



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

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16 January 2023

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 108th 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 paragraphs 14 (a) and 22 (b) of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/SVK/CO/11-12), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> periodic report, adopted at its 94<sup>th</sup> session, held in November 2017.

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 14<sup>th</sup> periodic report, which is due for submission, in a single document, on 28 May 2025.

***Paragraph 14 (a) of the Concluding Observations***

The Committee welcomes the legal reforms and specific measures adopted by the State party, including amendments to the criminal law to target hate speech in the media, as well as the creation of new bodies to prosecute and monitor hate speech. The Committee recommends that the State party provide information on the implementation of these measures and their outcomes in its next periodic report, as well as details on the content of the trainings offered to investigators, prosecutors and judges regarding hate crimes. The Committee also recommends that the State party include information on the work of the organs mentioned in its report, including the progress of the temporary working group in preparing new legislation covering audio-visual media services. The Committee considers the answer to this recommendation satisfactory.

H.E. Mr. Dušan Matulay  
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***Paragraph 22 (b) of the Concluding Observations***

The Committee notes that consultations are being conducted to give effect to the recommendations regarding the Roma community, and that the State party has adopted guidelines regarding the desegregation, de-ghettoizing and de-stigmatization of minorities. However, the Committee regrets that the State party has still not found a solution to explicitly prohibit the construction by local authorities of segregation walls that separate Roma and non-Roma communities, and recommends that the State party expedite the reform of national legislation to end this practice. The Committee also reiterates its recommendation that the State party hold accountable those who are responsible for decisions on building segregation walls and provide updated information on these issues in its next periodic report. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation unsatisfactory.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Slovak Republic, 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