



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

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

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under
article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination against Women**

**Replies of Lithuania to the list of issues and questions in
relation to the seventh periodic report of Lithuania*****

[Date received: 21 July 2025]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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



Replies to the list of issues (CEDAW/C/LTU/RQ/7)

Reply to paragraph 1

1. Updated data for monitoring the Convention's implementation is available on Lithuania's Official Statistics Portal (OSP): <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/>. In 2024, the Indicators Database was enhanced, and population statistics now include fertility rates by mother's age at the municipal level and detailed demographic data by age, sex, nationality, country of birth, and Human Development Index. Living standards and employment data cover poverty risk, income inequality, deprivation, and unmet medical needs by sex. Expanded indicators also include education outcomes by nationality and special needs, children receiving social services, and children with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, and type of impairment.

Reply to paragraph 2(a)

2. The Lithuanian court information system (LITEKO) generates statistics based on case categories and decisions, as defined by the Judicial Council. There is no specific code for identifying cases referencing the CEDAW Convention, therefore automated statistics on such cases cannot be produced.

3. To strengthen judicial capacity under the CEDAW Convention, training was provided on domestic violence, human trafficking, and international criminal procedures. In 2023, sessions covered mediation in domestic violence cases for 12 judges and human trafficking for 34 judges. In 2024, 22 judges received training on protection from violence in criminal cases.

4. The Prosecutor General's Office regularly trains prosecutors on gender equality and violence prevention. Between 2023 and 2025, it held 12 sessions on domestic violence, reaching 212 prosecutors and 74 civil servants, along with additional sessions on protective measures and international best practices for over 250 participants. Prosecutors and civil servants also took part in external training by the EJTN, National Courts Administration, and NGOs on gender identity, victim support, and domestic violence legislation. Capacity building was further supported by the Council of Europe's HELP course and training from the State Child Rights Protection Service, Ministry of the Interior, and CEPOL.

5. The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman in partnership with the State Border Guard Service launched the "ABC of Equality and Non-Discrimination" training for public sector staff. Police officers receive modular training on human rights, hate crimes, and non-discrimination, supported by a dedicated programme on responding to hate crimes and hate speech.

Reply to paragraph 2(b)

6. As part of the 2021–2023 Action Plan for implementing the UN CEDAW Committee's recommendations, Lithuania adopted key measures. To promote equal pay, Law No. XIV-123 mandated "Sodra" to publish average wages by gender. The Law on Protection Against Domestic Violence was amended to include emergency barring orders. The "More Balance" project challenged gender stereotypes through fatherhood-focused campaigns. Lithuania also adopted its second national action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and launched the "Leader" program to boost women's participation in regional decision-making. No specific indicators were set to track progress, but extending the mechanism for future reviews is under consideration.

Reply to paragraph 3

7. Patients' rights in Lithuania are governed by the Law on Patients' Rights and Compensation for Damage to Health. Under Article 1(2), no one may be discriminated against based on sex, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, language, origin, social status, religion, beliefs, opinions, sexual orientation, genetic traits, disability, or other grounds – except as provided by law and in line with human rights principles. In practice, this ensures that all individuals, including asylum seekers and those under temporary protection, are entitled to essential medical care and other necessary health services to prevent conditions requiring emergency treatment.

8. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lithuania conducted a comprehensive review of lessons learned and continues to strengthen public health preparedness. Key actions include an After-Action Review with the ECDC, improved national coordination, and modernization of the communicable disease information system. The EU Digital COVID Certificate was implemented with a focus on non-discrimination, and legislation is regularly updated to ensure future readiness. Lithuania also remains actively engaged in international health security efforts with the EU, WHO, and ECDC.

9. In response to the urgent need to vaccinate foreign nationals who fled Ukraine due to the military aggression by Russia, the Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Public Health under the Ministry of Health, and the Group of Independent Experts of the National Immunoprophylaxis Programme (2019–2023) developed specific recommendations. These guidelines address the provision of healthcare services for the prevention of infectious diseases among displaced persons from Ukraine and aim to ensure equitable access to essential health services.

Reply to paragraph 4

10. Lithuania's Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2020–2024) advanced women's roles in peacebuilding, aligned with UN Resolution 1325. Funded annually and through development aid, it supported empowerment projects in countries like South Africa and India. Key outcomes include more women in international missions, diplomat training, and research on participation barriers. The Third National Action Plan for 2025–2029 draws on empirical research, international recommendations, and evolving geopolitical contexts, including the impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. It is expected to enhance institutional commitment, improve monitoring of results, and ensure stronger integration of NGOs and resource planning.

Reply to paragraph 5(a)

11. Lithuania is currently transposing Council Directive (EU) 2024/1499 and Directive (EU) 2024/1500 into national law. Their provisions are being integrated into Lithuania's Law on Equal Opportunities, introducing new legal concepts such as intersectional, multiple, and associative discrimination to align with EU standards.

12. The Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men is undergoing review in line with the implementation plan of the Programme of the XIX Government of Lithuania. A key measure involves introducing gender quotas or proportional representation to improve gender balance in decision-making roles. This will begin with a sector-wide analysis to identify where temporary special measures are needed, followed by potential legislative changes.

Reply to paragraph 5(b)

13. In September 2023, the Seimas (Parliament) submitted a request to the Constitutional Court seeking clarification on whether the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence is compatible with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. On 14 May 2024, the Constitutional Court issued its ruling, concluding that the provisions of the Convention do not conflict with the Constitution. As of the time of reporting, the ratification of the Convention is not under consideration by the Seimas.

Reply to paragraph 6

14. State-guaranteed legal aid (SGLA) is available to foreigners under the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners and the Law on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid. Asylum seekers, refugees, and those under temporary protection are entitled to legal aid to establish their legal status, with representation provided by the Reception and Integration Agency. In civil matters (e.g., divorce), legal aid is also available. Primary legal aid – legal advice, information, and document preparation – is provided free by municipalities. Secondary legal aid, including court representation, is granted with or without means testing, depending on the applicant’s situation. The law also covers state-funded mediation, and primary legal aid specialists assist with applications for both services.

