

# Submission by Society for Threatened Peoples

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## Minority rights in Austria

In the January 2011 dialogue, the fact that Austria has still not implemented the 1955 State Treaty regarding the rights of recognized minorities, already has been raised. Since then the government has announced in April 2011 that an agreement for a new constitutional law on minority rights has been reached. Article 7 of the State Treaty of 1955 concerning the rights of the Slovene minority in the provinces of Carinthia and Styria and the rights of the Croat minority in the province of Burgenland sets out a number of measures to protect the rights of these minorities, including language rights, education rights and cultural rights.

Since the year 2000 more than 30 decisions of the Constitutional Court have been rendered, each highlighting different aspects of the 1955 State Treaty and the government's failure to implement them. The prepared new constitutional law fails to comply with both Article 7 of the State Treaty as well as the interpretations by the Constitutional Court. The prepared constitutional law perpetuates discrimination, as it is based on different territorial use of different rights.

Society for Threatened Peoples urges Austria to comply with its international obligations and determine bilingual territory that is in use for bilingual schools, also for all other minority rights of the Slovene minority in Carinthia: topographical terminology and inscriptions in the Slovene language as well for the use of Slovene language before administrative authorities and courts and to include the Slovene minority in the province of Styria. We also call upon Austria to prepare comprehensive legislation for all other recognized minorities, besides Croat, Hungarian and Slovene minorities also for Czech, Slovak and Roma minorities.

