

Pursuant to Article 1 of the Decision on the Adoption of the Rules on Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Victim-witnesses of Trafficking in Human Beings Who Are Citizens of BiH, the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted at the session held on \_\_\_\_\_2007:

**THE RULES  
ON PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND VICTIM-WITNESSES OF TRAFFICKING IN  
HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE CITIZENS OF BIH**

**PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1  
(Subject of the Rules)**

The Rules on Protection of Victims and Victim-Witnesses of Trafficking in Human Beings Who Are Citizens of BiH (hereinafter: **the Rules**) set out the principles and common operational standards pertaining to the identification procedures, protection and assistance, primary and secondary prevention and other activities related to protection and provision of support to victims of trafficking in human beings and victim-witnesses of trafficking in human beings who are citizens of BiH (hereinafter: **victims and victim-witnesses**), which shall be implemented by the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations.

**Article 2  
(Definitions)**

For the purpose of application of the Rules, the following definitions shall be used:

- (1) **Trafficking in human beings** shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall particularly include the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Trafficking in human beings shall also include the following criminal offences set forth in the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina: enslavement and transportation of enslaved persons, smuggling of persons, international recruitment for the purpose of prostitution and illegal deprivation of identification documents. Trafficking shall further include criminal offences of trafficking in persons provided for in the Criminal Codes of the Entities and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the purpose of prostitution, the exploitation of children for the purpose of pornography, the production and screening of child pornography, inducement for prostitution and exhibiting pornography to a minor.
- (2) A **victim-witness** is the witness whose personal safety or safety of his or her family is compromised due to threats, intimidation or similar acts that can be associated with his or her participation in the process and testimony.  
(A witness can be both a victim of trafficking in persons and a victim-witness of trafficking in persons).
- (3) Pursuant to the definition in Article 2.1, a **victim** is any person who has become the object of trafficking in persons as provided in Article 2.1.

- (4) **For the purpose of these Rules, a child** is the person who has not yet reached 18 years of age.
- (5) **The state, entity, cantonal and municipal bodies and institutions** shall denote institutions in BiH that have statutory competencies to co-ordinate and conduct activities related to the prevention and combating of human trafficking, i.e., they are competent to provide assistance and protection. These bodies and institutions are as follows: the State Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, the Ministry of Security of BiH, (the State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH, INTERPOL of BiH, the State Border Service of BiH), the Prosecutor's Office and the Court of BiH, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH (the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH), the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, the Ministry of Justice of BiH, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, entity, cantonal and municipal institutions and organizations as well as authorized departments of Brčko District of BiH for internal affairs, social, family and health protection, science and education, displaced persons and refugees, gender centres, courts and prosecutor's offices (hereinafter: *the responsible institutions in BiH*)
- (6) **Authorized organizations** shall mean registered associations and foundations (non-governmental organizations) with capacity to protect and provide assistance to victims and victim-witnesses, which have concluded a protocol with the responsible institutions in BiH.
- (7) **Discrimination** is any differentiation or unequal treatment, that is, omission (exclusion, limitation or giving priority) of certain persons and groups and members of their families or persons related to them, in an open or concealed way, which is based on race, colour, national or ethnic descent and affiliation, language, religious or political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, property, birth, health, marital status and other personal traits.

### **Article 3** **(Basic Operational Principles)**

- (1) **Non-discrimination and human rights compliance** is the basic protection standard which all authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall equally ensure for all victims and victim-witnesses.
- (2) **Protection of privacy** is the professional standard which shall ensure client's confidence and privacy, confidentiality of the process and, if necessary, a temporary or permanent protection of identity of the victim or victim-witness.
- (3) **Protection of the best interest of a child** shall be an obligatory standard for authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations, which, in case of violation of child's rights, shall aim at ensuring automatic protection of a child, appropriate aid, re-integration and resocialization, that is, full recovery and permanent care of a child-victim or victim-witness.
- (4) **Multidisciplinary approach**; in accordance with the Rules, during the conducting of the procedure, the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall cooperate at all phases of the procedure, exchanging available information, so that they could consider all details of the case and their interdependence through comparison and synthesis of the findings, and jointly find the best solution for any case involving trafficking in human beings.
- (5) **Confidentiality** shall be ensured by classifying information as secret or confidential, which shall immediately obligate all authorized institutions in BiH to keep it secret or confidential regardless of the manner of receipt of such information.