15. The Specialised Comprehensive Assistance Centres (SCACs) across Lithuania support victims by providing free, tailored legal assistance, including translation services, working closely with public institutions and NGOs during legal proceedings. SCACs must ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, including publishing service information by disability type and reviewing accessibility plans at least every two years.

16. Since June 2023, legal services for the Roma community have been enhanced through the EU-funded project “Local Roma Platforms – Part VI.” A lawyer provides 15 hours of monthly legal consultations, with around 80% of beneficiaries being women. In 2024, the lawyer successfully litigated a discrimination case involving three Roma women under Articles 169 and 284 of the Criminal Code, related to unequal treatment in catering services.

Reply to paragraph 7(a)

17. The *2021–2023 Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-Discrimination* focused on upholding human dignity, enforcing equal opportunity laws, raising awareness of discrimination, and strengthening institutional cooperation. The 2023 report showed strong engagement in education and training but highlighted the need for greater involvement from NGOs, trade unions, and ombuds institutions. The new *2024–2026 Action Plan* builds on this work, with added emphasis on international cooperation and hate crime prevention. The 2024 report indicated that several indicators exceeded targets, reflecting high demand for educational initiatives.

18. The 2024 implementation report for the Action Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2023–2025) highlights progress on 22 measures related to gender equality in employment, enhancing women’s economic independence, and integrating gender perspectives in education. Support was extended to NGO-led initiatives and counselling services for men, with particular attention given to the needs of vulnerable women.

19. The 2024 report on the Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Assistance to Victims (2024–2026) outlines the implementation of 28 targeted measures. These include tailored support for persons with disabilities, public awareness campaigns, improved data collection, and behavioural change programmes. The report underscores the critical role of multi-sectoral cooperation in effectively addressing domestic violence.

Reply to paragraph 7(b)

20. Equality and non-discrimination are central to Lithuania's strategic management system. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour (MSSL) leads implementation by reviewing legislation, supporting institutions, providing training, and monitoring progress. To aid this, MSSL published a practical guide on applying the "equal opportunities for all" principle and submits annual reports under the Strategic Management Methodology.

21. In 2024, Lithuania transposed the EU Directive on improving gender balance among directors of listed companies into national law. The Directive's provisions were extended beyond listed companies to include other large enterprises and were incorporated into the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. This reflects a proactive approach to accelerating gender parity in corporate leadership.

22. Lithuania is piloting a gender equality coordinator model in five municipalities (2024–2025). Coordinators develop local gender policies, support domestic violence victims, promote gender-responsive budgeting, and collaborate with NGOs. The pilot will inform a scalable national model, with coordinators integrated into a national network for knowledge sharing and cooperation.

Reply to paragraph 7(c)

23. In line with Government Resolution No. 155 (10 March 2021), the MSSL commissioned a feasibility study on gender-responsive budgeting. The study identified the Finnish model as the most compatible. Based on these findings, recommendations were submitted to the Government Chancellery. Next steps include inter-institutional coordination and developing tools to apply gender perspectives in national and municipal budgeting.

Reply to paragraph 7(d)

24. In recent years, funding for the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson (the Service) has increased, including allocations for salaries and operational needs. While not all requested funds were granted, targeted increases – such as the €105,000 allocated in 2024 – reflect a commitment to strengthening the Service's capacity, despite some funds being earmarked for structural adjustments. Additionally, the State supports women's rights organisations through project-based funding, including EU-funded and national programmes, though further efforts are needed to ensure long-term sustainability and impact.

Reply to paragraph 8

25. In 2025, the Service submitted a proposal to the MSSL recommending a more transparent procedure for appointing the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson emphasizing the importance of public involvement, including non-governmental

organizations, academic institutions, and human rights bodies. This recommendation was reflected in the draft amendments to the Law on Equal Opportunities.

26. The Service has consistently strengthened its role in the protection of human rights, including women's rights. It is actively involved in monitoring the implementation of international human rights instruments, including the CEDAW Convention, preparing alternative reports and providing additional information to international human rights monitoring mechanisms.

Reply to paragraph 9

27. The 2023–2025 Action Plan on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2023–2025 Action Plan) aims to boost women's presence in leadership through possible gender quotas, legal reforms, and better data. Though there is no national campaign, awareness is growing through laws, planning, and education. Key steps include the 2024 adoption of the EU directive on gender balance in corporate boards and efforts to make the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson's appointment process more transparent.

28. In June 2025, Lithuania hosted a workshop on women's empowerment in politics as part of the European Commission's Mutual Learning Programme to explore strategies for encouraging women's political participation and to exchange practical examples of policies and legislative measures implemented across EU Member States in this field.

Reply to paragraph 10

29. In 2024, the MSSL funded a EUR 120,000 NGO project to raise awareness about women's unpaid care work and promote gender equality. The Lithuanian Women's Lobby implemented the project "Closing the Gender Gap in Care Responsibilities," producing a national survey, qualitative research on unpaid domestic work, and policy recommendations. In 2025, MSSL renewed its commitment to this issue, aligning efforts with the 2023–2025 Action Plan, which prioritizes reducing the gender pay gap and strengthening women's economic independence through data collection and targeted initiatives.

30. In 2024, the MSSL allocated €170,000 to an NGO-led project tackling domestic violence through awareness, research, and education. The campaign reached 364,000 Meta users with 65 posts, partnered with influencers, and produced games and podcasts. Three studies on youth attitudes informed policy recommendations. Training and outreach engaged 979 young people. In 2025, efforts will continue with a focus on youth organisations. From 2025 to 2027, three major campaigns will address psychological violence, economic violence, and perpetrator behaviour change.

Reply to paragraph 11(a)

31. LITEKO's automated statistics system is based on case classifications and judicial decisions approved by the Judicial Council, which define categories for criminal and civil cases. Under Article 2(5) of the Law on Protection Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence includes any intentional act or omission – physical, psychological, sexual, economic, or other – that causes harm to another person. The Criminal Code of Lithuania does not define domestic violence as a separate offence. Instead, it is identified through a qualifying circumstance – when a

crime is committed against a close relative or family member. This qualifier is used for statistical classification of offences. Accordingly, the LITEKO system was queried using the classification for offences committed against close relatives or family members. See Annex 1 for more information.

32. According to the data provided by the Department of Informatics and Communications under the Ministry of the Interior, a total of 4,357 women – including 351 girls under the age of 18 – were recorded as victims of criminal acts related to domestic violence in 2023. In 2024, the number of female victims decreased to 3,537, including 318 girls under the age of 18. See Annex 2 for more information.

Reply to paragraph 11(b)

33. Between July and December 2023, Lithuanian police issued 10,786 emergency barring orders (EBO) related to domestic violence. This number rose sharply to 21,101 in 2024, with 4,684 issued in Q1 2025 alone. EBOs impose obligations on the offender, such as vacating the shared residence, avoiding contact with the victim, and staying away from cohabiting adults or children. Police actively monitor compliance with these measures. Failure to comply with the terms of EBO constitutes an administrative offence under Article 489 of the Code of Administrative Offences “Violation of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence.” The penalties range from EUR 80 to 320 for a first offence, and from EUR 300 to 780 for repeat offences.

34. The police registered 4,906 administrative offences for breaches of EBOs between July and December 2023, including 668 repeat violations. In 2024, this number rose to 8,929 offences, with 3,357 classified as repeat offences. In the first three months of 2025, 1,961 breaches were recorded, of which 881 were repeat offences. To strengthen the implementation of EBOs and improve inter-agency coordination, the MSSL regularly organises inter-institutional meetings with representatives from the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior, the National Courts Administration, and the Specialised Assistance Centres.

Reply to paragraph 11(c)

35. In 2024, Lithuania implemented 28 targeted measures to prevent domestic violence and support those affected. These efforts included public awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, and data-driven analysis, with particular attention to the needs of persons with disabilities. Projects were funded to provide assistance to victims, implement behavioural change programs for perpetrators, and support broader prevention activities.

Reply to paragraph 11(d)

36. In 2023, 1,527 officers completed domestic violence response training. In 2024, Lithuania expanded efforts through an EEA and Norway Grants project. The police trained 499 officers (282 men, 217 women) on gender dynamics and victim support, while the National Courts Administration trained 95 officers on legal and psychological aspects of assisting victims.

Reply to paragraph 11(e)

37. The revised Law on Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence created a national support framework through SCCCs, offering tailored services including

counselling, legal aid, and job reintegration, with a focus on persons with disabilities. In 2024, 27,846 people received help – mostly women aged 40–49. Since July 2023, an NGO has supported service quality through training. From 2025 to 2027, two specialist training sessions will cover disability support, psychological readiness, economic violence, and intervention. Victims will also receive virtual financial literacy training. Coordination is ensured by a national advisory council and local commissions in all 60 municipalities.

Reply to paragraph 11(f)

38. In 2021, a 24-bed hostel for detained women and families opened at the State Border Guard's Foreigners Registration Centre, offering private rooms, kitchens, lounges, and a prayer space. Detainees receive psychological support and help from NGOs like Caritas and the Red Cross. Complaints, including about domestic violence, can be submitted anonymously via HELP boxes in non-surveilled areas, with guidance provided on contacting oversight bodies or via email at help@piia.lt.

39. In cooperation with the police, quarterly training sessions are held for residents of temporary accommodation facilities, covering domestic violence, human trafficking, and exploitation aiming to raise awareness and support prevention among foreign nationals. In partnership with Specialised Comprehensive Assistance Centres, information is also provided on available psychological and integrated support for those at risk or affected by domestic violence.

Reply to paragraph 12(a)

40. Under Articles 40(1)(12) and 49(1) of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, a temporary residence permit in Lithuania may be issued or amended for victims of human trafficking who cooperate with law enforcement or judicial authorities. Article 130(4) further stipulates that such individuals cannot be expelled or returned during a self-determination period, allowing them time to decide whether to cooperate. According to Government Resolution No. 430, this period may last up to 30 calendar days, during which victims are entitled to safe accommodation, medical care, social services, psychological support, translation, and participation in support programmes. These protections are reinforced by national law and international treaties, ensuring victims receive the support needed to recover and make informed decisions.

Reply to paragraph 12(b)

41. Under Lithuanian law, prostitution is not criminalised but treated as an administrative offence under Article 487 of the Administrative Offences Code, punishable by fines for both first-time and repeat offences, with no imprisonment. Individuals coerced into prostitution or identified as victims of human trafficking are exempt from liability under Article 487(4). Victims, as defined in Article 147 of the Criminal Code, are formally recognised in criminal proceedings and protected under laws ensuring anonymity and safety, including the Law on the Protection of Participants in Criminal Proceedings and the Law on the Protection of Witnesses. The MJ opposes full decriminalisation, citing potential legal contradictions and regulatory gaps in areas such as health, taxation, and social security. Instead, administrative sanctions may include mandatory support programmes, such as addiction prevention, resocialisation, and parenting support.

42. The MSSL allocates €300,000 annually to NGOs supporting trafficking victims. Services include temporary accommodation, legal and psychological aid, employment

support, and a 24/7 helpline. In 2024, 239 individuals received assistance (133 men, 106 women). NGOs also provide emotional support, accompaniment to legal proceedings, and language assistance, with each case managed by a dedicated specialist.

Reply to paragraph 12(c)

43. Article 130(4) of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens (LLSA) stipulates that a foreign national may not be expelled from Lithuania or returned to a foreign state if they have been granted a period of self-determination. This period is provided in accordance with procedures established by the Government of Lithuania and is intended for individuals who are victims or former victims of crimes related to human trafficking. During this time, the individual must decide whether to cooperate with pre-trial investigation authorities or the court.

44. Government Resolution No. 430 outlines the procedure for granting a self-determination period of up to 30 days for victims or former victims of human trafficking. This period allows individuals time to recover, avoid traffickers' influence, and decide whether to cooperate with law enforcement.

45. In 2024, Lithuania issued Joint Order No. I-327/1V-1015/A1-758 to strengthen the protection of trafficking victims. Signed by the Prosecutor General and the Ministers of the Interior and Social Security and Labour, it approved new guidelines on identifying victims, managing the self-determination period, and improving inter-institutional cooperation and support frameworks.

Reply to paragraph 13

46. In the Seimas, women hold 40 out of 141 seats, while in the 19th Government of Lithuania, 4 out of 14 ministers are women. At the local government level, 6 out of 60 municipalities are headed by female mayors. According to the 2024 EIGE Gender Equality Index in the domain of power, women make up 27% of board or supervisory board members in the largest publicly listed companies. At the municipal level, there are positive examples of efforts to integrate gender equality. For instance, Klaipėda District Municipality has adopted a Gender Equality Plan for 2024–2025. Additionally, Vilnius District Municipality has developed an Equal Opportunities Action Plan.

47. The 2024–2026 Equal Opportunities Implementation Action Plan aims to foster respect and reduce discrimination, particularly by raising public awareness. A key focus is increasing the representation of women from marginalized groups, such as Roma women, in political and public life. Measure 3.1 targets ethnic discrimination. On April 25, 2024, the Department of National Minorities held a strategic session on countering the misuse of historical narratives to incite interethnic conflict.

48. The 2023–2025 Action Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men promotes the empowerment of vulnerable women and girls, including those with disabilities and migrant backgrounds. Through the project “Reception and Early Integration of Refugees from Ukraine,” 24 municipalities allocated at least 10% of their budgets – totalling €227,075 – to support women and girls via seminars, entrepreneurship programs, mentorships, camps, self-help groups, and awareness events aimed at building confidence, creativity, and autonomy.

Reply to paragraph 14(a)

49. The Lithuanian Informal Education Agency (LIEA) leads national youth career guidance efforts, aiming to eliminate gender-based career barriers and promote equal opportunities. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MESS), VILNIUS TECH, and the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, LIEA organizes events for career specialists and educators on gender-neutral career paths and the impact of stereotypes. It also promotes STEM among girls through various initiatives.

50. To guide students and parents, the LIEA organizes sessions on careers in fields like marine science, engineering, and forestry, offering insights into labour market needs and helping youth make informed choices. These efforts are supported by the national career platform MUKIS, which provides resources for students (grades 1–12), parents, and professionals by promoting gender-neutral career choices.

Reply to paragraph 14(b)

51. Formal education is compulsory for children aged 6–16, with equal access guaranteed by law. Amendments to the Law on Education in September 2024 promote the inclusion of children with special educational needs (SEN) in mainstream schools without affecting gender distribution. In the 2024–2025 academic year, 476,537 pupils were enrolled, including 80,549 with SEN. Of these, 92% were integrated into mainstream classes, while others attended special classes or schools. The SEN rate remained stable at 16%.

52. Government funding for educational assistance rose from €136.4 million in 2023 to €164.2 million in 2024. The share of pupils needing support increased to 83.2%, and the SEN-to-support professional ratio improved from 18.6 in 2020 to 16.9 in 2024. New regulations allow schools to provide assistance to undiagnosed pupils based on Child Welfare Committee recommendations. Support may include special educators, speech therapists, psychologists, or social pedagogues. Between 2000 and 2024, educational support specialist positions grew from 3,836 to 4,228, and pupil assistant roles more than doubled to 5,271, with 4,644 assistants employed in 2024–2025.

Reply to paragraph 14(c)

53. In the 2024–2025 academic year, a total of 199 Roma pupils were enrolled in general education institutions across Lithuania. Between 2023 and 2024, 8 Roma pupils discontinued their education. During the same period, 6,512 pupils from abroad (migrants) were enrolled in general education. 39 migrant pupils withdrew from the education system between 2023 and 2024.

Reply to paragraph 14(d)

54. The 2023–2025 Action Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men promotes gender equality in education through updated curricula, stereotype-free career counselling, and STEM initiatives for girls. LIEA's 2024 event and the "Strong in Diversity" training challenge gender bias, while MUKIS supports inclusive guidance. Vocational support for women was highlighted at the Youth Affairs Agency's 2024 "Direction – Career" conference.

55. The MSSL €120,000 annually to NGO-led gender equality projects, guided by EIGE's Gender Equality Index. In 2023, the focus was women's political empowerment; in 2024–2025, it shifted to unpaid care work. Complementing this, the 2024–2026 Action Plan on Domestic Violence Prevention funds awareness and education projects. In 2024, the Lithuanian Association for the Assertion of Women's Rights trained 979 young people through campaigns and workshops on healthy relationships and violence prevention.

Reply to paragraph 15(a)

56. Employment support and labour market services follow principles of gender equality and non-discrimination, as outlined in the Law on Employment. Existing measures continue to promote full employment, social inclusion, and support for disadvantaged groups, including women. The Employment Service offers a wide range of services – career counselling, vocational training, psychological support, and employment mediation. Special support is available for persons with disabilities and women facing barriers like caregiving or addiction. In 2024, 244 individuals joined group sessions and 352 received individual counselling. Under the Roma Inclusion Action Plan 2030, the Employment Service continues tailored support for Roma individuals. Since 2023, ten Roma women completed vocational training in beauty services, aiding their labour market integration.

57. Municipalities run local employment programmes, while 15 of the planned 22 Regional Career Centres are now operational, offering career guidance and interactive learning. In 2024, targeted initiatives included events on employment rights and equal opportunities for 184 participants, Women Go Tech mentoring for 158 women (including 25 Ukrainians), four Women's Entrepreneurship Workshops reaching 872 participants, and continued support for vulnerable women through regional partnerships.

Reply to paragraph 15(b)

58. In 2023, the gender pay gap in Lithuania stood at 10.7%. In spring 2024, the EU adopted the Pay Transparency Directive to address the gender pay gap. Lithuania responded with awareness campaigns. In early 2025, labour inspectors received training, and the directive was presented at key events. The State Labour Inspectorate tripled inspections to detect pay disparities. As part of the implementation of this Directive, a draft amendment to the Labour Code and the Code of Administrative Offences was prepared and presented to the Tripartite Council on 27 May 2025. The draft is currently under discussion with social partners. The 2023–2025 Action Plan for Equal Opportunities supports pay equity through data collection, inspections, and education, while also promoting rural women's participation in decision-making. In 2024, the MSSL granted €120,000 to the Lithuanian Women's Lobby for a project on unpaid care work, which will expand in 2025 to raise awareness and promote women's economic independence.

