



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Czechia
Title:	Covid-19 and gender – social security
Date:	18 September 2020
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Context	
Issue at stake:	Covid-19 and gender – social security
Grounds of discrimination:	Gender
Field of application:	Employment, Family related leave, Social protection, Social security, Violence against women
Source:	National legislation, Policy development
Applicable law:	Act No. 187/2006 Coll., on sickness insurance, Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on public health, regulations of the Government and of the Ministry of Health

Content

Policy development: In connection with the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 Pandemic in March 2020, additional provisions were made in the field of social security. More generous care benefits (originally available only to employees for a maximum of 9 calendar days (16 for single parents) in the amount of 60 % of the daily wage paid from the sickness insurance system) were made available to all employees (excluding self-employed).

A separate care allowance was paid to all insured persons, including the self-employed, in the amount of 80 % of the daily wage (with a ceiling) from May to June. A similar benefit could also be used by persons working outside the employment relationship, in more flexible forms of employment.

The care benefits were made available to parents of children under the age of 13 (and disabled school attending children). Employees who, due to the closure of certain social service facilities (day hospitals, etc.), had to care for an elderly person with a disability living in the same household were also eligible to these benefits. The benefits could be taken up by both caregivers who could share the care benefits between them as needed. This means, for example, that both parents could take turns in who will go to work and who would stay home to care for the children or other persons in need of care as specified by the provisions.¹

Key points of analysis: This generous nursing allowance was intended to help large sections of the population overcome the severe consequences of coronary crisis. It should be noted, however, that action in this area has been taken relatively slowly and chaotically. At first, the government did not want to increase the amount of nursing allowance, then it did not want to extend the entitlement to other groups of insured persons, especially to

¹ Information available at: <https://www.mpsv.cz/web/cz/osetrovne>.

the self-employed. At the same time, their activities form the backbone of the Czech economy, and at the same time it was small self-employed persons who were the most economically affected by the crisis. Last came people working in precarious jobs, which were not thought of at all at first.

In addition, nursing payments were delayed, especially in the first weeks of the crisis, so that some families were at significant risk of poverty if they did not have economic reserves.

This situation affected mostly women. At least 80 % of people claiming care allowance were women. Women mainly overtook the responsibility for further education of children, of housekeeping. As women work mainly in most affected areas of economy (hotels, restaurants, small shops, tourism etc.), they were most affected by the lock-down situation.²

Internet link source: <https://www.mpsv.cz/web/cz/osetrovne>, analysis of Covid and gender in Czechia - <https://www.feminismus.cz/cz/clanky/jak-na-gender-korona-prisla>.

² Press release of the Czech Sociological Institute available at: <https://www.soc.cas.cz/aktualita/dopady-opatreni-proti-pandemii-na-zeny-muze-na-trhu-prace>.