## **PART II – THE INITIATION OF PROCEDURE AND IDENTIFICATION**

### **Article 4 (Reporting a case)**

- (1) In case that any institution in BiH or authorized organization, physical or legal person believes or has information that some person is subject to trafficking in human beings, they shall promptly inform the State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH (hereinafter: **SIPA**) and Prosecutor's Office of BiH. Notification of suspicion of and information on trafficking in human beings can be delivered to authorized prosecutor's offices and police departments of the entities and Brčko District of BiH.
- (2) An adult person or a child can ask for help or identify himself/herself as victim or victim-witness in any authorized institution or authorized organization in BiH. The case can be reported on behalf of the child-victim or victim-witness by a parent or guardian or any other person entrusted with the child's care.

### **Article 5 (Rules for information exchange)**

- (1) In accordance with the Rules, the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall exchange all available information on victims and victim-witnesses for aid provision and protection, statistical data collection, making appropriate reports and information and other needs significant for the resolution of cases of trafficking in human beings in BiH.
- (2) At the same time, all authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall provide **feedback** on the particular case of trafficking in human beings.
- (3) All institutions in BiH, organizations, legal and physical persons, which in any way get in touch with a child exposed to any form of exploitation and violence, shall immediately inform the guardianship body about the violation of the child's rights.
- (4) The obligation to report any violation of child's rights to the social welfare centre or service pertains to the Prosecutor's offices of BiH, entities and Brčko District and police departments in BiH, professional employees in the educational institutions (administration, teachers, pedagogical department of educational institutions), healthcare institutes, inspection and sanitary services, employment bureaus, registry offices, counselling centres, institutes for protection of children and youth, homes for abandoned children, youth and children without parental care or any other public or private institution in charge of children's care.
- (5) If it is an adult who is a victim or victim-witness, the competent prosecutor's office or police department shall inform the social welfare centre or service, but only with consent of the victim or victim-witness.
- (6) In case that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its diplomatic-consular posts (hereinafter: **DCP**), within its regular activities, learns of a child or adult victim or victim-witness of trafficking in human beings in their areas of responsibility, who is a citizen of BiH, or determines that circumstances concerning this child or adult person indicate exploitation of the person, this Ministry shall deliver this information to the competent prosecutor's office or police department through the responsible sector of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The DCP shall intensively cooperate with the authorized services of the host country with the aim of collecting data on circumstances of each individual case.

- (7) If it is an adult who is a victim or victim-witness, the authorized institutions and authorized organizations shall inform the prosecutor's office or police department about him/her without consent of the victim or victim-witness.

#### **Article 6 (Unification of data)**

- (1) The central database on victims of trafficking in human beings and perpetrators of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings shall be established on the unified basis by creating a unique form which is to be completed during identification of the victim of trafficking in human beings. This form shall follow the system being developed in the State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH (SIPA) within the competent Department monitoring the issues of trafficking in human beings in BiH.
- (2) The SIPA shall compile statistical and other reports that will be used by the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH. All other police departments shall periodically deliver data on criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings. Other authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall deliver data periodically as well.

#### **Article 7 (Identification and interview)**

- (1) The identification process shall be performed by a multidisciplinary approach and comparison of data and synthesis of information about the case concerned received from the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations, when, depending on whether the facts are well-founded, the protection process should be initiated.
- (2) A victim or victim-witness is identified on the basis of a report or gathered information by the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations or facts collected during a voluntary interview with a person who is strongly believed to be a victim or victim-witness.
- (3) A consent and willingness to give a statement and acceptance of protection by an adult person shall be verified in the identification process i.e. during the interview. Upon identification of a child victim, the procedure of his/her protection shall be obligatorily initiated in collaboration with the social welfare centre or service, parent or guardian.
- (4) The authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall ask the healthcare institutions responsible for primary health care and Center for Mental Health to make an assessment of physical and psychological condition of the victim or victim-witness before hearing or interview.
- (5) Facts on circumstances of a case, place and time of commitment, conditions of revelation, forms of exploitation and other information about the perpetration of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings are relevant for bringing criminal charges but only if the information is gathered during investigation (hearing) which is conducted in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Codes when the prosecutor's office, along with the police department, makes a decision on protection of the victim or victim witness.
- (6) Facts and data, gathered during the **voluntary interview** with a person who is strongly believed to be a victim or victim witness, have such a nature of information or report that could be the basis for instituting criminal proceedings and demanding protection of the victim or victim-witness by completing the form under article 6(1) of this Decision.

- (7) The prosecutor's office and police departments shall not be allowed to hear a child without presence of a parent, guardian or the social welfare centre or service having a role of guardian and official authorization. The guardian, parent or the social welfare centre or services shall have the right to ask for legal aid while taking a statement or hearing her/him.

## **PART III – PROTECTION**

### **CHAPTER I - PROTECTION MEASURES**

#### **Article 8 (Forms of protection)**

The basic forms of protection of the victims and victim-witnesses are: physical protection, protection of privacy and identity, legal aid, social (education and resocialization) and health protection, measures of special protection of children and other vulnerable categories as well as provision of victims and victim-witnesses with other needs in order to provide appropriate individual protection and help.

#### **Article 9 (Individual protection)**

Individual protection is grounded on the consideration of needs and their interdependence, that is, assessment of needs for each individual case, taking into account a health condition, age, gender, national minority affiliation, social status and other individual needs based on medical examination of the victim or victim-witness.

#### **Article 10 (Physical protection)**

- (1) All information on the existence of physical threat indicated by a victim or victim-witness, as well as information specified by persons entrusted with ensuring the physical protection of the victims and victim-witnesses, shall be verified with the aim of undertaking enhanced protection measures.  
The measures of enhanced physical protection shall be assessed and approved by the authorized prosecutor in cooperation with the staff taking care of the victim or victim-witness.
- (2) If the victim or victim-witness was taken to the shelter or any other place, with prior assessment of physical threat for the victim or victim-witness, the authorized institution in BiH shall suspend protection and suggest return to his/her place of residence.
- (3) When the victim or victim-witness does not want to return to his/her place of residence, the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organization shall seek other solution to secure the victim or victim-witness in accordance with its capabilities, considering the fact that the victim or victim-witness would return to the environment in which he/she was exposed to the risk of exploitation.
- (4) Estimation of safety of the victim or victim-witness returning to his/her former residence shall be jointly conducted by the prosecutor's office, police department, and social welfare centre or service.
- (5) The social welfare service, in cooperation with the local police department, shall continue conducting the measures of intensified observation with regard to physical safety of the victim or victim-witness and shall define the appropriate duration of the intensi-

fied observation and system of information delivery with the aim of ensuring prevention from the secondary victimization.

- (6) The provisions of the Rules shall not be applied to the victims of the trafficking in human beings included in the witness protection program as protected or endangered witnesses as long as they are under this protection. If the protection has time limits, the application of the Rules shall continue after the termination of protection.

- (7) In case of **failure to institute** criminal proceedings regardless of probable cause which constitute a basis for considering a person victim or victim-witness, the protection procedure shall be approved and launched by the social welfare centre or service which could ask for help and protection by the competent police department irrespective of the status of the criminal proceedings.

### **Article 11 (Legal aid)**

The victims or victim-witnesses shall be provided with the information about the relevant judicial and administrative proceedings with the aim of ensuring legal aid that will enable their standpoints and interests to be brought up and considered in the appropriate phases of the proceedings against perpetrator of the criminal offence.

The legal aid shall also include provision of the professional assistance related to realization of the social protection, compensation and other rights.

### **Article 12 (Social security)**

- (1) Pursuant to the valid laws regulating social protection in BiH, the authorized social security institutions shall provide to the victims or victim-witnesses a protective care and accommodation, financial aid, counselling and psychological support and professional assistance in terms of their inclusion into the program of resocialization.
- (2) Pursuant to the valid laws regulating social protection in BiH, a victim or victim-witness shall be provided with **protective care and accommodation**, which may be acquired through: shelter, i.e. facility used to accommodate the victims of trafficking in human beings and violence (safe house), other families or foster families and institutions of social and children protection.
- (3) If a victim or victim-witness is **in need**, he/she shall be provided with appropriate financial aid i.e. one-time financial assistance pursuant to the valid laws on social protection of the entities and Brčko District of BiH, as well as other help depending on possibilities of the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations.
- (4) A victim or victim-witness shall be included in the **program of resocialization** which is individually planned and prepared according to needs of the victim or victim-witness; the program shall include additional education, vocational training, assistance in employment and other social measures in accordance with the possibilities of the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations.

### **Article 13 (Health care)**

If the victim or victim-witness does not have health insurance, he/she shall be provided with **the health protection** equal to protection given to insured persons.

The health protection shall be provided by the health care services of the entities and Brčko District of BiH. The resources for this purpose shall be ensured from the funds for special purposes within the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees.

#### **Article 14 (Drug abuse treatment programmes)**

Inclusion of the victims or victim-witnesses into the drug abuse treatment program shall be performed on the voluntary basis. In accordance with its possibilities, the authorized institutions in BiH, in cooperation with the nongovernmental organizations, shall include the victims and victim-witnesses into this program.

#### **Article 15 (Protection of children)**

- (1) Any guardianship institution shall undertake ex officio necessary steps in order to protect rights and determine the best interest of a child on the basis of direct information or notification of violation of child's rights, especially concerning trafficking in human beings.
- (2) Pursuant to the family laws valid in BiH, a child shall be separated from the family without delay and a temporary guardian shall be appointed if there is evidence that a parent or guardian induce the child to any kind of unacceptable conduct, that a child carries out activities inappropriate for his/her age or was sexually abused i.e. when there is sufficient evidence that the guardian or parent took part in trafficking in children.
- (3) In accordance with the applicable regulations, the proceedings of denial of parental rights shall be initiated upon proposal of the guardianship body or the other parent, in case of existence of probable causes that the guardian or parent participated in the trafficking in children.
- (4) A child-victim or victim-witness shall be treated as a child without parental care or having been neglected in upbringing regardless of his/her family status.

#### **Article 16 (Protection of vulnerable categories)**

- (1) The authorized bodies under article 2(3) of the Rules shall provide, with high priority, protection and care in the existing specialized institutions to the following vulnerable categories of population: victims of domestic violence and victims of sexual and gender based violence, mentally challenged persons, old and decrepit persons, displaced persons, returnees and deportees, citizens of BiH, if they were identified as victims or victim-witnesses.
- (2) A special registry on vulnerable categories of population mentioned in the paragraph (1) of this article shall be kept within the central database specified in article 6 of the Rules.

## **CHAPTER II. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTECTION MEASURES**

## Article 17

### (Action of the authorized institutions and authorized organizations)

- (1) The protection measures for the victims and victim-witnesses shall be planned and implemented in collaboration with an authorized social welfare service or centre, with free assent of the victim or victim-witness.
- (2) As for the children with or without parental care, protection and assistance shall be organized in cooperation with the parents - family, guardian and the authorized social welfare service or centre.
- (3) In the implementation of the required protection measures:
  - (a) the prosecutor's office and police department shall ensure a physical protection of the victims and victim-witnesses and shall follow up all information in case of endangered physical protection of the victims and victim-witnesses by monitoring their surrounding. With the aim of ensuring appropriate protection, one shelter shall be designated as a high-risk shelter.
  - (b) The prosecutor's offices and police departments shall offer information and notifications on relevant judicial and administrative proceeding so that the victim and victim-witness would be enabled to have their standpoints and interests brought up and considered in the appropriate phases of the proceedings against perpetrator of the criminal offence.
  - (c) After receiving information about a case, the social welfare service or centre shall check up whether the case was previously registered, gather additional information, assess the case, establish contact with the victim, prepare and have an interview, cooperate with all authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations with the aim of estimating injuries and the risk of possible injuries, assist to ensure evidence on maltreatment, identify available resources for assistance and protection of the victim and victim-witness, check which actions are unpostponable i.e. prepare protection plan for the victims or victim-witnesses.
  - (d) During the case resolution process, the social welfare centre or service may submit a request for consideration of cases to the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees through authorized entity ministries and authorized department of Brčko District of BiH with the aim of providing professional assistance and coordinating other authorized institutions at the state level.
  - (e) If the need should arise to accommodate the victims and victim-witnesses, the social welfare centre or service shall ensure adequate accommodation such as: shelter i.e. facility used for putting up the victims of trafficking (safe house), accommodation for adult persons provided by other family, accommodation for children provided by foster family, accommodation provided by the social and children protection institutions, housing facilities for vulnerable groups and others.
  - (f) The social welfare centre or service may ask for free legal aid for the victim or victim-witness from the authorized organization that provides this kind of aid.
  - (g) With the aim of empowering the victims and victim-witnesses for further life, the social welfare centre or service **will seek permanent solution** by planning and implementing an individual resocialization program in accordance with needs of the victim or victim-witness. The resocialization program contains programs of further education, vocational training, assistance in employment and other social measures consistent with possibilities of the authorized institutions and authorized organizations and which are realized through contacts with the competent institutions in BiH (employment bu-



reus, nongovernmental organizations, institutions of the social welfare and children protection and other institutions, as needed).

- (h) In accordance with individual needs of a victim or victim-witness, the authorized health care institutions shall prepare an appropriate program of health resocialization of the victim or victim-witness that will be implemented in cooperation with the social welfare centres with free assent of the victim or victim-witness. The program will define the duration and the manner of implementation. The social welfare centre and health care institution shall jointly identify a qualified and responsible person to monitor this program and the implementation.
- (i) The authorized organizations (NGOs) shall provide help and support to the victims and victim-witnesses in accordance with their capacity and scope of work and in accordance with the protocol concluded with the authorized institution of BiH.
- (j) The diplomatic - consular post shall provide help to the victims and victim-witnesses, citizens of BiH, especially children, and will offer assistance in accommodation and return of the victim or victim-witness to BiH, in collaboration with nongovernmental organization of the state of temporary place of residence. The diplomatic-consular post shall urgently issue documents needed for return to BiH.

### **CHAPTER III – PREVENTION MEASURES**

#### **Article 18 (Sensitizing the public)**

In accordance with the 2005-2007 State Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration in BiH and within the prevention program, the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall conduct activities with the aim of sensibilization of the public regarding existence and recognition of the issue of trafficking in human beings, citizens of BiH, reduction of prejudice and organized information dissemination.

#### **Article 19 (Education)**

The authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall *continuously conduct training* with the aim of planned and organized improving of cooperation and coordination of the authorized institutions and authorized organizations, undertaking of measures and activities to improve knowledge and standardization of activities and responsibilities related to prevention and combating trafficking in human beings.

#### **Article 20 (Surveillance by Inspection Departments)**

During inspection of accommodation, food and beverage establishments (hotels, lodgings, camps, bars), dancing and fashion agencies, marriage agencies etc., the authorized inspection departments shall pay enhanced attention to identification of activities related to trafficking in human beings, and especially registries on stay of children in the above-mentioned establishments. The legal or physical persons providing these services shall deliver proper information on clients and services when needed by the inspection departments.

#### **Article 21 (Secondary prevention)**

When conducting the victims' protection procedure, the authorized institutions in BiH and authorized organizations shall undertake the steps to mitigate factors impacting exposure of

persons to trafficking in human beings, so as to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking in human beings again. These steps include measures of physical protection such as better care of the victim after the emergency aid has been provided, that is, after completing the application of protection measures, economic measures (social assistance, assistance in employment, vocational education and training in order to acquire essential qualification), social and health measures (family counselling, detoxification, and drug abuse treatment programs) and other activities.

#### **PART IV – CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES**

##### **Article 22 (Co-ordination)**

- (1) The State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, in cooperation with aforesaid representatives of other relevant ministries at the state level, shall perform and coordinate activities defined by the Rules.
- (2) With the purpose of implementing the Rules at the regional level, under the principle of organization of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), and in accordance with the jurisdiction of local institutions, the regional teams will be established in Sarajevo, Mostar, Banja Luka and Tuzla. The local regional teams will include representatives of the SIPA, police forces and prosecutor's offices of both entities, municipal social welfare centres and health care services as well as authorized organizations belonging to these regions. These members shall be appointed by the competent institutions and authorized organizations.
- (3) After establishment of the local regional teams upon initiative given by the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, and in accordance with the Rules, each team shall appoint a regional coordinator. The basic assignment of the teams shall be creation of protection and referral programs for victims and victim-witnesses in accordance with their individual needs.
- (4) The State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, in collaboration with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, shall set up a monitoring team to supervise implementation of the Rules.

