



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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5 May 2026

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 117th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Republic of Albania, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 74 (ex-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 19 (b) (right to education) and 35 (migrants and asylum-seekers) of the Concluding Observations [CERD/C/ALB/CO/13-14](#) adopted following the consideration of the State Party's combined 13th to 14th periodic reports at its 112th session, held in April 2024.

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 19 (b) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party that the National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians 2021–2025 is aligned with the objectives of the National Strategy for Development and Integration and the Sustainable Development Goals, and in line with the objectives of the EU Roma Strategic Framework 2020–2030.

H.E. Mrs. Vasilika Hysi
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It also takes note that the Fifth Policy Dialogue Seminar between Albania and the EU was held in Tirana in April 2022, which focused on the inclusion of Roma and Egyptian national minorities, and resulted in final recommendations for the 2022–2024 timeframe, which included recommendations on education and anti-Gypsyism.

The Committee further notes that, as part of the integrated approach to address the challenges of effectively including Roma and Egyptian minorities in inclusive education through the Social Inclusion Platform, various Ministries, municipalities, and civil society of the State Party have conducted roundtables to discuss the provision of scholarships for Roma and Egyptian minorities, which have produced concrete recommendations on inclusive and non-discriminatory approach in education.

It also notes the information provided by the State Party that, according to the ROMALB monitoring and data collection system, around 9,380 Roma and Egyptian boys and girls were enrolled in and attended compulsory education in 2024, and that 600 Roma and Egyptian children benefited from free school transport, and 649 Roma and Egyptian students received scholarships at various educational levels.

Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the lack of information about measures adopted by the State Party to address the root causes of discrimination against and *de facto* segregation of Roma and Egyptian children in the education system, including the full implementation of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *X and Others v. Albania*, of 31 May 2022. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory and requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

Paragraph 35 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the strengthening of the inter-institutional cooperation between the Border Police and the Directorate of Migration, Asylum, and Anti-Trafficking Policies within the Ministry of Interior, in order to ensure early identification and immediate referral of persons expressing the need for international protection. It also notes the establishment of an integrated system, coordinated by the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child, to guarantee that return and repatriation of unaccompanied children occur only when it is in the best interest of the child.



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It also takes note of the adoption, in May 2024, of the Action Plan 2024-2026 to implement the National Strategy for Migration 2024-2030, as well as of the establishment of a dual monitoring system composed of a Technical Committee and the Migration Steering Group.

The Committee also notes the information provided by the State Party regarding the simplification of the citizenship application procedure, which aims at facilitating the integration of migrants into Albanian society. It further notes the information concerning the amendments introduced by Law 43/2025 to Law 79/2021 on foreigners, in order to guarantee the right to legal residence and employment in Albania through the issuance of residence permits, and access to integration programs and services for foreigners.

Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the lack of more detailed information on the measures adopted by the State Party to ensure that, in practice, migrants and asylum-seekers are allowed to apply for international protection and are referred to asylum authorities and undergo refugee status determination procedures, including unaccompanied children.

The Committee considers the response to recommendations 35 (a) and (b) of the Concluding Observations to be partially satisfactory. It requests the State Party to include in its next periodic report information on the measures taken to fully implement these recommendations.

With regard to the Protocol between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Italian Republic for the strengthening of cooperation on migration matters, the Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding the signature of an implementing agreement of the Protocol between the Ministry of Interior of Albania and the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice of Italy, as well as the establishment of a National Task Force, which includes high-level representatives from key institutions involved in the implementation of the Protocol. It further noted the commitment expressed by the State Party to continuously review and monitor the implementation of the protocols and procedures to ensure that they do not undermine the State's efforts to prevent human trafficking and guarantee the protection of potential victims.

However, the Committee regrets the absence of more comprehensive information on the measures taken by the State Party to ensure that the abovementioned Protocol does not undermine the State Party's legal obligations under the Convention and other international human rights and refugee law instruments.



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The Committee considers the response to recommendation 35 (c) of the Concluding Observations to be unsatisfactory. It requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on the measures taken to fully implement this recommendation.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Republic of Albania, 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, appearing to read 'Gün Kut'.

Gün Kut
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination