Norway grants

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATIZATION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

ANNEX 1

Sexual assault centres (SAC)

SCL02

SOCIAL: Women and Roma empowerment and support Norway Grants 2021-2028 Slovak Republic

Minimum standards for the provision of services in SACs

The minimum standards for the provision of services to survivors of sexual violence in SAC centres are as follows[1]:

- Availability of the center non-stop, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in an easily accessible and safe place and minimal waiting time to provide assistance upon arrival at the center. In the standards in the UK, it is recommended to start attending to the victim immediately after his arrival at the center, the maximum waiting time for services should not exceed 4 hours, the forensic examination should be carried out within an hour.
- The presence of an adequately trained and trained crisis social worker in the facility, who will work closely with the medical staff.
- Victims should have the right the gender of the health professional performing the medical and forensic examination. Three-quarters of women with experience of sexual violence prefer female staff, almost half of victims of sexual violence refuse to be examined by a male health professional.
- Availability of medical doctors trained in procedures for collecting forensic evidence in cases of sexual violence from both adults and children according to standardized procedures and protocols[2].
- Availability of an adequately equipped space for forensic examination, where all necessary actions can be carried out and the risk of contamination of samples will be minimized.
- Medical treatment must be comprehensive and must include an assessment of physical, mental and sexual health, the provision of emergency contraception, screening and

[1] In accordance with the already elaborated proposal of Z. Očenášová, which are inspired by the standards applied in the United Kingdom (Home Office, 2009, In: Očenášová, 2017).

[2] Forensic procedures are performed by a medical doctors or a person who is authorized to do so under current law.

prophylaxis of sexually transmitted diseases, and an assessment of mental status, suicide risk, identification of PTSD symptoms and coping strategies.

Structure of the SAC team

The entire team, including first-contact staff and administrative personnel, must be trained in a trauma-informed approach and have a thorough understanding of both the acute symptoms and long-term consequences of trauma experienced by survivors of sexual violence.

The SAC team should be composed of professionals covering the full spectrum of services provided to survivors of sexual violence, regardless of whether they are directly based within the SAC premises or available on call through contractual arrangements. The SAC team could ideally consist of the following professionals[3]:

- social worker[4]
- nurse
- doctors specialised in gynaecology, traumatology, surgery, psychiatry and urology, employed within the hospital departments where the SAC is located
- psychologist/ psychotherapist
- lawyer

Minimum requirements for the involvement of personnel in the SAC team:

Doctors specialised in gynaecology, traumatology, surgery, urology and psychiatry

- are employed in the relevant departments of the hospital where the SAC is located
- their work schedules should be organised in the best interest of survivors, ensuring that a female doctor with the relevant specialisation is always available for SAC clients
- are trained in a trauma-informed approach
- provide healthcare to survivors, including treatment of injuries, provision of emergency contraception, and care focused on the prophylaxis of sexually transmitted infections
- ensure the collection of forensic evidence

Psychologist/Psychoterapist

- provides psychological counselling to survivors and their close relatives, supports them in the process of coping with trauma, and informs clients about possible symptoms of trauma and stress reactions
- has knowledge, skills and experience in working with survivors of interpersonal trauma
- assesses the risk of self-harm
- diagnoses symptoms of PTSD, depression and anxiety
- uses standardised, evidence-based tools to assess history and symptoms of trauma
- has knowledge and skills in teaching emotional regulation techniques
- meets the qualification requirements: completed university degree in psychology, completed psychotherapeutic training, experience working with traumatised individuals,

[3] Integrated Assistance in Cases of Sexual Victimization

[4] The structure of the SAC determines who serves as the first point of contact.

completed training in the fundamentals of psychotraumatology[5], experience working with traumatised individuals is considered an asset

Social worker

- provides counselling and support in addressing changes in the survivor's life situation
- provides counselling and assistance in arranging safe or confidential accommodation
- facilitates access to counselling and support related to child protection and social-legal protection of children
- has experience working with survivors of sexual or domestic violence
- is trained in a trauma-informed approach

Additional positions that may be involved in the SAC team:

First-contact staff (nurse or social worker)[6]

- is trained in a trauma-informed approach
- ensures first contact with survivors of sexual violence in the SAC and maintains a permanent presence at the SAC
- ensures case management (monitoring the progress of the case)
- coordinates services provided to the client, mobilises relevant professionals within the SAC, and facilitates access to services provided outside the SAC (e.g. referral to NGOs, victim support centres, therapists, lawyers, etc.)

Lawyer

- assists survivors in preparing documentation for court proceedings
- supports and represents survivors during court hearings
- provides counselling and support to survivors in their interactions with law enforcement authorities
- supports survivors in ensuring their safety and recommends appropriate follow-up services
- provides legal services in the field of criminal law to enforce the law and protect the rights of women
- has a professional specialisation in criminal law
- has sufficient experience and expertise in cases of sexual violence
- is trained in a trauma-informed approach

Training of SAC personnel, including training in a trauma-informed approach, will be provided by the Coordination-Methodological Centre within the programme, in line with methodological guidance and service provision standards.

[5] Basics of solution-focused psychotraumatology – delivered by SIPE

[6] UNB briefly defines the roles and responsibilities of social nurses here: https://www.unb.sk/hospitalizovany-pacient/