

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

REFERENCE:
OL HUN 4/2018

20 June 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/9.

In this connection, I would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information I have received concerning **the proposed amendment to the Fundamental Law of Hungary which would render illegal living in a public space and result in the criminalization of homeless people and people without housing.**¹

Proposed Amendment

It is my understanding that Art. 6 of the proposed amendment seeks to modify Article XXII Section 3 of the Fundamental Law to read, 'Habitual residence in a public space is forbidden', providing an even broader discretion for the criminalization of homelessness and its enforcement than current legislation provides for.

According to the information received:

While the Fundamental Law of Hungary says in its Articles XXII (2) and (3) that "Hungary shall strive to ensure decent housing conditions and access to public services for everyone" and that "the State and local governments shall also contribute to creating decent housing conditions by striving to ensure accommodation for all persons without a dwelling", there are approximately 50,000 people in Hungary living in a situation of homelessness - either sleeping rough or using emergency shelter services. A recent survey involving over 10,000 homeless people revealed that one-third were sleeping rough, while two-thirds were passing through emergency services.² It is my understanding that there are insufficient emergency shelter spaces to accommodate the homeless population in Hungary and such spaces do not conform with their long-term housing needs. Despite this fact, in recent history, the Government has treated those without homes as criminals.

¹ Magyarország Alaptörvényének hetedik módosítása címmel benyújtott, T/332, available at http://www.parlament.hu/documents/129291/1630310/T332_1/e545dfa6-12e9-47ce-d6f3-101f48438f05

² <https://www.feantsa.org/download/hungary-20177452549766529470928.pdf>

In 2010, the Hungarian Parliament passed a law empowering municipalities to ban the ‘inadequate use’ of public spaces.

In the spring of 2012, Act 2 of 2012 on Petty Offences was adopted. Article 186 declared that those who used public spaces for habitual residence, storage, or anything ‘different than its original destination’, would be committing an offence and subject to a fine of up to 150,000 Hungarian Forint (approx. 500 Euros), which could be transformed into incarceration in the case of non-payment.³ Because homeless people live in poverty and usually lack financial means to pay such fines, this stands as a real threat.

In November 2012, these articles of the Petty Offences Act were deemed unconstitutional in the Decision of the Constitutional Court [38/2012 (XI. 14.)]. The decision emphasized that residing in a public space does not inherently infringe the rights of others, cause damage or endanger the habitual use of space or public order and therefore should not be considered a petty offence.⁴ Moreover, the Court determined that for a petty offence violation the offender must demonstrate intention or negligence. Homelessness was deemed a social condition that lacks attributable subjective fault.

Despite the court’s ruling, Parliament proceeded to pass the Fourth Amendment to the Fundamental Law in April 2013, incorporating Art. XXII (3) which again authorized local governments to penalize the use of public spaces for ‘habitual residences’.⁵

Finally, on 14 June 2018, the Committee of Legislation of the Hungarian Parliament put forward the proposed amendment to the Fundamental Law of Hungary which would make staying in a public space generally illegal.

While I do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, it appears that the proposed amendment to the Fundamental Law of Hungary would further stigmatize homeless people as criminals and raises concerns of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against homeless people and persons without housing. Among the homeless population are many young adults who have been discharged from child care institutions, Roma people, refugees and migrants. The proposed amendment is also prima facie discriminatory and wrongheadedly blames the victims and people whose right to adequate housing has been infringed.

If the amendment is passed, people who are homeless will be stigmatized as criminals merely for undertaking self-help solutions necessary for their own survival. In other words, according to the proposed law, they will be punished for simply attempting

³ https://www.feantsa.org/download/rb_and_tu_review7456010047088321940.pdf

⁴ <http://public.mkab.hu/dev/dontesek.nsf/0/1C19F4D0CFDE32FBC1257ADA00524FF1?OpenDocument>

⁵ Article XXII (3) of the Fundamental Law of Hungary reads current als following: “In order to protect public order, public security, public health and cultural values, an Act or a local government decree may, with respect to a specific part of public space, provide that staying in public space as a habitual dwelling shall be illegal.”

to maintain their own lives. They will suffer severe consequences, including being trapped in the justice system and isolated from any possibility of exiting their situation of homelessness. Committing an offence may result – in particular if repeated or the fine is not paid – in incarceration or a criminal conviction and may have long-term implications, preventing future employment and the ability to rent accommodation.

The Government's approach to homelessness lacks an understanding of its obligations under international human rights law. The amendment serves to penalize an extremely vulnerable group for the Governments' own failures to meet its international human rights obligations with respect to the right to adequate housing.

I wish to draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to its obligations under article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ratified by Hungary on 17 January 1974 which states that "[t]he States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right [...]". The right to adequate housing has been defined as the right to live in peace, security and dignity. It is also the obligation of States Parties to guarantee that such rights will be exercised "without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth *or other status* [emphasis added]", pursuant to article 2.2 of the Covenant.

I call your attention to my report on homelessness and the right to adequate housing ([A/HRC/31/54](#)). In that report I note that homelessness lies at the extreme end of the spectrum of violations of the right to adequate housing. As such, States should treat homelessness with the highest level of urgency. Twenty-five years ago, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stated that a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in which any significant number of individuals are deprived of basic shelter and housing is, *prima facie*, failing to discharge its obligations under the Covenant. States are required to demonstrate that every effort has been made to use all resources that are at their disposition in an effort to satisfy, as a matter of priority, those minimum obligations.

The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights found that criminalization leaves homeless people with "no viable place to sleep, sit, eat or drink . . . [and] can thus have serious adverse physical and psychological effects on persons living in poverty, undermining their right to an adequate standard of physical and mental health and even amounting to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."⁶

The consequences of the criminalization of homelessness far outweigh the societal benefits they allegedly produce. These deprivations of homeless people's liberty are disproportionate, unfair, and irregular, in contravention of article 9 of the International

⁶ See the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona (A/66/265) para. 36, available at <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/EPoverty/A.66.265.pdf>.

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which protects against arbitrary arrest and detention. The Human Rights Committee has recognized that article 9 provisions specifically protect against vagrancy laws targeting the poor (General Comment No. 8).

Article 12 (1) and (3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights furthermore specifies that everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence and that this right shall not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others. Imposing fines and criminalizing people who are homeless is a disproportionate response to any threats to public order, health or morals that may be caused by people living in public places.

Removing homeless people from public space by force without providing sufficient short and long term accommodation and subjecting them to fines or imprisonment may also constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in contravention of article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁷

I note also that through the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, as well as the New Urban Agenda, the Government of Hungary has committed itself to eliminating homelessness and combatting and eliminating the criminalization of homelessness specifically. Through target 11.1 of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, all States have committed themselves to ensure, by 2030, access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing. This includes of course eliminating homelessness by 2030.

State obligations in relation to homelessness have been clearly articulated by international human rights bodies and include the following: (a) States have an immediate obligation to adopt and implement strategies to eliminate homelessness. These strategies must contain clear goals and timelines and must set out the responsibilities of all levels of government and of other actors for the implementation of specific, time-bound measures, in consultation with and with participation by homeless people; (b) States must combat discrimination, stigma and negative stereotyping of homeless people as a matter of urgency and homeless people must be recognized as a protected group in all relevant domestic anti-discrimination and hate-crime laws, including where relevant in national Constitutions, national and subnational human rights legislation and in city charters; and (c) any and all laws or measures that criminalize, impose fines on or restrict homeless people or behaviour associated with being homeless, such as sleeping or eating in public spaces, must be immediately repealed.⁸

I would also like to underline that international human rights law binds all levels of Government, including national and local governments. There is a joint obligation of national and local Governments to ensure that all individuals living in Hungary enjoy the right to adequate housing and are protected from other violations of their human rights.⁹

⁷ See as well the Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee in relation to the criminalization of homelessness in the United States of America, [CCPR/C/USA/CO/4](#), para 19.

⁸ See Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, [A/HRC/31/54](#).

⁹ See Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, [A/HRC/28/62](#).

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, I would appreciate a rapid response on the initial steps taken by your Government to safeguard the rights of the persons of the above-mentioned community in compliance with international instruments.

As it is my responsibility, under the mandate provided to me by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to my attention, I would therefore be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please explain how the constitutional amendment is compliant with your domestic and international human rights obligations regarding the right to housing and to non-discrimination against people living in poverty, homelessness, persons with disabilities, children, women fleeing domestic violence, the Roma population, youth, LGBTI community, migrants, and any other groups who may find themselves homeless?
3. In light of this proposed constitutional amendment and in light of the fact that people need a place to live, what measures are you proposing to ensure homeless people have access to emergency shelters in which they are willing to live and long-term housing options with necessary social, psychological and other support to ensure their social integration?
4. Please clarify what legal and administrative recourse options are available and accessible to those living in homelessness so that they may be able to claim their right to housing?
5. Please indicate how the Hungarian Government is planning to eliminate homelessness by 2030 in order to meet its commitment under the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development to provide, by 2030, access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing.

I would appreciate receiving a response as soon as possible. Your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

While awaiting a reply, I urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to safeguard the rights of the approximately 50,000 people living in homelessness in Hungary.

In light of the serious implications of these allegations and the risk of on-going and irreversible damage to the people who are homeless in Hungary, I will express these concerns publicly in the near future. The present letter will also be posted on the webpage of my mandate. The press release will indicate that I have been in contact with your Excellency's Government's to clarify the issues in question.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Leilani Farha

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

RESPONSE

of the Government of Hungary

concerning the inquiry of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

related to the seventh amendment of to the Fundamental Law of Hungary

In response to the letter dated 20 June 2018 of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, (hereinafter: the Special Rapporteur) related to the proposed seventh amendment of to the Fundamental Law of Hungary, the Government of Hungary hereby submits the following observations (hereinafter: Observations) as regards the information contained in the inquiry.

The Government of Hungary requests the Honourable Special Rapporteur to duly consider the Government's position outlined in the present submission in the course of preparation of the forthcoming report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

I.

General Remarks

At the outset, attention must be drawn to the fact that the State ensures the preservation of human dignity as well as conditions required to preserve human dignity by various means.

According to the 42/2000 (IX.8.) AB decision of the Constitutional Court of Hungary, one aspect of the above mentioned obligation of the State is that the State shall establish, maintain and operate a social security system and social security institutions in order to ensure a minimum level of benefits that is required to secure a minimum livelihood. As it is highlighted in the decision of the Constitutional Court, one of the fundamental constitutional criteria for establishing national social security system and institutions is the protection of human life and dignity.

In order to protect the right to human life and dignity the State shall secure the basic preconditions of human existence. Accordingly, in case of homelessness, the State shall be obliged to provide support and shelter for those in need in situations where human life is directly threatened. The obligation of providing shelter does not correspond to guaranteeing the "right to have a place of residence". Thus, the State shall only be responsible for securing a shelter if homelessness directly threatens human life. Therefore, only in case of such an extreme situation is the State obliged to take care of those who themselves cannot provide for the fundamental preconditions of human life.

As held by the Constitutional Court,

"the legislature enjoys relatively great liberty in determining the methods and degrees by which it enforces constitutionally-mandated State goals and social rights. A violation of the Constitution may arise only in borderline cases when the enforcement of a State goal or the

realisation of a protected institution or right are clearly rendered impossible by either interference by the State or, more frequently, by its omission. Apart from this minimum requirement, there are no constitutional criteria – except for the violation of another fundamental right – to determine whether or not legislation serving a State goal or a social right is constitutional.”

In light of the above, the modification of Article XXII of the Fundamental Law of Hungary does not change the concept that Hungary shall strive to ensure decent housing conditions and access to public services for everyone.

The Fourth Amendment of the Fundamental Law extended the scope of Article XXII by stating that in order to ensure decent living conditions, the State and municipal governments shall strive to ensure accommodation for homeless people.

II.

Specific Information

The Seventh Amendment of the Fundamental Law has introduced the following:

“The State and local governments shall also contribute to creating decent housing conditions and to safeguarding the use of public spaces for public purposes by striving to ensure accommodation for all persons without a dwelling.”

This paragraph clarifies that besides ensuring the conditions for adequate housing, the State does not support the improper use of public spaces, such as the use of public spaces for habitual residence. According to the reasoning of the Seventh Amendment, using public spaces as habitual residence infringes the proper use of public spaces. Public spaces according to their functions¹ serve public purposes, while the use of public spaces for habitual residence does not constitute a public purpose. The protection of public spaces guarantees that everyone shall enjoy the use of public spaces according to their function with no interruption in exercising ones fundamental rights (e.g.: right to peaceful assembly). In order to express this legislative aim paragraph (3) of Article XXII of the Seventh Amendment introduced the prohibition of using public spaces for habitual residence. Considering that currently the number of available shelter beds is sufficient to provide accommodation to those in need, a prohibition of habitual residence in public spaces could be realistically adopted. A ban on sleeping rough is not without precedent in Europe. Several other EU member states have already passed certain regulations on the issue. Such behaviour, for example, is sanctioned on a constitutional level in Cyprus and Malta. Furthermore, there are many other countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia etc.) where the question appears indirectly in the constitution.

The Seventh Amendment will be entering into force as of 15 October 2018.

While Hungary highly appreciates and commends the work of the UN and particularly of Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha, we consider that some of the allegations made by the Special Rapporteur in her communication are not well-founded, and based on the

¹ Article 54 (4) of Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Formation and Protection of the Built Environment

misunderstanding of the Hungarian law. Hungary has always been open for discussion with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and with our comments below, we try to shed light on some of the inaccurate allegations of the Special Rapporteur.

The official explanation to the Seventh Amendment of the Fundamental Law declares that Hungary ensures the protection of human dignity with several measures. It has to be emphasised that the Hungarian Government considers that its primary obligation is the protection of life, physical integrity, health and human dignity of persons living without a dwelling.

We consider that the Hungarian law is in compliance with the State's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (hereinafter: ICESCR) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereinafter: ICCPR).

In regard with Article 11.1 of the ICESCR we would like to underline that Article XXII of the Fundamental Law ensures that “[...] Hungary shall endeavour to ensure appropriate and decent housing conditions and access to public services for everyone.” In this context, we would also like to draw the Special Rapporteur's attention to Article XV of the Fundamental Law which stipulates that

“(1) Everyone shall be equal before the law. Every person shall have legal capacity.

(2) Hungary shall guarantee the fundamental rights to everyone without discrimination based on any ground such as race, colour, sex, disability, language, religion, political or any other opinion, ethnic or social origin, wealth, birth or any other circumstance whatsoever.

(3) Women and men shall have equal rights.

(4) Hungary shall promote equal opportunities and social convergence by means of introducing special measures.

(5) Hungary shall introduce specific measures to protect families, children, women, the elderly and the disabled.”

III.

Concluding Observations

The debated legal norms do not contain any discriminative regulations when penalize a behavior against the public order and public health. These rules are regulated by law and contain restrictions only for legitimate purposes in a necessary and proportionate way.

The elements of the legal regulations are not against the findings of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A significant number of individuals are not deprived of the fundamental rights, namely basic shelter and housing. The aims are to make sure that homeless people do not stay in unsatisfactory circumstances.

The legal regulations are not contrary to Article 9 of ICCPR, either. If the authorities penalize one's behaviour, no arbitrary arrest and detention can be applied.

The legal norms are also in harmony with Article 12 of ICCPR, because the right to free movement is not restricted at all. Restrictions on freedom of residence are within the framework of the Article 12 (3) of ICCPR.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the principal purposes of the legal regulations are in accordance with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development when they try to eliminate homelessness.

IV.

Additional Remarks

Hungary also wishes to draw the attention to the fact that the Government established the Human Rights Working Group in its decision adopted in February 2012 by Government Resolution 1039/2012 (II.22) with the main purpose of monitoring the implementation of human rights in Hungary, conducting consultations with civil society organisations, representative associations and other professional and constitutional bodies as well as of promoting professional communication on the implementation of human rights in Hungary.

The Working Group also monitors the implementation of the fully or partially accepted recommendations in relation to Hungary of the United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group. It makes recommendations to the Government and the other central administration bodies involved in legislation and application of the law to provide regulations that allow for a wider representation of human rights and oversees the implementation of these regulations.

During its constitutive meeting held in 2012, the Working Group decided to establish the Human Rights Roundtable, which currently operates with 68 civil organisation members and further 49 organisations take part in the activities of the thematic working groups based on invitation. The Human Rights Roundtable holds its meetings in 11 thematic working groups; one is responsible for homeless affairs. The Roundtable is the forum for dialogue between civil society and the government.

The chair of Thematic Working Group Responsible for Homeless Affairs (hereinafter: Thematic Working Group) is the State Secretary Responsible for Social Issues and Social Inclusion. Members of the Thematic Working Group are the following organisations:

- Baptista Szeretetszolgálat - Utcafront Menedék Hajléktalan Személyek és Szenvedélybetegek Integrált Intézménye
- ÉFOÉSZ Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Értelmi Sérültek és Segítőik Egyesülete
- Hajléktalanokért Közalapítvány
- Magyar Vöröskereszt
- Századvég Politikai Iskola Alapítvány
- Oxyológia – Sürgősségi Orvostan, Toxikológia, Honvéd és Katasztrófa Orvostan Tagozat.

The above-mentioned organisations represent the religious community, the social and medical sectors, as well. Thus, human rights issues related to homelessness can be discussed from several professional aspects and comprehensive measures can be taken after the meetings.

According to its rules of procedure, the Thematic Working Group holds two meetings annually. The Thematic Working Group is responsible for:

- a) monitoring the enforcement of fundamental human rights of persons without a dwelling in Hungary;
- b) disclosing and identifying any dysfunction that impedes the enforcement of rights;

- c) making proposals for the more effective application of the means of legal protection;
- d) holding consultations with civil organisations and professional bodies representing the interests of homeless people.

Since 2013, the Thematic Working Group has held 8 meetings and more than 15 agenda items have been discussed.

The system of homeless care covers persons who are distrustful of the social care system, habitually residing in public spaces, or in other places not suitable for the purpose of habitation for humans, and for those using the care system on a regular or occasional basis. Street social work services have an invaluable role in attending homeless people not trusting the care system. In the framework of their programme, these social workers contact clients in order to strengthen their trust in the care system, whilst they provide life protection services for those in need. Such service provisions are supported by the so-called dispatcher services, and – during special periods, such as crisis or „red code” – by the special street care services that are designed to complement street social work services, as well as by the crisis car service for homeless people. Besides operating the dispatcher service, the latter’s task is to assess the changes in the client’s state which might endanger the life of the individual, and to perform adequate supportive interventions that serve the protection of life.

Users of the institutional care system have the opportunity to avail of the forms of basic care, such as night shelter and daytime warming room, where they have the access to sanitation to maintain their personal hygiene, to wash their clothes, and to consume their food in more sophisticated circumstances, as well as to get support in managing their official matters. The services mentioned above are free of charge.

The next level of care consists of the so-called temporary homes. These homes offer an alternative for accommodation for homeless persons capable of continuing a self-sufficient life by utilizing other services of social work. In order to strengthen their opportunities to continue an independent life, temporary homes provide their clients with assistance given in the form of social work. On this basis, as from 2017 there is a possibility to establish so-called „external beds” (apartments) within the framework of temporary homes.

The care system has further alternatives for clients in need of residential care, too. The services of the so-called rehabilitation institutes are available for homeless persons whose psychological and/or social impairments are still reversible, who are of an active age, and who are willing to participate in the rehabilitation programmes of the institute on a voluntary basis. Additionally, nursing and care homes provide the elderly of irreversible state of health with full board.

Rehabilitation institutes for the homeless and nursing and care homes are subject to payment.

Further measures include:

Calls for proposal:

Calls for proposal, announced every year by the Ministry of Human Capacities, give applicant institutes that are ready to extend their scope of services, an opportunity to include the services of psychotherapists, addictologists, or mental health professionals into their field of activity.

Red Code (2018):

Regulated by Paragraph 65/E of Act III of 1993 on Social Administration and Social Welfare Services the so-called „Red Code” measure has been introduced in 2018. With the purpose of protecting lives, during „red code” period all social service providers – irrespectively of the scope, capacity and territory of their registered service – in cooperation with street social work services and regional dispatcher services are open to homeless people. Due to the rules of „Red Code”, amid the most difficult conditions – such as extreme cold or heat, heavy rainfall, extreme weather conditions – these institutions must be prepared to receive people living on the streets. Sheltering of homeless people in times of Red Code, measures are primarily performed by the homeless care system. Nevertheless, in case of lack of capacities, other residential institutions of the care system also have to take part in the reception of the homeless.

Human Resources Development Operational Programme – Housing first (EFOP-1.1.4-16):

The implementation of the programme Human Resources Development Operational Programme – Housing first (EFOP-1.1.4-16) has been launched in the framework of the Human Resources Development Operational Programme, building on the experience gained in Hungary so far. The aim of the programme is to enhance the opportunities of homeless people to gain access to housing on their own, with a multidisciplinary team supporting their rehabilitation. Primary goal of the project is to help the target group in finding the way out of their crisis situation.

Social Care Rights Advocate:

In order to give effect to the rights of children, patients and clients – as citizens’ rights, and in an integrated way –, under the name of Integrated Service of Legal Protection, an independent administrative unit has been set up within the Ministry of Human Capacities which is responsible for social affairs, health-care, pension policy, child and youth protection. Clients of the institutions of homeless care have the possibility to contact the social care rights advocate initiating the investigation of the actual or suspected breaches of their rights or for the purpose of enforcing their rights to treatment. The task of the social care rights advocate is to fully secure client’s rights.

Project Funded Judicial Assistance:

In the course of the last three years the Ministry of Human Capacities granted financial resources for the legal protection of homeless people in the framework of Project Funded Judicial Assistance. Ultimate goal of the service that may be granted by means of applications is to enhance legal awareness and legal protection of clients. Consequently, the service has been made available and is free of charge for the beneficiaries.

Operational Programme for Supporting Socially Disadvantaged Persons (Rászoruló Személyeket Támogató Operatív Program: RSZTOP) - RSZTOP-3.1.1-16-2016-00001 – Benefits in kind for people living in public spaces:

As part of the project “Operational Programme for Supporting Socially Disadvantaged Persons (Rászoruló Személyeket Támogató Operatív Program: RSZTOP) - RSZTOP-3.1.1-16-2016-00001 – Benefits in kind for people living in public spaces”, apart from the services of Social Canteen and Soup-Kitchen, from January 2017 until the end of 2020, the RSZTOP Programme allocates financial resources in order to provide hot meal at least once a weekday

for people who are habitually residing on the streets. Accompanying measures will also be implemented in 2018 and 2019. The target group of these measures will be amongst homeless persons struggling with psychiatric diseases, addictions and mental disorders. In the course of the implementation of the measures described above, psychiatrists and addictologists will provide members of the target group with tailored services.

Family and Child Welfare Centres – Legal Assistance:

Family and Child Welfare Centres, operated by municipalities of the settlements serving as county centers provide the population of the whole county with services as a core task, encompassing special services, too. One of these special services is the so-called legal assistance, which is available and free of charge for all residents. Legal assistance grants beneficiaries legal information in all legal subjects, including the description of relating regulations and other legal services, such as the compilation of legal documents, applications, with the exception of legal representation.

Should the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context has further questions related to the above information, the Government of Hungary remains at her disposal.

Budapest, '...' August 2018