Reply to paragraph 15(c)

59. Lithuanian law guarantees equal access to social security, assistance, and pensions regardless of gender. The pension system is contribution-based, and as of December 2024, women – due to longer life expectancy and historically earlier retirement – made up 65% of the 638,000 old-age pension recipients. Although the retirement age was nearly equal in 2024 (64 years and 10 months for men, 64 years

and 8 months for women), it was over two years lower for women in 2012. This gradual equalisation, set to reach full parity at age 65 in 2026, is helping reduce the gender pension gap. Despite this, women's average pension (€566.70) remains lower than men's (€655.70), largely due to shorter service periods. The gap is widest among those over 80 (around 33%) but narrows to just 5% among women aged 60–70, reflecting longer service histories and rising retirement ages.

60. In 2023 and 2024, the Lithuanian government implemented significant pension reforms, increasing old-age and disability pensions in line with the Law on Social Insurance Pensions – by 13.9% in 2023 and 11.3% in 2024 – slightly outpacing average wage growth. State pensions for specific groups, such as victims of occupation and resistance fighters, saw a substantial 87% increase in 2024, while overall state pensions were indexed at 5.95%. Amendments to the Law on Social Assistance Pensions, effective from 2024, expanded access to social assistance pensions for individuals with insufficient service records, such as those with disabilities, or whose social security pensions fall below the supplementary threshold. These changes also removed restrictions on receiving old-age pensions while earning income and introduced a more gradual and equitable distribution of benefits, with increased amounts based on varying levels of disability. Notably, 69% of social assistance pension recipients are women.

61. To address the gender pension gap, the government introduced a low-pension supplement. This benefit is calculated as the difference between the awarded pension and the minimum consumption needs basket. Women make up the majority of recipients – 72% of old-age and 63% of disability pension supplement beneficiaries. Most of these supplements (75% for old-age and 60% for disability) are under €50. The increase in the minimum consumption needs basket by 26% (to €446) between 2023 and 2024 led to corresponding increases in these supplements.

62. Since 2021, Lithuania has equalised the basic pension for individuals with at least 15 years of pensionable service, eliminating previous reductions for shorter service periods – a change that has particularly benefited women, who typically have 2–5 years less service than men. The minimum required service period, equal for both sexes since 2004, is gradually increasing from 30 to 35 years by 2027. In 2022, the government introduced the single person's allowance, which in 2025 amounts to €42.29 and is received by 235,000 individuals, 63% of whom are women. The 2024 disability reform added participation-based increases to old-age pensions for pensioners diagnosed with severe disabilities (70–100% loss of work capacity) after retirement age, benefiting nearly 25,000 individuals starting in 2025. Additionally, in 2025, social security pensions were indexed by 12% and social assistance pensions by 25%, alongside a government commitment to revise the methodology for calculating base amounts of social benefits and to further index the individual component of social insurance pensions, which is linked to contribution history.

Reply to paragraph 15(d)

63. Starting 1 September 2025, pre-school education in Lithuania becomes universal from age two, requiring institutions to provide places for all two-year-olds whose parents opt in. It must be offered at least 4 hours daily or 20 hours weekly, publicly funded at this minimum, while attendance beyond 9 hours must be covered by the institution's owner. Until then, current regulations remain in effect. Children from socially at-risk families are entitled to compulsory pre-school education from birth, even if not formally enrolled, with municipalities receiving extra funding – supporting 792 children as of March 2025 – to ensure timely access.

64. According to preliminary data from the National Agency for Education, participation in pre-school education in Lithuania continues to rise. In the 2024–2025 academic year, enrolment reached 0.93% for children under one, 34.07% for one-year-olds, and 87.3% for two-year-olds – up from 0.61%, 26.3%, and 86.73% in 2023–2024, and 0.46%, 22.8%, and 82.86% in 2022–2023. This steady growth is partly influenced by policies allowing parents on parental leave to care for children at home until age two, during which they receive childcare benefits – contributing to lower enrolment rates for children under two.

Reply to paragraph 15(e)

65. Article 28 of the Labour Code (LC) establishes the principle of respect for employees' family commitments. Employers are required to consider and respond in writing to employee requests related to family responsibilities and to support work-family balance in practice. All mandatory employee rights are defined in the LC, with the possibility of additional guarantees through employment contracts or collective agreements. The State Labour Inspectorate (SLI) promotes good practices in reconciling work and family life, highlighting socially responsible employers.

66. The LC provides family-related guarantees, including extra days off for parents, extended leave for single parents and those raising children with disabilities, and flexible childcare leave until a child turns three. Fathers are eligible for 30 calendar days of paternity leave within the first year of a child's life, along with paternity benefits. Mothers receive 70 days of maternity leave before childbirth and 56 days after, with extensions in cases of complications or multiple births, and are entitled to maternity benefits if eligible. Support is also available for caregivers meeting social insurance criteria.

67. The LC offers strong protections to help employees balance work and family life. Pregnant employees, parents of children under 3 or 14, those with disabled children under 18, and employees with two or more children receive priority for annual leave and have the right to request remote work – requests that must be granted unless they cause significant disruption or cost. Additional safeguards include extended dismissal notice periods, a ban on dismissing employees with children under 3, and the right for parents of young children to choose work shifts. Parental leave is available until the child turns three, with up to two years compensated, and unpaid leave must be granted for caregiving or if a partner is on parental leave.

68. Following the implementation of EU Directive 2019/1158, the LC was amended to strengthen flexible working arrangements. Employees may now request part-time work, full-time teleworking, or flexible schedules based on health needs or caregiving responsibilities. Employers must accommodate these requests unless they can justify refusal. Since 1 January 2023, each parent is entitled to a non-transferable two-month portion of childcare leave until the child turns 2. This measure aims to promote gender equality in caregiving and encourage shared parental responsibilities. During this leave, eligible parents are entitled to parental allowance if covered by maternity social insurance.

