



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

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8 December 2023

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 111<sup>th</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Slovakia, 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 paragraph 9 and 31 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/SVK/CO/13), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 13<sup>th</sup> report, at its 107<sup>th</sup> session, held in August 2022.

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 fourteenth periodic report, which is due for submission, in a single document, by 28 May 2025.

With regard to its recommendation in paragraph 9, the Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on its commitment to the establishment of a national preventive mechanism following its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It also welcomes the information on the commitment of the State party to strengthen the role of the Centre for Legal Aid and to provide financial support to non-governmental organisations working on human rights and public participation. The Committee notes the information that an amendment to strengthen the position of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights is anticipated under the EU Pilot, however regrets that further information on this Pilot or on the amendment was not provided. The Committee invites the State party to provide such information in its next periodic report.

H.E. Mr. Dušan Matulay  
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While the Committee welcomes the adoption on 1 May 2022 of the rule concerning the public presentation of candidates for the role of executive director, it wishes to highlight that this measure preceded the State party's review and therefore cannot be taken into consideration as to the implementation of the recommendation. The Committee invites the State party to provide further information in its next periodic report on the rules governing the presentation and appointment of candidates for all relevant roles.

The Committee regrets that the State party did not provide any information on efforts to discuss and adopt the relevant legislative amendments to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles. The Committee considers the response of the State party to this recommendation unsatisfactory. It therefore reiterates its recommendation and refers the State party to general recommendation no. 17 (1993) on the establishment of national institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention.

Regarding its recommendation in paragraph 31, the Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on the legislative procedure on financial compensation for women sterilized in violation of the law. The Committee notes that the legislative procedure was placed on hold due to the Parliamentary elections and invites the State party to provide updated information in its next periodic report.

With reference to resolution no. 647/2021, through which, as reported by the State party, an apology for the sterilization of women was issued, the Committee recognizes this as a preliminary step towards effective remedy and one form of satisfaction.

The Committee also notes the information on the establishment of a Working Group for the preparation of a compensation law in 2022, however regrets the lack of information on the processes through which participants were engaged, nominated, or appointed. Further, the Committee regrets that the State party did not provide information on the engagement of members of the Roma community in the relevant procedures. The Committee therefore reiterates its recommendation that measures taken to address the issue of forced sterilization be developed in consultation with and participation of members of the Roma community, including at all stages of the legislative procedure from its conception.

The Committee invites the State party to elaborate on the description of forced sterilization as “sterilization in violation of the law”, the sum of the proposed compensation, the apportionment of the burden of proof to the victims, the scope of the assistance for victims to submit a claim, and the reference period in the reported proposal, it in its next periodic report. The Committee also invites the State party to provide information on the inclusion of extenuating circumstances, the ability of family members or caretakers to submit requests on behalf of the victims, and the ability of individuals to appeal the decisions of the Ministry of Health. While elaborating on these provisions, the Committee requests the State party to include information received through consultations of members of the Roma community.

The Committee considers the response of the State party to this recommendation as unsatisfactory, and reiterating its recommendation, it invites the State party to provide in its next periodic report further information on the measures taken to guarantee access to effective remedies and adequate compensation, to rehabilitate victims with medical or psychological care and legal or social services, and to guarantee non-repetition.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Slovakia, 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,



Verene Shepherd  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination