

Responses to Recommendations

SLOVAKIA

Review in the Working Group: 13 May 2009
 Adoption in the Plenary: 25 September 2009

Slovakia's responses to recommendations:

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Recommendations pending responses:	Summary:
No response, all pending	89 REC were clustered by issues and received general comments without clear position	79 REC accepted without reservation, 9 rejected and 3 supported with reservation	None	Accepted: 79 Rejected: 9 No clear position: 3 Pending: 0

List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/12/17:

“89. In the course of the discussion, the following recommendations were made to Slovakia: The response of Slovakia to these recommendations will be included in the outcome report to be adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 12 session.

A - 1. Ratify/accede/adhere to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Mexico, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Algeria) bearing in mind the voluntary commitment in its candidature to the Human Rights Council to work for the universal ratification of all United Nations human rights instruments and actively encourage countries which are not yet party to them to ratify them (Algeria);

A - 2. Consider becoming party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture or Other Cruel, Human or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT/OP)(United Kingdom); Ratify/accede to CAT-OP (Argentina, Croatia, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic);

A - 3. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina, Croatia) as soon as possible (France);

A - 4. Consider signing at the earliest possible time (Portugal)/ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Argentina);

A - 5. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPD) (Argentina, Spain) and its

Optional Protocol (Mexico, Croatia); consider the completion of the ratification process of CPD in a speedy manner (Jordan);

A - 6. Ratify Protocol 12 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in particular bearing in mind the particular situation of the Roma minority in the country (Spain);

A - 7. Accomplish progressively the human rights goals set forth in Human Rights Council resolution 9/12 (Brazil);

A - 8. Implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including taking adequate legislative measures to ensure explicit prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse of children under criminal law, ensuring that children are not criminalized or penalized, and intensify efforts in for implementation of laws and policies protecting children against economic exploitation (South Africa);

R - 9. Adopt a comprehensive legal instrument which recognizes the rights of persons belonging to minority groups, including Roma, and offers the necessary protection, in particular to children, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Cuba);

A - 10. Take effective legislative measures to achieve gender parity in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Angola);

R - 11. Develop more legislative guarantees in order to fully comply with the provisions of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Hungary);

A - 12. Further strengthen the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (SNCHR) so that it can discharge its mandate in a comprehensive and effective manner (Jordan); upgrade SNCHR to a full-fledged national human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Bangladesh); enable SNCHR to monitor the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation, initiate investigations and recommend remedies in individual cases involving discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to education (Canada);

A - 13. Take measures to ensure policy and institutional coherence with a view to addressing the situation of the Roma minority in a comprehensive manner (South Africa); continue to ensure unified implementation of its policy for the integration of Roma in Slovak society (Netherlands);

R - 14. Formulate and implement a national plan of action for the protection of the civil rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender (LGBT) persons (Netherlands);

A - 15. Adopt effective measures to further strengthen the system for enforcement of the rights and the interests of children (Uzbekistan);

A - 16. Continue to strengthen its efforts for the promotion of human rights education, notably by ensuring the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Human Rights Education 2005-2014 (Morocco);

A - 17. Establish a strategy to prevent xenophobic acts and violence involving ethnic or other minorities in consultation with relevant partners, the Slovak Roma community and other national and ethnic groups (Canada);

A - 18. Take all necessary steps to address the concerns expressed by civil society in the Slovakian national report through necessary policy and implementation reforms (Pakistan);

A - 19. Establish a plan of action to implement the "Midterm Strategy for the Development of the Roma National Minority of the Slovak Republic, Solidarity- Integrity-Inclusion 2008-2013" (Switzerland);

A - 20. Fully implement the "Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 Programme" to address all forms of discrimination against the Roma people and to improve the conditions of Roma settlements (Bangladesh);

A - 21. Pay particular attention to the protection of the most vulnerable sectors of the society, including the Roma (Argentina);