69. As of 1 January 2023, employees of state and municipal institutions with children under the age of three are entitled to a reduced 32-hour working week. The measure aims to support early return to work, maintain professional qualifications, and promote work-life balance without increasing the burden on the private sector. While not mandatory for private employers, similar arrangements can be negotiated through internal policies or collective agreements. These efforts align with the 2023–2025 Action Plan, which prioritises strengthening work-family reconciliation

guarantees and creating conditions that support both caregiving and career development.

Reply to paragraph 16

70. Municipal Public Health Offices are key to promoting local public health. They carry out both state-assigned tasks – like monitoring health in schools, promoting community health, and tracking health trends – and autonomous measures tailored to local needs, especially for children and youth. In 2025, over €30 million in targeted state funding supports these efforts. Grounded in the principle of health equality, these services aim to ensure fair access to quality care for all, regardless of social or geographic status. Lithuania also runs five national prevention programs. The State Patients' Fund, which manages health insurance, does not collect data on ethnicity or disability, upholding privacy and non-discrimination. See Annexes 3-6 for more information.

Reply to paragraph 17(a)

71. Termination of pregnancy in Lithuania is regulated by the Minister of Health's Order No. 50 (1994), which defines it as a personal healthcare service including counselling, the procedure, and follow-up care. Surgical termination is allowed up to 6 weeks in licensed outpatient facilities. After 6 weeks, it must be performed in facilities offering day surgery or inpatient gynaecology services. For medical reasons, both surgical and medical terminations are permitted up to 22 weeks in tertiary-level centres. Procedures are carried out by multidisciplinary teams of licensed healthcare professionals.

72. As of 2024, Lithuania had 603 obstetricians and gynaecologists, 447 paediatricians, 133 neonatologists, 844 anaesthetists, 828 midwives, 21,172 general nurses, and 1,971 anaesthesia and intensive care nurses. Strengthening the healthcare workforce is a national priority, as outlined in Government Resolution No. 151 of 12 March 2025, which emphasizes attracting, financing, and improving working conditions for health professionals. The plan also aims to increase the competencies of healthcare and pharmacy professionals by 15% through in-service training, quality improvement, and supervision, supported by the European Union Funds Investment Program for 2021–2027. See Annexes 7-8 for more information.

Reply to paragraph 17(b)

73. Annex 1 of Lithuania's termination of pregnancy regulations outlines medical and legal grounds for abortion, including physiological immaturity for girls aged 14 or younger. According to the Law on the Rights of Patients, individuals aged 16 and over must give their own consent for healthcare services, while those under 16 require consent from a legal representative – unless it's an emergency. Healthcare providers must act in the minor's best interest, considering both the minor's and guardian's views. If disagreements arise, a medical consortium decides. In some cases, minors under 16 may independently consent if deemed capable of understanding their health condition.

74. Article 2.25 of the Civil Code affirms the inviolability of the human person, stating that any intervention in a person's body – such as surgery, organ removal, sterilisation, or termination of pregnancy – requires written consent. If the individual is legally incapacitated, consent must be provided by a guardian; however, for procedures such as termination of pregnancy, court authorisation is also required. This

requirement is waived only in cases of urgent medical necessity, where the patient's life is at risk and they are unable to express their will.

Reply to paragraph 17(c)

75. Municipal public health offices support school-based sexuality education through the Healthy Lifestyle Skills Program. This is complemented by the Youth Portal, run by the Institute of Hygiene, which provides information on sexual health and contraception. In 24 municipalities, 28 Youth-Friendly Health Care Services coordinators use a structured algorithm to assess risks and coordinate support for youth aged 14–29, aiming to reduce STIs and unplanned pregnancies.

76. Girls aged 15–17 may be prescribed levonorgestrel under Order No. V-527, which regulates outpatient gynaecological care. Family visiting specialists also provide in-home education to new parents on unplanned pregnancy risks and postpartum contraception. These visits are governed by Order No. V-530 and included in national health services under Order No. V-589. Together, these measures support a coordinated national approach to sexual and reproductive health for youth and new families.

Reply to paragraph 17(d)

77. The procedure for providing healthcare to survivors of sexual violence in Lithuania is outlined in the 2021 Order No. V-1765, which details healthcare professionals' responsibilities when treating potential victims. If sexual violence is suspected, providers must notify the police, as mandated by the Joint Regulation (Order No. 55/42/16). To ensure compliance, the General Prosecutor's Office may inspect healthcare institutions or delegate this to district prosecutors. If violations are found, corrective actions are taken, ensuring survivors receive timely care and legal protections.

Reply to paragraph 17(e)

78. There are currently no plans to abolish the requirement for legal guardian authorisation for abortion in girls under 18, as established by Article 2.25 of the Civil Code, which mandates written consent for any bodily intervention, including pregnancy termination. If the individual is legally incapacitated, a guardian must provide consent, and court authorisation is required unless the procedure is urgently needed to save the person's life and they cannot express their will. For girls under 16, written consent is mandatory, while for those aged 16–18, such consent is recommended but not obligatory. These rules reflect a cautious approach balancing medical care with legal safeguards.

Reply to paragraph 17(f)

79. Personal healthcare services, including surgical, invasive, and interventional procedures, may not be performed without the informed consent of the patient or their legal representative. This fundamental principle is established under the Law on the Rights of Patients and Compensation for the Damage to their Health, which prohibits the provision of healthcare services without consent, except in cases of urgent medical necessity. At present, the Ministry of Health does not collect or maintain data on obstetric violence against women and girls.

Reply to paragraph 18(a)

80. There is currently no requested data available. See Annex 9 for general information.

Reply to paragraph 18(b)

81. Legal assistance is provided through partnerships with civil society, while municipalities offer housing support, though some families still live in shared accommodations. Healthcare is integrated into the public system, with a new mental health and psychosocial support framework underway. In education, refugee children benefit from language and integration programs, and a 2025 strategic plan includes sociocultural orientation to aid their adaptation.

Reply to paragraph 18(c)

82. Following amendments to the Law on the State Border and its Protection (LSBP) on 2 May 2023, Lithuania adopted Resolution No. 315, which prohibits entry to foreign nationals who cross or attempt to cross the EU external border outside designated points or violate border procedures. This applies to individuals within Lithuania's border zone, with exceptions outlined in Article 4(13) of the LSBP.

