



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 115th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Croatia, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 (racism in sports), 22 (c) and (d) (situation of Roma) and 28 (stateless persons) of the Concluding Observations [CERD/C/HRV/CO/9-14](#) adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 9th to 14th periodic reports at its 110th session, held in August 2023.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its next periodic report.

Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party regarding the awareness raising campaigns, events, educational programs and publications developed to prevent and combat racism, racist hate speech and violence in sports. It also takes note of the Anti-Discrimination Act, the Law on the Prevention of Disorders at Sports Competitions as well as the substantive and procedural provisions of its criminal legislation framework regarding hate crimes and public incitement to violence and hatred.

H.E. Mr. Gordan Markotić
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The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party related to the data monitored within the framework of the Protocol for Procedures in Cases of Hate Crimes and the procedures of state attorney's offices and the police. Nevertheless, it regrets the lack of detailed information on the investigations carried out, the prosecutions initiated, and the sanctions imposed in cases of racial discrimination and racist hate speech in sports, including on the grounds to prosecute some of these acts as misdemeanours. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory. It requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, further information on the measures adopted to adequately investigate, prosecute and sanction cases of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes in sports, including in football.

Paragraph 22 (c) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee takes note of the measures adopted by the State party at the national, regional and local levels to ensure access by Roma children to quality and inclusive education, and to increase school enrolment rates and prevent school dropout, including actions to expand preschool infrastructure, the granting of scholarships and provision of financial assistance and accommodation for Roma children and students. It also takes note of the information provided by the State party on the efforts deployed to achieve the inclusive and quality education objectives of the National Plan for Roma Inclusion 2021-2027 and Operation Programmes for national Minorities 2024-2028, including by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth and the Education Agency, as well as the increase of funds for the implementation of national policy measures for the education of Roma at all levels of the educational system.

While noting the State party's information on the positive impact of these measures in the inclusion of Roma children and students in the educational system, the Committee remains concerned about continued reports of the persistence of segregated education of Roma children, the low attendance rates in secondary schools, and high dropout rates among Roma children. The Committee considers that the State party's response is unsatisfactory and reiterates its recommendation to end the de facto segregation in schools and strengthen efforts to ensure access by Roma children to quality and inclusive education, with a view to increasing school enrolment rates and decreasing school dropout rates. It also requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

Paragraph 22 (d) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee takes note of the information about the support provided by the State party to the process of legalization of Roma houses, and the measures adopted for improving the living conditions and housing of members of the Roma national minority. While noting the actions taken on two particular cases of evictions of Roma families, the Committee regrets the



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lack of information on measures adopted by the State party to end forced eviction of the Roma and demolition of their houses, to provide security of tenure to Roma communities and legalize informal settlements, and to ensure that affected families and individuals are provided with adequate alternative housing and compensation when house demolition or forced eviction cannot be avoided. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation unsatisfactory and requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

Paragraph 28 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party that, under the conditions stipulated by the Social Welfare Act, benefits and services from the social welfare system can be granted to stateless persons with temporary and permanent residence, and long-term residence in the Republic of Croatia. However, the Committee regrets the lack of sufficient information on the measures taken to ensure that stateless persons, particularly undocumented children, are able to enjoy their economic and social rights without discrimination, in particular regarding access to health-care services and education. Furthermore, the Committee remains concerned about the absence of a dedicated and effective procedure for determining statelessness and regrets that there is currently no plan for the adoption of such a procedure. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation unsatisfactory and requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Croatia, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Balcerzak" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michał Balcerzak
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination