

## Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. Gender sensitive legislation in the criminal justice system, including the system of criminal sanctions represents the first step to ensuring respect for each sex separately bearing in mind their special needs;
2. Women in prison are much less represented than men, but have far more living problems, higher rates of abuse and greater social and health needs;
3. Most women in prison, were convicted for minor offenses or offenses committed after chronic abuse, which should be specially taken care of at accommodation in special institutions and to endeavor to accommodate them in an open institution or open department.
4. Imprisonment for a woman who committed a crime should be applied only in exceptional cases, it is much better to use alternative measures of re-socialization and thus avoid the detrimental impact that the closure has on their physical and mental health and is contrary to the interests of the children to whom the mother is the sole guardian;
5. Prisons in which women are accommodated should be specifically designed and tailored to their needs. Women should be addressed to the institutes which are closer to their place of residence for easier contact with family, especially with children<sup>8</sup>
6. Gender-sensitive approach should exist at all stages of criminal proceedings, from encountering police officers, public prosecutor, judge and officials in the Penalty institutions. It is therefore very important that all these participants in criminal proceedings and in penitentiary treatment are trained to deal with women.

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<sup>8</sup> In Serbia, it is virtually impossible because there is only one correctional institute for women in Pozarevac and it is semi-open type

7. Detention as a measure to ensure the presence of the defendant and for the smooth conduct of criminal proceedings should be only exceptionally and rarely applied to women because the execution of these measures may lead to harmful consequences for the mental health of women, especially in the case of a woman who is pregnant or has children.
8. Assessment of the health needs of women is very important because a large number of women who come to prison have health problems and difficulties. It is therefore necessary that the staff of penitentiary recognizes the health needs of female prisoners, particularly those who have been victimized before coming to the Institute.
9. Stimulating the regular visits of family members with whom female inmates want to establish contact and maintain family ties. Especially important are the visits of children.
10. Planning of post-penal treatment in the treatment program should include a detailed analysis of the needs of women after leaving the institution and to the needs related to health care, restoring the family environment and job search.

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