83. The exclusion provision under Lithuania's Law on the State Border and its Protection (LSBP) is activated only during a declared emergency caused by a mass influx of foreigners, particularly when illegal or forceful border crossings occur. The government views this measure as necessary and proportionate to protect national security, public order, and the EU's external borders, specifically targeting instrumentalised migration, which is treated separately from natural migration. Despite this restriction, the LSBP mandates a compulsory assessment of each individual's need for assistance. If a person is fleeing persecution or has humanitarian grounds for entry, the exclusion does not apply. To ensure proper implementation, the Head of the State Border Guard Service issued Order No. 4-200 on 3 May 2023, establishing a standardized procedure for assessing each case individually.

84. SBGS officers in Lithuania assess each foreigner's health, safety, and basic needs upon arrival, including the presence and well-being of children. Medical staff and child protection specialists are involved when needed. Individuals are interviewed to determine eligibility for refugee or international protection status under the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, with special attention to vulnerable groups. This process ensures humanitarian standards are upheld during emergency border management, in line with Lithuania's international obligations.

Reply to paragraph 18(d)

85. The primary goal of the "Rape is a War Crime" campaign was educational – to raise public awareness about sexual violence as a war crime and to promote a survivor-centered approach to justice and support. The service providers involved in the campaign do not collect or manage the requested statistical data, as their role focused on outreach, education, and referral rather than case management or data tracking.

Reply to paragraph 18(e)

86. Between 2021 and 2024, the number of women accommodated in Lithuania's State Border Guard Service Foreigners Registration Centre varied, with 152 in 2021, 238 in 2022, 108 in 2023, and 107 in 2024. The average number of days in detention for both men and women was 29.1 in 2021, rising to 55.8 in 2022, then decreasing to 15.7 in 2023 and 16.6 in 2024. Separate statistics on the grounds for women's detention are not available.

Reply to paragraph 18(f)

87. Women and girls who apply for asylum and identify themselves as stateless are recognized as such based on the information they provide during the asylum application process. There is no separate administrative procedure for determining statelessness; instead, this assessment is integrated into the broader asylum process. As of the latest data, there are currently 906 stateless women and girls who hold valid residence permits, either as asylum seekers or under other legal grounds.

88. Under Article 18 of Lithuania's Law on Citizenship, stateless individuals – regardless of gender – may acquire citizenship through naturalisation if they meet specific criteria, including ten years of legal residence in the EU, permanent residency in Lithuania at the time of application and decision, passing national language and constitutional knowledge exams, demonstrating a lawful source of income, and declaring willingness to renounce other citizenships if applicable. Certain groups are exempt from the exam and income requirements, such as people aged 65+, persons with a disability level of 0–55%, those of retirement age with special needs, individuals with severe chronic mental or behavioural disorders, and children under 18. These exemptions help ensure accessibility while maintaining the integrity of the naturalisation process.

Reply to paragraph 18(g)

89. The emergency (extraordinary situation) declared on 2 July 2021 ended on 15 January 2022. There is no information available on the number of women and girls denied international and/or temporary protection under emergency provisions.

Reply to paragraph 18(h)

90. Family members of individuals granted asylum in Lithuania can apply for a temporary residence permit under simplified family reunification rules. Applications must be submitted within six months of the asylum decision. Under these conditions, applicants are not required to show proof of income or health insurance. If official documents proving family ties are unavailable, Lithuanian authorities conduct individual assessments. These may include interview, and a review of information provided during the asylum process to verify the relationship.

91. To support family reunification, Lithuania began recognizing the International Committee of the Red Cross Emergency Travel Document in 2021. This allows individuals without valid ID to enter the country under exceptional circumstances and apply for a temporary residence permit. Since 2023, family members can also apply for temporary residence permits from abroad through an external service provider, improving access for those outside Lithuania.

Reply to paragraph 18(i)

92. On 25 April 2023, Lithuania amended the Law on the State Border and its Protection introducing significant changes to border management during states of emergency. A key provision (Article 4(13)) allows the government to restrict the entry of foreigners during a declared emergency caused by a mass influx, based on individual assessments. This applies to those crossing at non-designated points or violating entry procedures. Exceptions are made for individuals fleeing armed conflict, facing persecution under the 1951 Refugee Convention, or seeking entry for humanitarian reasons. These individuals are not considered legally present but must be assessed for emergency aid needs and provided assistance if necessary. The law fills a previous legal gap by enabling the state to respond to threats to national security or public order at the border. To implement it, the government adopted Resolution No. 315 on 3 May 2023, authorizing the State Border Guard Service to enforce entry restrictions, while upholding humanitarian protections. See Annex 10 for general information.

Reply to paragraph 19(a)

93. At the time of reporting, Lithuania lacks public data on women and girls with disabilities under guardianship, but efforts are underway to reform the system in line with international human rights standards. The Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with legal experts, has proposed measures to strengthen legal capacity, including simplified property administration, expanded advance directives, and clearer roles for support persons. These reforms were highlighted at the 21 June 2025 conference “The Right to Decide: Legal Capacity and Pathways to Reform,” hosted by the European and Lithuanian Disability Forums, which emphasized shifting from guardianship to supported decision-making in line with Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Reply to paragraph 19(b)

94. If a person’s legal capacity has not been formally restricted but they are experiencing difficulties in decision-making, legal capacity restriction prevention specialists are available to provide support. These professionals operate across various regions of Lithuania and offer guidance to individuals seeking to maintain or regain their legal capacity. In cases where legal capacity has already been restricted, Lithuanian law provides a mechanism for its restoration through court proceedings, particularly when there is evidence of improved health or social functioning. This reflects a broader commitment to recognizing the evolving nature of legal capacity and the need for individualized, rights-based assessments.

Reply to paragraph 19(c)

95. Under the Law on the Rights of Patients and Compensation for the Damage to their Health, no medical treatment can be performed without the consent of the patient, including women with disabilities. Consent is required from individuals aged 16 and over unless it’s an emergency and they cannot express their will. If the patient is unable to decide and no legal representative is available, the attending physician – sometimes with a medical consortium – acts in the patient’s best interest. For minors under 16, legal representatives must provide consent, except in emergencies, with healthcare providers considering the views of both the child and their guardians. In case of disagreement, a medical consortium decides. Under the Law on Mental Health

Care, individuals with mental or behavioural disorders may be involuntarily hospitalised for up to three working days if they pose an immediate threat to themselves or others, with treatment allowed without consent during this period. Any extension requires a court decision, and all measures are based strictly on medical risk, not disability or gender.

Reply to paragraph 20(a)

96. Lithuania's cash social assistance system is inclusive and age-neutral, ensuring that older women are not excluded from support. Financial aid is available to individuals and families with insufficient income, including social benefits and allowances for heating and water, while women with children may receive additional targeted support such as child benefits, maternity-related payments, and assistance for school-age children, including free meals and supplies. These measures aim to increase disposable income and reduce poverty among vulnerable groups.

97. In the healthcare sector, Article 1(2) of the Law on the Rights of Patients and Compensation for the Damage to their Health prohibits discrimination in healthcare provision, ensuring equitable access in line with human rights principles. Healthcare services are delivered according to legal standards and service requirements. Additionally, family visiting services are regulated by the Minister of Health's Order No. V-530 of 13 May 2024, which prioritizes support for women aged 40 and over who are pregnant with their first child, recognizing their specific health and social needs.

Reply to paragraph 20(b)

98. Ambulance services in Lithuania are universally accessible, including for foreign nationals, but rural areas face challenges like limited ambulance teams and longer response times, which particularly affect women due to poor transport and limited access to healthcare information. To address transport-related barriers, non-specialised services are available to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, low-income individuals, and those aged 75+, as regulated by Government Resolution No. 1196 (30 November 2022). Specialised transport, governed by Minister of Health Order No. V-34 (11 January 2023), is provided when medically necessary and includes supervision or life-support during transit. Together, these services aim to ensure equitable access to healthcare, particularly for rural and vulnerable populations.

Reply to paragraph 20(c)

99. Patient rights in Lithuania are protected under Article 1(2) of the Law on the Rights of Patients and Compensation for the Damage to their Health, which prohibits restricting healthcare access except as legally permitted and aligned with human rights. All healthcare services – outpatient, inpatient, and preventive – are provided without discrimination, with full reimbursement for those covered by compulsory health insurance and emergency care available to all. A 2022 study on Roma healthcare access revealed barriers like limited digital access and gender disparities. Since 2016, Roma facilitators have supported access in several municipalities, and in 2024, Vilnius introduced a health intermediary role, while the Department of National Minorities continues to provide health education for Roma women.

Reply to paragraph 20(d)

100. In its 2019 ruling (No. KT3-N1/2019), the Constitutional Court of Lithuania affirmed that discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation violates Article 29 of the Constitution and human dignity. While Article 2.27 of the Civil Code allows unmarried adults to undergo gender reassignment, the absence of implementing legislation means legal gender recognition is handled case-by-case through court decisions.

Reply to paragraph 20(e)

101. Following the European Court of Human Rights judgment in *Macatė v. Lithuania*, the Constitutional Court issued Resolution No. KT101-N15/2024 on 18 December 2024, declaring Article 4(2)(16) of the Law on the Protection of Minors unconstitutional. The Court found that the provision unjustifiably restricted information about same-sex relationships, violating constitutional rights to freedom of expression and family life. As a result, the provision was removed from the legal system and is no longer applicable.

Reply to paragraph 20(f)

102. In 2025, an inter-institutional working group was established to draft the 2023–2025 Action Plan involving ministries, municipalities, NGOs, and the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson. This reflects a cross-sectoral approach to gender equality. Concurrently, Lithuania is transposing EU Directives 2024/1499 and 2024/1500 on equality bodies into national law. These updates to the Law on Equal Opportunities aim to introduce definitions of multiple, intersectional, and associative discrimination.

Reply to paragraph 21(a)

103. In 2022, the Ministry of Justice and STRATA conducted an ex-post evaluation of compulsory mediation in family disputes confirming that the reform met its objectives, increasing mediation use, amicable settlements, and public awareness, while reducing court workloads and costs. No issues were found with the exemption for domestic violence survivors under Article 20(1)(1) of the Law on Mediation. Continued monitoring was recommended. In response, the MSSL was tasked with overseeing the implementation of this exemption, particularly in light of CEDAW recommendations. No practical issues have been reported to date.

104. To implement recommendations from the 2022 evaluation, the Seimas adopted Law No. XIV-2722 on 13 June 2024, amending the Law on Mediation. Key changes include the mediator's duty to contact the other party and the removal of detailed payment rules (effective 1 September 2024), as well as reforms to mediator self-governance and universal membership via the Lithuanian Mediation Register (effective 1 January 2025). The exemption from compulsory mediation was expanded to include cases where the opposing party is under an emergency protection order for domestic violence. While data on voluntary mediation by domestic violence survivors is not collected separately, mediation remains effective in family disputes.

Reply to paragraph 21(b)

105. On 17 April 2025, the Constitutional Court of Lithuania ruled that Article 3.229 of the Civil Code – restricting partnerships to opposite-sex couples – is unconstitutional. The Court found that this provision violates the rights of same-sex couples to dignity, private and family life, and equality under Article 29 of the Constitution. It emphasized that societal prejudice cannot justify limiting fundamental rights and called on the legislature to adopt a legal framework for registering partnerships. Until then, individuals may seek legal recognition of same-sex partnerships through the courts.

Reply to paragraph 22

106. Lithuania's National Energy and Climate Action Plan (2021–2030) does not explicitly include gender as a strategic focus but features a horizontal measure to assess climate policies through a gender equality lens. The Ministry of Environment (ME) supports the “Equal Opportunities for All” principle through its 2022–2030 programme, coordinating several measures with the MSSL. Gender equality is also embedded in national strategies such as the National Progress Plan and the “Lithuania 2050” vision. The ME collaborates with the State Data Agency on SDG monitoring and prepared the 2023 Voluntary National Review, which included SDG 5.
