

No. 182

REPORT

for the period 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2017, made by the **Government of Finland**, in accordance with article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, on the measures taken to give effect to the provisions of the

Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, No. 182
(Ratification registered on 17 January 2000)

Direct Request, 2014*Article 6 of the Convention*

“Please indicate the programmes of action and provide information on their implementation.”

The Government Action Plan against Human Trafficking 2016–2017 contains measure 9: ‘Taking account of children’s circumstances, best interests and rights during anti-trafficking activities’. This measure comprises several actions. Action 9.1 states that the authorities work in close cooperation with non-governmental organisations in preventing child trafficking and enhancing anti-child-trafficking awareness. Action 9.2 states that non-governmental organisations are facilitated to participate in internationally funded projects by measures such as the active distribution of information on such projects. NGOs engaged in combating child trafficking are to be closely linked into the network of activities to combat human trafficking. Action 9.3 states that one of the focus areas in enhancing the effectiveness of outreach work with victims of human trafficking and improving the identification of and assistance for such victims will involve taking account of children’s circumstances, best interests and rights.

Implementation of the Action Plan has progressed favourably. The authorities and NGOs are working closely together within the network of activities against human trafficking established by the Government. This network includes representatives of bodies involved in children’s matters and a representative of the Office of the Ombudsman for Children. The networking involves supporting the effort of NGOs to raise funds for projects in this field. NGOs have participated in various projects to promote the safety of children. Under action 9.3, funding has been applied for under the Internal Security Fund Programme to support a project for assisting victims of human trafficking, thereby implementing key goals under measure 2 of the Action Plan.

“Please indicate the consultations which have been held with the employers’ and workers’ organizations in accordance with the provisions of this Article. Please also indicate the extent to which the views of other concerned groups have been taken into consideration.”

Labour market organisations involved in combating human trafficking are included in the network established by the Government. The Government Action Plan against Human Trafficking was extensively circulated for comment, and the aforementioned organisations were included in this. Representatives of these organisations have participated in events organised in the network of activities against human trafficking established by the Government and in various Government-funded projects.

Article 7 of the Convention

Paragraph 2

“Please indicate the measures taken with regard to each of the clauses (a) to (e) of paragraph 2. If any of the measures are time-bound, please specify the time frame.”

Indent a

Preventive measures by the police against child trafficking are undertaken as part of the general preventive action of the police and as part of the efforts to combat human trafficking offences and violent crime by the police. The Finnish police collaborate actively with the social services and with the child welfare authorities. There are police officers specialising in working with children.

The National Police Board has issued the following three guidelines related to the matter at hand: 1) Addressing human trafficking and similar offences, and assisting victims of human trafficking; 2) Referring victims of offences to services; and 3) Cooperation between the police, the child welfare authorities and other authorities in respect of the notification obligation pursuant to the Child Welfare Act.

Means to curb labour exploitation, including child labour, include workplace inspections and cooperation between authorities. In order to uncover labour exploitation and human trafficking, inspections are focused on sectors and workplaces where the risk of such activities is estimated to be greatest. The occupational safety and health authorities conduct inspections in collaboration with other authorities, particularly the police. The occupational safety and health administration also works closely with employer and employee unions and other NGOs. Occupational safety and health inspectors have been given clear instructions as to how to handle cases of human trafficking and labour exploitation.

In addition:

Article 5 of the Convention

The measures referred to in this Article are implemented as part of the activities of the police to combat human trafficking offences and violent crime, particularly violence against women and children. The National Police Board has issued guidelines in this field, including the guideline ‘Addressing human trafficking and similar offences, and assisting victims of human trafficking’. The police also has an internal network of commanding officers and informal trainers in combating human trafficking, with members from all units of the police. This network discusses human trafficking phenomena, and members of the network provide training for personnel at their respective police departments in order to achieve consistent national operating models.

I.

Regarding amendments to provisions concerning young workers, we refer to the report on Convention No. 138.

Regarding bringing into force Protocol P029 to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, we refer to the report on Convention No. 29.

Otherwise there is nothing new to report.

II-IV.

Nothing new to report.

V.

Please find the latest annual reports of the Finnish National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings at the following links:

2015 (in English):

https://www.syrjinta.fi/documents/14490/0/Englanti_YHDENV_VUOSIKERTOMUS_2016.pdf/153ed14a-b602-457a-aa12-a07e9d372e01

2016 (in Finnish):

<https://www.syrjinta.fi/documents/10181/0/Vuosikertomus+2016/792ec552-e8ef-4beb-81f9-49b35f3720ae>

VI.

A copy of this report has been sent to the following labour market organisations:

1. The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK)
2. The Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK)
3. The Finnish Confederation of Professionals (STTK)
4. The Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland (Akava)
5. Local Authority Employers (KT)
6. The Office for the Government as Employer (VTML)
7. The Federation of Finnish Enterprises

Statements of the labour market organisations

The labour market organisations have no comments concerning the application of the Convention.