HUMAN RIGHTS IN HUNGARY

Cordelia & IRCT · UPR Info Pre-sessions
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Background & Context

Joint submission for the UPR 53rd session by Cordelia Foundation and the International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture (IRCT).

Cordelia = a rehabilitation centre providing psychotherapy and psycho-social support to refugees and torture survivors; documents war crimes under the Istanbul Protocol.

Context: a hostile political climate and the systematic targeting of NGOs assisting refugees and foreign nationals.

95% of Cordelia's clients are Ukrainian nationals, who face discrimination on the basis of foreign nationality.

Topics addressed in our report:

Vulnerable people: Migrants, Refugees and asylum seekers

- **Screening and the right to health of asylum seekers**
- **Access to healthcare and mental health support**
- Situation of LGBTQ+ Refugees and transgender people

Administration of justice, impunity and the rule of law

- Access and monitoring of detention conditions
- **Healthcare and psychological support in detention**

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Screening and the right to health of asylum seekers

- Under EU law, medical treatment and support for special needs are triggered by identification ("vulnerability check"). ***With no systematic screening, that mechanism never activates***.
- Conditions like injuries and the after-effects of torture or sexual violence are neither detected nor addressed.
- Hungarian law excludes people with mental-health conditions from its very definition of "vulnerable".
- It violates the healthcare and special-needs guarantees of the EU Reception Conditions Directive and the right to health (ICESCR Art. 12; EU Charter Art. 35)
- Denial of necessary care to people in a situation of dependency **can amount to inhuman or degrading treatment under ECHR Article 3**.

Recommendations – Assessment of asylum seekers' health

01

Establish a standardised health and vulnerability assessment at entry.

02

Ensure anyone flagged is referred to and receives the physical and mental-health services they need, with a clear referral pathway.

Access to healthcare & mental health

- Healthcare is one of the most critical unmet needs for migrants and asylum seekers.
- Psychiatric and psychological support is hard to obtain outside Budapest; ~40 child psychiatrists nationwide.
- Without insurance, screenings, check-ups and surgeries are largely inaccessible; + language barriers.
- Detainees denied prescribed medication

Recommendation – Access to healthcare & mental health

01

Guarantee that asylum seekers and foreign nationals can access essential healthcare (check-ups, screenings and surgeries) regardless of insurance status.

Situation in Hungary – Healthcare & support in detention

- Independent monitoring of detention conditions has been absent since 2017.
- Psychological support and rehabilitation are unavailable; online therapy and cameras are prohibited on ‘security’ grounds.
- Absence of proper psychiatric and psychological support for torture survivors

Recommendations – Healthcare & support in detention

01

Ensure detainees keep receiving prescribed medication and treatment from entry, monitored by independent medical professionals.

02

Provide qualified psychiatric care, interpretation and psychological support – including online – throughout detention.

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Thank you

- **Don’t hesitate to ask for our briefing note and our list of recommendations**

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