NC - 22. Respond regularly to questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders (Slovenia);

A - 23. Consider implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of human rights treaty bodies and special procedures on the Roma (Jordan); fulfil specific recommendations of treaty bodies in respect of cases of discrimination against Roma (Azerbaijan);

A - 24. Continue its efforts and strong policy to address all forms of violence and discrimination against women, minorities and other vulnerable groups (Kazakhstan);

A - 25. Step up its efforts to tackle the root cause of discrimination and violence against the Roma population, especially women and children (Republic of Korea);

A - 26. Reinforce its policies and strategies to eliminate all sorts of discrimination against the Roma community (Angola); continue to address the inequalities affecting particularly the marginalized Roma community (Turkey); intensify its efforts to fight against discrimination against Roma people by tackling the root causes of this problem (Switzerland);

A - 27. Take effective measures to eliminate forms of discrimination against Roma women and girls (Brazil);

A - 28. Intensify the fight against stereotypes regarding the Roma minority and further strengthen human rights education and training for representatives of the public authorities in general and law enforcement officials in particular (Switzerland);

A - 29. Continue and strengthen the measures to come to terms with the problems of discrimination that still persist, and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by all minority groups (Sweden);

A - 30. Step up efforts to change the stereotype and traditional perception of Roma by the majority population, including through conducting more awareness and sensitization programmes (Malaysia);

A - 31. Defend the right to life, based on article 15 of the Constitution (Holy See);

A - 32. Reinforce measures to combat incitement to discrimination and racial violence including through criminal prosecution of those involved in violence against minorities and immigrants, and provide adequate reparation for the victims of such acts (Angola);

A - 33. Act firmly to eliminate all forms of human rights violations committed by members of the police force, including harassment and excessive use of violence (Belgium); effectively investigate all reported cases of harassment of members of the Roma by the police forces (Austria);

A - 34. Further improve relations and cooperation between law enforcement officials and the Roma and other minority groups and consider setting up an independent monitoring mechanism to carry out investigations into allegations of excessive use of force and police misconduct towards vulnerable groups (Malaysia);

A - 35. Increase measures to combat racial violence and incitement and develop appropriate mechanisms to receive complaints from victims and provide adequate investigation and prosecution (Malaysia);

A - 36. Intensify its actions to address the problem of racially motivated crimes and excessive use of force by police against the Roma community and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups (United Kingdom); step up efforts to prevent racially motivated crimes (Uzbekistan);

A - 37. Intensify actions to curb racial violence and establish an independent monitoring mechanism to carry out investigations of complaints of poor police performance (Argentina);

A - 38. Give high priority to the introduction of comprehensive and holistic measures to address all forms of violence against women and to protect its victims (Portugal);

A - 39. Pursue effective policies in combating violence against women and children (Turkey); place high priority on the introduction of comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and children, including redress and protection of the victims (Azerbaijan);

A - 40. Take further steps to ensure that the legislation on violence against women and girls is fully in line with international standards and includes prohibition of corporal punishment in the home (Sweden);

A - 41. Ensure that the legislation on violence against women is specific and comprehensive, covering all forms of violence (Argentina); prioritize the implementation of measures to address all forms of violence against women in the family and in society and to ensure that women victims of violence have immediate means for protection and reparation (Argentina);

A - 42. Prohibit corporal punishment by law in all settings, including the home (Brazil); take into account international standards and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Argentina);

A - 43. Strengthen its policy to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking, particularly by providing assistance to victims, whatever their nationality (France);

A - 44. Strengthen its programmes aimed at providing assistance to women in difficult circumstances, particularly those coming from other countries and who are brought into the territory of Slovakia for the purposes of prostitution (Nigeria);

A - 45. Explicitly codify and penalize sexual exploitation of children (Brazil); recognize under criminal law the explicit prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Portugal); take the appropriate legislative measures to ensure direct prosecution under criminal law of sexual exploitation and ill-treatment of children (Russian Federation);

