

Compensation was not awarded despite the successful criminal proceedings

The victim was placed in an orphanage. At age 12 she became a victim of trafficking and forced labor, as well as sexual exploitation. The crime took place at several locations throughout Macedonia, and was first forced to work in the perpetrator's home and to provide sexual services to men in various parts of the country. While in a smaller town, the perpetrator learned that the victim was pregnant. Aware that there could be no profit for a pregnant minor girl, the offender sent the victim to Skopje to terminate the pregnancy. The victim used the opportunity to report the case to an NGO. The prosecution conducted a swift and effective investigation and the offenders were sentenced to 17 years in prison. However, the victim's guardian and legal representative were not invited to a court hearing where they could seek compensation for the victim. Therefore, upon the expiry of the criminal proceedings, the victim instituted civil proceedings in order to seek compensation from the perpetrators.