

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Slovakia/93

3 August 2026

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up on concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the seventh periodic report of Slovakia, at the Committee's eighty-fifth session, held in May 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/SVK/CO/7](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 53 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Slovakia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17, 21 (c), 23 (a) and 37 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#)) received under the CEDAW follow-up procedure on 30 December 2025 seven months after the two-year reporting period. The Committee examined the follow-up report during the intersessional period and adopted the following assessment on 31 July 2026.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 17** of the concluding observations that the State party "**strengthen its efforts to allocate sufficient technical, human and financial resources to the [Slovak National] Centre [for Human Rights] and ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles, in particular by taking measures to guarantee the political and budgetary independence of the Centre**":

The Committee notes that the financial resources of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights have been increasing since 2018, as noted in the State party's follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), para. 7). It equally notes that an amendment of March 2023 to Act No. 308/1993 Coll. on the Establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights stipulates the independence of reports prepared and published by the Centre ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), para. 4). Further, the Committee takes note that the State party is undertaking a legislative process to transpose European Union Directives into national law with the aim to make the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights compliant with the Paris Principles and to strengthen its resources ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), paras. 5 and 6). However, it is concerned that the legislative process is still ongoing.

H.E. Mr. Fedor Rosocha
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to strengthen the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights but has not completed the core amendments requested. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 17** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Strengthen its efforts to allocate sufficient technical, human and financial resources to the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights and ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles, in particular by taking measures to guarantee the political and budgetary independence of the Centre.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 21 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**take steps to criminalize sexist, misogynist and other forms of gender-related hate speech, including against Roma women, transgender women and women politicians**”:

The Committee takes note of the existing national legislation as described by the State party in its follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), paras. 8-9). Further, it welcomes the awareness-raising initiatives by the State party targeting young people, including to prevent gender-based violence and hate speech against women ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), paras. 11-13). Nevertheless, the Committee notes with regret that the State party has not criminalized sexist, misogynist and other forms of gender-related hate speech, including against Roma women, transgender women and women politicians.

The Committee considers that the State party has not taken steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates to the recommendation but provides limited insight into progress on the specific amendments requested. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 21 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Criminalize sexist, misogynist and other forms of gender-related hate speech, including against Roma women, transgender women and women politicians.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**expedite the enactment of comprehensive legislation on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and the amendment of the Criminal Code to include domestic violence as a category of violent crime and raise the punishment for intimate partner violence and femicide**”:

The Committee takes note that the State party is preparing comprehensive legislation to transpose a European Union Directive that “will reflect the requirements of the aforementioned Directive [...] on combating violence against women and domestic violence, as well as the related international obligations of the Slovak Republic” ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), paras. 17). It regrets, however, that such legislation and the recommended amendment to the Criminal Code are not in force yet.

While the Committee recognizes that the State party is taking legislative steps, it considers that at this stage the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 23 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, in its next periodic report, information on further actions taken to:

Expedite the enactment of comprehensive legislation on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and the amendment of the Criminal Code to include domestic violence as a category of violent crime and raise the punishment for intimate partner violence and femicide.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 37 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**remove the restrictions to access to safe abortion services, such as the requirement for mandatory counselling, medically unnecessary waiting periods and third-party authorization, in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization**”:

The Committee notes the State party’s commitment in its follow-up report, that it “takes note of the Committee’s recommendation and will give it due consideration in expert and legislative discussions, with a view to ensuring that legislative solutions in this area are in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and the international obligations of the Slovak Republic” ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), para. 23). The Committee equally takes note that the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality addressed the issue of “access to quality reproductive care in line with international human rights and health standards” ([CEDAW/C/SVK/FCO/7](#), para. 22). However, it regrets that the State party does not report any progress on removing restrictions to access to safe abortion services, including the requirement for mandatory counselling, medically unnecessary waiting periods and third-party authorization.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps related to women’s reproductive health but has not specifically addressed the restrictions to access to safe abortion services as recommended. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates partially to the recommendation but lacks specific focus on mandatory counselling and third-party authorization in relation to access to safe abortion services. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.



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The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 37 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Remove the restrictions to access to safe abortion services, such as the requirement for mandatory counselling, medically unnecessary waiting periods and third-party authorization, in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jelena Pia-Comella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jelena Pia-Comella

Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women