A - 46. Adopt preventive measures, including through regional cooperation, on sexual exploitation of women, particularly minors (Nigeria);

NC - 47. Combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children, and exploitation of children in the workplace (Islamic Republic of Iran);

A - 48. Take measures to eradicate all forms of police harassment and ill-treatment when police investigations are carried out, including facilitating effective access to justice to presumed victims, effective and prompt investigations and sanctioning those responsible (Argentina);

A - 49. Effectively apply legal and other measures to protect Roma and other minorities from violence and police mistreatment (Canada);

A - 50. Provide human rights training and education for members of the judiciary, police and prison personnel, in particular focusing on the protection of human rights of women, children, ethnic minorities, and LGBT and ensure through investigation and prosecution of any misconduct towards these persons (Czech Republic);

A - 51. Intensify efforts to fight, more vigorously, ethnically motivated crimes at all levels (Islamic Republic of Iran);

A - 52. Conduct thorough criminal investigation and prosecution of the police officers involved in the mistreatment of six Roma minors in Kosice (United States); implement a systematic plan to train police on human rights and implement tolerance-building programmes (United States);

A - 53. Create a specialized detention centre for dangerous prisoners who suffer psychiatric conditions (Spain);

A - 54. Ensure that juvenile justice is fully implemented and that children are not ill-treated in detention and their rights not violated (Islamic Republic of Iran); strengthen its efforts to ensure that juvenile justice standards are fully implemented, in particular that children are detained only as a last resort and for as short a time as possible, that children's rights are not violated while in detention and that programmes are in place to train specialized judges and other professionals involved in the juvenile justice system (New Zealand);

NC - 55. Take measures on the exercise of religious freedom and make norms and rules more flexible in order to preserve the rights of religious groups with a small number of believers and avoid their being subject to discrimination (Algeria);

A - 56. Continue guaranteeing the invocation of conscientious objection by health professionals, in order to safeguard freedom of conscience of medical personnel (Holy See);

A - 57. Work with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on implementation of recommendations to address concerns about the limits that the media law places on freedom of expression (United States);

A - 58. Take systematic measures, including temporary special measures, with a view to increasing the representation of women in decision-making and political organs, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Algeria);

A - 59. Take measures to ensure that laws that require publishers to print responses to any statement of fact that impinges on the honour and reputation of a person or legal entity do not become subject to abuse by the authorities or different interest groups (Canada);

A - 60. Put into practice active policies to allow an increase in the representation of women in elected and decision-making positions, in particular in the public administration (Argentina);

A - 61. Empower the Roma population to participate in decision-making processes to better respond to their needs (Slovenia);

A - 62. Organize targeted vocational training programmes, in particular for young people, to increase the employability of the members of the Roma community and improve their access to the labour market (Austria);

A - 63. Adopt further administrative and educational measures to narrow and close the wage gap and enact equal pay for work of equal value (Germany); make efforts to correct inequalities between men and women in the area of remuneration, especially through the introduction of effective measures as part of the National Strategy 2009-2013 for sex parity, which is being prepared (Algeria); step up efforts to eliminate occupational exclusion, to ensure equal pay for work of equal value to men and women (Azerbaijan);

A - 64. Take measures to ensure the right to work of persons belonging to the Roma community, particularly by giving further encouragement to municipalities, associations and non-governmental organizations to find jobs for them (France);

A - 65. Ensure effective participation of the Roma communities in the process of implementing their right to adequate housing (Finland); increase efforts to provide adequate social housing to members of the Roma minority living in substandard dwellings (Austria);

A - 66. Develop programmes to effectively improve access to health services, employment and housing for Roma persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);

R - 67. Continue measures for the prevention of forced sterilization and provision of legal remedies to victims of such violations (Mexico); guarantee that no women belonging to minority groups, including Roma, can be subject to practices of forced sterilization and that victims of such practices are provided with the necessary reparation (Cuba);

R - 68. Proceed to carry out impartial and independent investigations of all complaints from women

alleging to have been subjected to forced sterilization in order to determine who is responsible and bring them to justice (Cuba); take concrete steps to investigate the allegations, including legal action, and to prevent reoccurrence of the coercive sterilization of Roma women and compensate victims (Japan);

R - 69. Monitor health centres to ensure that patients provide fully informed consent before any sterilization procedure is carried out and that the complaints filed on grounds of coerced sterilization are duly investigated and victims are granted effective remedies (Azerbaijan);

A - 70. Develop further effective campaigns and programmes to improve access to health services, employment and housing for Roma, take effective measures to guarantee their protection against poverty and social exclusion and develop effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the assessment of the results of these campaigns, programmes and measures (Slovenia);

A - 71. Adopt measures to ensure that the education plan and teaching materials have an inter-cultural perspective (for all), bearing in mind the culture and history of different minority groups (Mexico);

R - 72. Enact and implement new legislation as well as practical measures to end discriminatory practices against Roma in the education system, in particular provisions of the School Act which lead to Roma children being pushed out of the regular school system and into special educational institutions, thereby perpetuating their segregation (Austria);

A - 73. Take all necessary measures to ensure that all children, particularly Roma children, have equal opportunities for access to school (Mexico); take concrete measures to improve the realization of the right to education by the Roma children, taking also into account special education needs (Finland);

A - 74. Ensure that children belonging to minority groups have equal and adequate access to education, health and other services (Islamic Republic of Iran);

R- 75. Develop and implement a strategy to address the disproportionate enrolment of Roma children in comparison with children with disabilities in special schools (New Zealand);

R- 76. Establish practical measures to resolve the issue of Roma children being placed into special schools for disabled children, without clearly defined selection criteria or effective independent complaint mechanisms for parents (Japan);

A - 77. Adopt time-bound measures to increase access for Roma children and children with disabilities to inclusive education in mainstream schools (New Zealand);

A - 78. Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of national minorities (Russian Federation);

A - 79. Take measures to improve the relations between all public officials and members of the Roma minority through training courses as well as increased employment of members of the Roma minority by public institutions (Austria);

A - 80. Provide incentives for the Roma community to build their capacity to participate in civil society (Austria);

A - 81. Persist in working towards the full inclusion of the Roma community, the success of which will be highly rewarding for all the people of Slovakia (Singapore);

A - 82. Take concrete measures for the improvement of the socio-economic status of Roma communities (Islamic Republic of Iran); continue efforts to address effectively the socio-economic inequalities of the Roma and to improve their situation (Jordan);

A - 83. Address the status of persons belonging to minorities within Slovakia through greater engagement and effective use of European Union funds, expert level cooperation and strengthening of national procedures (United Kingdom);

A - 84. Ensure that minority groups are not disproportionately affected by the financial and economic

crisis (Netherlands);

A - 85. Promote greater tolerance and understanding among the majority population about the rights of the Roma community, migrants and asylum seekers (Bangladesh);

A - 86. Effectively implement the respective procedures and to further promote rights of foreign nationals, migrants and asylum seekers (Bulgaria);

A - 87. Share with the members of the international community its best practices regarding human rights, particularly on the new policy on domestic violence and persons with disabilities (Republic of Moldova);

A - 88. Commit itself to raising awareness about the UPR recommendations and include interested non-governmental organizations in discussions on how to best implement recommendations (New Zealand);

A - 89. Provide for efficient administrative procedures to make use of the significant financial means available through European Union funds and other sources for projects supporting the development of the Roma (Austria);

A - 90. Follow up its commitment to increase public aid for the development of countries in need (Algeria);

A - 91. Realize further campaigns and awareness-raising efforts to disseminate information on human rights, equality and anti discrimination (Czech Republic).”

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