



SLOVAK NATIONAL  
CENTRE FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN SLOVAKIA

Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

UPR Pre-session

14 February 2024

# I. RIGHTS OF LGBTI+ PERSONS

Previous recommendations:

- Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples (noted), Initiate again a plan to adopt a national action plan on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex equality

Main issues:

- **Absence** of legal recognition of **same-sex couples**, **absence of a framework document** for the protection of the rights of LGBTI+ people, legislative attempts to **restrict the rights** of LGBTI+ people, **inadequate accessibility** of health care in relation to **transition**, **restricted blood donation** by gay and bisexual men



# I. RIGHTS OF LGBTI+ PERSONS

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt a comprehensive action plan for the rights of LGBTI+ persons, which would be a result of a participatory process.
- Adopt measures to improve accessibility of medical transition and legal gender recognition.
- Remove the restriction of blood donations by gay and bisexual men on the basis of sexual orientation alone.



## II. MEDIA FREEDOM

Previous recommendations:

- Respect, protect and promote freedom of expression of journalists and media actors and take all necessary steps to ensure that the media can perform its work safely

Main issues:

- Slovak journalists face harrassment by the general public and politicians
- **66.2%** of Slovak journalists experienced an **attack or threat in the past 12 months**
- **47%** of Slovak journalists think the number of **incidents has increased** over the last 5 years



# II. MEDIA FREEDOM

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt legislative measures aimed at increasing safety of journalists and media freedom, including abolishment of the crime of defamation.
- Ensure available and efficient protection of journalists to prevent and investigate threats and violence, including from politicians.



# III. HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

No previous recommendations.

Main issues:

- **Lack of systemic funding** and fragmented regulation
- **Not including** NGOs and human rights defenders **in participatory processes**
- **Prevalence of hate speech** and harrassment of human rights defenders including from politicians



# III. HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure efficient protection of human rights defenders to prevent and investigate threats, violence and other restrictions of rights, including from politicians.
- Adopt sustainable and long-term institutional and financial support for civil society organizations, including those working on gender equality and LGBTI+ rights.





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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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