

## **Recommendations included in the Ombudsman's 2024 Annual Report on the Protection of Human Rights in the Republic of Azerbaijan:**

- To improve professional capacity of specialists working in child institutions, including psychologists, social workers, and speech therapists, through training in child rights, and child treatment guidelines;
- To establish a regional detention center for administratively detained persons outside Baku city in order to eliminate overcrowding in Temporary Detention Places within the district police departments under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- To expand the network of narcological dispensaries, increasing the number of qualified staff - narcologists and clinical psychologists, establishing new rehabilitation centers, and introducing new methods of treatment and rehabilitation for drug-addicted persons, taking into account a high number of individuals awaiting treatment at existing narcological dispensaries;
- To revise the "List of Severe Diseases Preventing Punishment of Prisoners" approved by the Ministry of Health, taking into account health conditions that prevent a convict from serving their sentence;
- To digitize medical records of persons held in detention places and prisoners and taking the necessary measures for further integration of social services into medical services in institutions in order to effectively protect their right to health;
- To make an appropriate amendment to Article 511.2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which provides for "the release of a sentenced person from punishment," to ensure that such cases may also be considered based on a submission from the Ombudsman;
- To make the necessary amendments to Article 513.1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the commutation of the part of the sentence not yet served to a less severe penalty to allow such consideration also on the basis of a submission from the Ombudsman;
- To adapt both medical staff and the provision of medicines and other medical supplies to reflect the actual number of detainees, rather than to the facility's capacity limit, taking into account of high number of persons held in pre-trial detention facilities, in order to address the adverse effects of the overcrowding on access to medical services in penitentiary institutions;
- To establish separate penal institutions for persons who have committed crimes by reckless imprudence based on the precinct (open) penal institutions and legally establishing a norm for imprisonment of such persons regardless of the duration of

the prescribed sentence, taking into account the good international experiences of serving these sentences in lighter regime prisons (lower-security facilities);