
Advance unedited version

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Human Rights Committee**List of issues prior to the submission of the fifth periodic report of Slovakia*****A. General information on the national human rights situation, including new measures and developments relating to the implementation of the Covenant**

1. Please provide information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the Committee's previous concluding observations (CCPR/C/SVK/CO/4), including any relevant statistical data. Please also provide information on any significant development in the establishment of a national mechanism to ensure that the Committee's recommendations and Views are widely disseminated and effectively implemented.

2. Please report on any other significant development in the legal and institutional framework within which the human rights enshrined in the Covenant are promoted and protected that have taken place since the adoption of the previous concluding observations.

B. Specific information on the implementation of articles 1 to 27 of the Covenant, including with regard to the previous recommendations of the Committee**Constitutional and legal framework within which the Covenant is implemented**

3. Please provide information regarding the measures taken to give full effect to the provisions of the Covenant in national legislation and to continue raising awareness of the Covenant among legal practitioners, such as judges, prosecutors, lawyers and the general public. Please provide examples of cases in which the Covenant has been invoked and implemented by national courts (art. 2).

4. In the light of the previous concluding observations please provide information regarding the measures adopted to expand and strengthen the scope of the mandate of the National Centre for Human Rights and to ensure that it can carry out its mandate fully and independently and in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) (art. 2).

Non-discrimination

5. With reference to the previous concluding observations, please provide information on the legislative and policy measures adopted to include and address discrimination, including direct and indirect and intersectional. Please also describe the measures adopted to raise awareness about the protection framework for victims of discrimination and to facilitate them effective access to justice, including, by identifying and overcoming the obstacles

* Adopted by the Committee at its 139th session (9 October – 3 November 2023).

responsible for the low number of dispute settlement and compensation awarded to victims of discrimination (arts. 2, 19, 20 and 26).

Hate crime, hate speech and increasing radicalization in political discourse and in the media

6. In view of the previous concluding observations, please report on steps taken to address hate crime, hate speech and radicalization in political discourse, media and online, including by ensuring that all racially motivated crimes are investigated, perpetrators prosecuted and if convicted punished, and victims compensated. Please provide information on measures taken to prohibit advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence; and measures to promote tolerance and inclusivity of minorities. Please provide information on the measures that have continued to be implemented to counter hate speech and stigmatization of Roma, Muslim and other minorities (arts. 2, 20 and 27).

Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons

7. Recalling the previous concluding observations, please describe the measures taken in order to eradicate and prevent all forms of discrimination in all spheres of life, as well as to combat stigmatization, harassment and violence, including hate speech, against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. Please also provide information on the progress made to develop and implement a procedure for legal gender recognition, compatible with the provisions of the Covenant, as well as to improve accessibility of health care in relation to transition. Please also provide information on measures taken to provide protection and legal recognition to those in same-sex relationships (arts. 2, 20 and 26).

Roma discrimination and exclusion

8. With reference to the previous concluding observations, please describe the measures adopted to ensure non-discriminatory access to public services in all fields and at all levels for members of the Roma community, including effectively combatting and preventing any residential, educational and health-care related segregation. Please provide information on the measures adopted against multiple forms of discrimination endured by Roma women; and information on measures adopted to improve access to justice for Roma people (arts. 2, 3, 26 and 27).

9. Please provide information regarding the efforts made to ensure non-discrimination in education of Roma pupils and students, as well as to increase their integration into mainstream education. Please provide information on the measures taken to address stigmatization and prejudices against Roma communities and pupils and students (arts. 2, 24 and 27).

Gender equality

10. Recalling the previous concluding observations, please describe the measures taken to increase the participation of women in the public and private sectors, including in high-level and managerial positions. Please also provide information on the measures taken to address stereotypes and biases concerning social and family roles of women and men (arts. 2, 3, 25 and 26).

Violence against women and girls, including domestic violence

11. In view of the previous concluding observations, please provide information on the measures adopted to combat and prevent violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including the ratification of international instruments; and to ensure that victims of violence have adequate access to protection and assistance. In this regard, please provide information on the impact of the Act on Victims of Crime and the National Action Plan for Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women for 2022-2027. Please also inform about measures taken to encourage and facilitate reporting of cases; and to ensure that perpetrators of violence are prosecuted, and if convicted punished with adequate sanctions and victims compensated (arts. 2, 3, 7, 17 and 26).

