Additionally, according to a study[[11]](#footnote-11) by CERGE-EI (Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education - Economics Institute), divorce can also negatively influence the pensions. This is caused by the horizontal segregation described above. On average, women would lose up to 7,1 % of their monthly pension income due to the divorce.

After divorce, women (nor men, if that´s the case) are not entitled to widow´s pension. In case of women, this may lead to further financial deprivation.

**6. Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected older women differently than older men and how?**

Vaccination is provided firstly to the oldest people. Those are women due to their longer life expectancy.

the vast majority of neglected seni

Non-representative research shows that senior women are many times more neglected, which can multiply in the context of pandemics.

Nereprezentativní výzkum ukazuje, že starší ženy jsou mnohonásobně více opomíjeny, což se může v kontextu pandemií znásobit.

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Úplné výsledky se nepodařilo načíst

Zkusit znovu

Opakování…

Opakování…

Even with the loss of a partner, they often live alone and have a low income, and are thus more vulnerable to social isolation, economic insecurity and social exclusion.

I při ztrátě partnera často žijí sami a mají nízký příjem, a jsou tak zranitelnější vůči sociální izolaci, ekonomické nejistotě a sociálnímu vyloučení.

They also due to the loss of a partner often live alone and tend to have low incomes and are more vulnerable to social isolation, economic insecurity and social exclusion.

Rovněž kvůli ztrátě partnera často žijí osamoceně a mají sklon k nízkým příjmům a jsou zranitelnější vůči sociální izolaci, ekonomické nejistotě a sociálnímu vyloučení.

Úplné výsledky se nepodařilo načíst

Zkusit znovu

Opakování…

Opakování…

**7. Please share examples of how older women participate in and contribute to economic, social and cultural life, including inter-generational solidarity and support.**

Non-profit non-governmental organisations plays significant role in older women’s participation in economic, social and cultural life, e.g. Život 90 (Life 90) or Elpida organisations. Job counselling to older people is provided by organisations such as Seniorem s radostí (Being Senior with Joy). The intergenerational solidarity and support is promoted by Post bellum (Paměť národa) or Právě teď! organisation.

Starší ženy jsou také zapojeny do místních kulturních aktivit

Úplné výsledky se nepodařilo načíst

Zkusit znovu

Opakování…

Opakování…

Například projekt na pomoc práci nadace Golden Beauty se snaží pomoci udržet a uplatnit seniory na trhu práce.

Úplné výsledky se nepodařilo načíst

Zkusit znovu

Opakování…

Opakování…

They can pass on their long experience as mentors for younger colleagues.

Mohou předávat své dlouholeté zkušenosti jako mentory pro mladší kolegy.

They can pass on his long experience as a mentor to younger colleagues.

Mohou se podělit o své dlouholeté zkušenosti s mentorem mladších kolegů.

Úplné výsledky se nepodařilo načíst

Zkusit znovu

Opakování…

Opakování…

starší ženy často přispívají do rodin jako pečovatelky o ostatní členy rodiny, které pomáhají s chodem domácnosti.

Úplné výsledky se nepodařilo načíst

Zkusit znovu

Opakování…

Opakování…

**8. What forms of structural and systematic discrimination do older women face (for example through laws, policies, traditional and customary practices, etc.) and what measures have been taken to address them?**

Amendments to the Act on Pension Insurance are expected, reflecting the unequal position of women on a labour market and risk of poverty.

**9. How do intersectional factors exacerbate the combined effect of ageism and sexism, including the perspective of older LGBTI women, older women with disabilities, older migrant women, older women belonging to indigenous and minority groups, etc.?**

Older migrant women are at higher risk of poverty.[[12]](#footnote-12) This may be related to a limited access to healthcare, (non)recognition of their qualification and decrease in career compared to the country of origin, precarious working conditions and employment in informal sectors (and therefore lack of social/healthcare insurance). These factors are potentially adding to the inequality of women on the labour market and in pension.

Research on the specifics of LGBTI\* ageing is expected, also in relation to the *Strategy on LGBT\* equality*, which is currently being prepared.

**10. What forms does gender-based violence and abuse against older women take and how is such violence prevalent? Please share available data and statistics, including in relation to femicides.**

Older people are increasingly becoming victims of domestic violence. But only a fraction of them turn for help. This growing trend is confirmed by both the statistics of the Line for Seniors and the Police of the Czech Republic.

**11. Please provide examples of how the life cycle perspective is integrated into policies and programmes to prevent and address gender-based violence against women and girls.**

The *Strategy for Equality between Women and Men for 2021 – 2030* contains the following goals and measures:

Objective: To raise the awareness of older people - victims of domestic violence about possible solutions and available assistance.

Measure: To increase the awareness of older people - victims of domestic violence on what to do in cases where they become victims of domestic violence (including violence by their children or institutions).

Objective: To reduce the incidence of violence in care-homes for older people.

Measure: Implement awareness-raising activities for workers in care-homes for older people on issue of violence.

Needs of vulnerable groups of people such as older people have been taken into account in the drafted updated implementation of the *Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence for 2019-2022*.

**12. Please share information about reporting, accountability, remedy and protective mechanism available and targeted to older women victims of gender-based violence and discrimination.**

The representatives of the Working Group and on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons has joined works on the update of the *Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence for 2019-2022* with relation to the violence against and abuse of older people. One of the new measures is to design a system of records and methodology for this area. The monitoring body for this measure will be the Gender Equality Council that monitors the implementation of this Action Plan.

1. <http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Government_Strategy_for-Gender_Equality_2014_2020.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. To be released [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/AP-Prevention-DGBV-2019.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See for example *Old‐age pension and survivors' pension recipients by sex and age*

   <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/120583268/30000220050506.pdf/dc1b1bdd-8f5b-4263-b22a-bb8925f4a4b5?version=1.3> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/senior_citizens> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci/1-ciz_pocet_cizincu> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20200207-1> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/91839453/1600211920.pdf/897b900a-9923-4666-932e-8b058c878419?version=1.2> and <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/125571069/1600212019.pdf/dc590e1c-a42f-495c-a7cd-59a7a42b076f?version=1.0> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/75701585/csu+cerge-ei+kalmus.pdf/395677aa-0c7f-4cdc-931e-f19452c55ebd?version=1.1> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/120583268/300002200209+.pdf/fb6ba1c1-3c52-41b1-b072-78c63f59e75b?version=1.1> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://aa.ecn.cz/img_upload/8b47a03bf445e4c3031ce326c68558ae/vliv_rozvodu_na_-prijmy_-v_duchodu1_-detailni_rozliseni.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.migrace.com/docs/161018_publikace-zvk_web_final.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)