

**Annex to the Universal Periodic Review on human rights in the Republic of Croatia - NHRI  
Joint Coalition Report, 2nd cycle, 15 September 2014**

**Recommendations**

**I. Ratification of international documents and institutional framework**

1. In line with relevant UN recommendations, to ensure sufficient funds in the state budget to all Ombuds and other institutions in the human rights system, especially in areas outside the capital;
2. In accordance with the Human Rights Council Resolution 9/12 on the human rights voluntary goals, which the Republic of Croatia accepted, to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and, in the context of strengthening social rights, to also ratify the 1996 Revised European Social Charter;
3. To ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
4. To ratify the 3rd Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;
5. For the Republic of Croatia to sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

**Recommendations by the area of human rights**

**II. Judiciary and free legal aid:**

1. To ensure sufficient material and financial means for efficient operation of the courts, establish additional measures for reducing the duration of court proceedings;
2. To improve the protection and support system for child victims and witnesses in judicial proceedings;
3. To ensure sufficient budgetary funds for financing free legal aid, both secondary and primary
4. Victims of domestic violence should be provided free legal aid in criminal and misdemeanour proceedings;

**III. Social rights; debt executions; right to work**

1. To increase the amount of guaranteed minimum allowance and establish state aid for elderly persons without pension,

2. To expand capacities and establish minimum standards for shelters for homeless persons in the entire country and allow homeless persons temporarily accommodated in a shelter to receive guaranteed minimum allowance;
3. To regulate the social housing system as to list and make available all unused housing units owned by the State, and to review and implement Social Housing Strategy with special attention the most vulnerable groups
4. In order to protect the existential minimum, to apply the practice of the European Court of Human Rights by introducing the principle of proportionality between the goal and measures of execution and eviction from the only property as the measure of last resort;

#### **IV. Status rights, rights of asylees and foreigners:**

1. To review the state migration policy and ensure integration of asylum seekers, asylees and foreigners under subsidiary protection;
2. To ensure conditions for appropriate reception, treatment and protection of the rights of children who are foreign citizens in illegal status, particularly children not accompanied by a legal guardian, and to prescribe free health care for children foreigners with temporary residence in Croatia;

#### **V. Refugees and internally displaced persons; housing care and integration; civil victims of war**

1. The Government of the Republic of Croatia should ensure additional funds / housing units for housing care for beneficiaries whose housing care requests have been administratively resolved, but without housing units ensured for these persons.
2. The Government of the Republic of Croatia should harmonize the legal framework on the basis of which returnees – former holders of tenancy rights would be granted the recognition, fully or in a certain percentage, of the fact that they are former holders of the tenancy right that was relevant at the time when apartments had been purchased by citizens whose national affiliation is predominantly Croatian.

#### **VI. National/ethnic minorities**

1. State administration bodies should implement measures in the process of employing new civil servants and employees that would notify the beneficiaries more efficiently of the right to advantage in employment of national minority members, and of the phase of the public competition process in which one should invoke the right of advantage in employment.
2. The Croatian Parliament and the Government should maintain the acquired level of use and implementation of the right to equal official use of the language and script used by national minority members.

#### **VII. Discrimination:**

1. To systematically carry out education of key stakeholders in combating discrimination,
2. To continuously carry out raising awareness activities on discriminatory manifestations and unacceptability of discrimination as well as on the anti-discrimination protection system and

campaigns aimed at raising the public awareness on problems minority members are faced with and on breaking stereotypes and prejudices;

3. In the education of stakeholders, to place special emphasis on the fact that denying reasonable adjustments for persons with disabilities is a specific form of discrimination;

#### **VIII. Gender equality and domestic violence:**

1. To prepare and implement the *Action plan for comprehensive assistance for domestic violence victims*, and to solve the problem of housing care and education/pre-qualification of women victims, with focus on specific adjustments for women with disabilities;

#### **IX. Rights of persons with disabilities:**

1. To intensify activities on developing service provider networks which will support independent living of persons with disabilities in the community according to their choice, particularly for persons with autism;
2. To carry out other measures for social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the areas of education, employment, accessibility, mobility and use of all available public services in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in the processes of planning and implementing these measures;

#### **X. Children's rights:**

1. To show separate information on the funds allocated for children in the State Budget and in local community budgets;
2. To improve conditions in child care institutions, especially for children with behaviour disorders, and to ensure a sufficient number of experts together with their continuous education and supervision;
3. To carry out quality supervision over the work of institutions and foster families in which children are accommodated, to intensify the deinstitutionalisation process and reduce the period of accommodating children outside the family, and to establish continuous education of employees of Social Welfare Centres;
4. To allocate funds in the State Budget for financial and human resources required for implementing the civic education curriculum and health education in all elementary and high schools in Croatia in the school year 2014/2015;
5. To ensure the adjustment of spatial conditions and availability of assistants for children with developmental disabilities in educational institutions, and to adopt a new implementing regulation on the education of children with developmental disabilities in elementary and high schools and on the education of persons with disabilities in all phases of education;
6. To ensure equal access to preschool programmes and learning of Croatian language for children belonging to the Roma national minority, equal access to Roma assistants in schools, transport of children from settlements to educational institutions, appropriate spatial and personnel capacities in educational institutions for inclusion of Roma children in the regular school system as well as for using materials in mother tongue/script in preschool and school;

## **XI. Right to health and healthy environment**

1. To introduce efficient measures for providing quality health care, with particular regard to access to health care for persons with disabilities, elderly and low income persons;
2. Fully Implement Strategic Plan for the Development of Palliative Care for the period 2014-2016.
3. To expand accommodation capacities of children's wards and their adequate equipment, particularly for children with developmental disabilities and children with psychiatric disorders, and to ensure access to children's mental health care experts and early intervention services for all children with developmental disabilities at the local level;
4. To consistently collect and analyse data on the impact of environmental factors on overall health and mortality rate of the population inhabiting industrial and waste areas;

## **XII. Rights of persons deprived of their liberty:**

1. To fulfil obligations from the Constitutional Court decisions in the shortest possible period, to cease the use of facilities for the accommodation of persons deprived of their liberty which are not in compliance with international and legal standards;
2. To improve, in terms of personnel, facilities and funds, the quality of health care provided to persons deprived of their liberty, which includes the transfer of health care provision for persons deprived of liberty from the judicial system to the health care system;
3. To align regulations governing the rights of persons with mental disorders with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a special focus on the protection of human rights in the procedure of involuntary hospitalisation.