Sexual and reproductive rights

12. Recalling the previous concluding observations, please provide information on the measures adopted to establish an independent body to investigate the full extent of the practice of the illegal sterilization of Roma women without informed consent between 1966 and 2004, and to provide reparation to the victims. Please provide information on the measures taken in order to ensure effective access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including access to safe abortions and contraceptives (arts. 2, 3, 7, 17 and 26).

Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and of the excessive use of force

13. With reference to the previous concluding observations, please provide information on the measures adopted to strengthen the Department of Control and Inspection Service as well as to ensure its independence to carry out investigations of alleged misconduct by police officers. Please provide disaggregated data on gender, ethnicity and nationality, the number of investigations carried out regarding allegations of excessive use of force, including torture and ill-treatment, by law enforcement officers, as well as of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators and compensations to victims, including victims in the context of the raid in the settlement of Budulovská in Moldava nad Bodvou on 19 June 2013. Provide also information on the intended measures to include a definition of torture in national legislation and ensure that the penalties for torture are commensurate with the gravity of the crime. Please provide information on the trainings of law enforcement officers on torture and ill-treatment; as well as on the extent to which the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Protocol) and the Principals on Effective Interviewing for Investigation and Information Gathering (Méndez Principles) have been integrated (arts. 7 and 10).

Treatment of persons deprived of their liberty and conditions of detention

14. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that persons deprived of their liberty enjoy all legal safeguards from the outset of their deprivation of liberty, including: access to a lawyer and the possibility to communicate the deprivation of liberty to relatives or any other person of their choice. Please provide information regarding the measures adopted to improve the material conditions in prisons and holding cells as well as to ensure that the treatment of persons deprived of liberty fully adheres to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) (art. 10).

Treatment of aliens, including refugees and asylum seekers

15. In view of the previous concluding observations, please provide information on the annual number of asylum seekers and irregular migrants detained, including families with children and unaccompanied children, on the average length of detention; and on the use of alternatives to detention. Please provide information on measures adopted to end the detention of families with children on account of their immigration or asylum status and the alternatives to detention implemented. Please provide information on the measures adopted to provide assistance and protection to persons fleeing from the conflict in Ukraine, and in particular vulnerable groups; as well as to asylum seekers and migrants from other countries. Please provide information on the measures taken to establish a statelessness determination procedure (arts. 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 24).

Access to justice, independence of the judiciary, and fair trial

16. Please provide information on the measures taken to increase the efficiency, integrity, and accountability of the justice system, including information regarding the judicial reform process; as well as the steps taken to address the excessive length of court proceedings. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that the procedures for the selection, appointment, promotion, transfer and removal of judges and prosecutors are transparent and impartial (arts. 14).

Elimination of slavery, servitude, and trafficking in persons

17. Please provide information on the measures taken to fight human trafficking, forced labour and servitude, including through forced marriages. Please provide information on measures adopted to: improve the identification of victims and their access to justice; conduct effective investigations; prosecute and sentence those responsible with sanctions proportionate to the gravity of the offence; provide adequate protection to vulnerable groups, including Roma women and girls; and adequate assistance and compensation to victims (arts. 7, 8 and 26)

Freedom of thought, conscience and religious belief

18. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that registration requirements for religious groups are not discriminatory, and that they do not represent a disproportionate limitation on freedom of religion and the right to manifest religion (art. 18).

Freedom of expression

19. Please provide information on the measures taken to decriminalize defamation and to ensure that sanctions in civil defamation cases are proportionate, and do not lead to self-censorship. Please provide information on the measures taken to protect journalists and human rights defenders against any form of surveillance, intimidation, harassment, or attack; and promptly investigate all such attacks and bring those responsible to justice (art. 19).

Corporal punishment

20. With reference to previous concluding observations, please provide information of the measures taken to put an end to corporal punishment; to encourage alternative forms of discipline, and to conduct public information campaigns to raise awareness about the harmful effects of corporal punishment (arts. 7 and 24).