#### **PART V – FINANCE**

##### **Article 23 (Funding)**

- (1) The Funds needed for establishment of coordination of activities defined by the Rules, shall be partially provided from the resources under the Special Purpose Program by the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, which are secured within the Ministry of Security of BiH.
- (2) The funds needed to establish regional teams, that is, referral system for the victims of trafficking in human beings and performance of these activities shall be provided from the budget of competent institutions in BiH and may be obtained from the other sources as needed.
- (3) The funds to secure basic measures of the social and health protection and care of victims and witnesses, accommodation, resocialization program, prevention, conclusion and implementation of the protocol on cooperation with the NGOs, shall be provided from the resources under the Special Purpose Program by the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH within the budget of the Ministry with the primary goal to offer assistance and protection.

- (4) For the purpose of realisation of activities defined by the Rules, the funds may also be gathered from available sources of public and private institutions and organizations as well as from international and other sources.

## **PART VI – TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

### **Article 24**

#### **(Other activities of the competent institutions and organizations)**

- (1) In cooperation with the Thematic Group for Protection, the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH shall design standardized questionnaire form that will be used during the procedure for determining the status of a victim or victim-witness.
- (2) Until a system of free legal aid is set up by an appropriate law, in cooperation with government institutions, the NGOs and other institutions offering free legal aid, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH shall regulate the issue of provision of free legal aid to the victims and victim-witnesses by signing appropriate protocols on collaboration that may be concluded with the NGOs and other institutions in conformity with the Rules.
- (3) The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH shall conclude the basic protocol on cooperation with the NGOs, specifying compulsory components for signing the protocol at the local level. The basic protocol shall regulate conditions of care for victims and victim-witnesses and determine standards of accommodation, that is, mutual accountability of signatories, the manner of financing activities stemming from the protocol and all other issues essential for the implementation of the basic protocol. In line with the same principles, the protocol on cooperation may be concluded at the local level between competent social welfare centre and authorized organization.
- (4) The Instructions on standards of conduct of the social workers and all the persons involved in care of victims and victim-witnesses of trafficking in human beings, citizens of BiH, shall be prepared pursuant to the Rules. These instructions shall be prepared by the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, in cooperation with the competent entity ministries for social protection and competent department of Brčko District of BiH.
- (5) With the purpose of ensuring a unique treatment of all victims and victim-witnesses in conformity with the Rules, the Instruction for conduct of health care providers towards the victims and victims-witnesses of trafficking in human beings, citizens of BiH shall be jointly developed by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH in close cooperation with the competent entity ministries of health and competent department of Brčko District of BiH.
- (6) In conformity with the Rules, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall compile the Instructions on standards of conduct towards the victims and victim-witnesses of trafficking in human beings, citizens of BiH, for officials in the diplomatic-consular posts of BiH, in close cooperation with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees – Sector for Immigration and Diaspora.
- (7) The State Border Service of BiH shall design a suitable questionnaire form for registering any attempt of unaccompanied children to cross the border, that is, attempt of children accompanied by unauthorized person to cross the border.

- (8) In line with its possibilities, the competent entity ministries and department of Brčko District of BiH shall seek solution for the issue of non-registration of children in the birth register.
- (9) The competent police departments and social welfare centres shall set up regular registries on children working in the street and deliver them to the central database specified in article 6 of the Rules.
- (10) The activities defined by article 23 of the Rules shall be performed within 6 months starting from the day when the Rules become effective.

**Article 24**  
**(Harmonization of the Rules)**

- (1) The Council of Ministers of BiH shall adopt the Rules by the Decision on acceptance of the Rules on protection of the victims and victim-witnesses of trafficking in human beings, citizens of BiH (hereinafter: **Decision**) which will be brought with prior consultation with governments of the entities and Brčko District of BiH.
- (2) Proposal for amendments to the Rules may be initiated by any institution or organization taking part in implementation of the Rules, by submitting initiative to the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH.

**Article 25**  
**(Entry into force)**

The Rules shall enter into force on the day of adoption of the Decision and will be published in the Official Gazette of BiH.

VM number: \_\_\_\_\_/07  
\_\_\_\_\_2007  
Sarajevo

Chairman  
Council of Ministers of BiH  
Nikola Špirić