

Statement by Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

UPR Pre-session before the 32nd Working Group Session

State under review: Slovakia



Strengthening of the national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles

- NHRI = Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (B-status)
- Development since the 2nd cycle: **legislative process ongoing**
- Actual situation: need to successfully complete the process and provide adequate resources so that the NHRI can seek accreditation with A-status

RECOMMENDATION

Without further delay, complete the ongoing legislative procedure and ensure that the Slovak NHRI is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and provide the Slovak NHRI with sufficient financial, technical and material resources to be able to carry out its broad mandate effectively and independently.

Adoption of national policies in the area of business and human rights

- Applicable standards: UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- **No previous recommendations**
- Actual situation: **national implementation lacking**, need to address business-related human rights violations (discrimination of vulnerable groups, working conditions in the production sector, treatment of migrant workers, environmental harms, land rights, corruption)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Start actively monitoring negative impacts of businesses on the enjoyment of human rights in Slovakia with special focus on vulnerable groups.
2. Initiate implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights without undue delay and adopt a national action plan on business and human rights by the 4th UPR cycle.

Right to education and segregation of Roma children

- **Segregation** (mainly) in elementary schools and over-representation of Roma children in **special schools** (also European Commission infringement procedure)
- Development since the 2nd cycle: policy and legislative **efforts visible**, tangible positive **results needed**
- Actual situation: problems with diagnostics and re-diagnostics as a ground for enrollment in general/special education, schools attended purely/in majority by Roma children, segregation practices at schools

RECOMMENDATION

Immediately suppress any remaining segregation practices in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education for every child without any discrimination based on ethnicity.

Right to housing and spacial segregation of Roma communities

- Main issues: **anti-Roma walls and fences** across Slovakia, adequate **standard of living** in Roma settlements and dwellings
- Development since the 2nd cycle: legislative measure for **land settlements** Roma settlements
- Actual situation: responsibility for elimination of anti-Roma walls (state v. municipalities), living conditions in Roma settlements (access to drinking water, sanitation, electricity, public lights, roads...)

RECOMMENDATION

1. Undertake additional measures to reduce Roma residential segregation and develop clear housing policies to eliminate segregation and discrimination in housing.
2. Implement programmes increasing awareness of affected Roma communities on the right to adequate housing and on accessible remedies for its protection.
3. Ensure that all “anti-Roma walls” in Slovakia are removed immediately and support integration of the affected communities.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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