

HUMAN RIGHTS IN SLOVAKIA



UPR Info Pre-sessions

FOUR SPECIFIC THEMES

- DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROMA
- EXISTING PREJUDICES AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITIES
- LINGUISTIC RIGHTS
- PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESSES

RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITIES

Previous recommendations

Step up efforts to combat prejudices against ethnic minorities and to improve relations between the general public made by and minority communities.

Recommendation made by Malaysia

Take measures to ensure policy and institutional coherence with a view to addressing the situation of the Roma minority in a comprehensive manner.

Recommendation made by South Africa

The Romani minority (approximately 2% of the country's population) in particular is fighting against prejudice, which prevents them from accessing basic opportunities.

A 2015 investigation by the Ombudswoman found shortcomings in the way schools obtained consent from the parents of Romani students to enrol their children in special schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a high-quality education system, including for linguistic minorities, so as not to damage their identity and at the same time provide them with education in the language in which they can best learn.

Provide education to children of the majority population on minorities, e.g. projects and school exchanges.

In the communities where a minority language is widespread, this language should be also optionally taught to all pupils to ensure a social cohesion based on mutual knowledge and respect.

The government must provide data on the percentage of Romani students in special schools as well as data on ethnicity. Manage school choice to avoid segregation and increased inequities. Providing full parental school choice can result in segregating students by ability, socio economic background and generate greater inequities.

To ensure stronger political engagement and inclusion of youth organisations in policy development related to young people at risk of discrimination, including through the creation of structures and spaces for reflection and dialogue with young people who experience discrimination, together with other relevant stakeholders.

LINGUISTIC RIGHTS

Previous recommendations

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.

Recommendation made by Hungary

A large crowd of people is gathered on a city street, likely for a protest or demonstration. In the background, several signs are visible, including one that says "Stones" and another that says "NO TO GAY". The scene is filled with people of various ages and ethnicities, some holding up their phones to record the event. The overall atmosphere appears to be one of a significant public gathering.

SITUATION IN SLOVAKIA

According to the 2011 census, there were approximately 458,000 ethnic Hungarians living in the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To add an additional article in Slovakian State Language Law regarding protection of linguistic rights, including the right to receive official communication in minority languages.

RIGHT TO INCLUSION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Previous recommendations

Ensure that children belonging to minority groups have equal and adequate access to education, health and other services.

Recommendation made by Iran



SITUATION IN SLOVAKIA

According to a Survey made by National Youth Council in Slovakia in 2017, young people do not feel integrated in the society, they distrust the national institutions and approximately one third is planning to move abroad in the long-term.

80% of young people distrust the government, 67% distrust the courts, and 43% believe they have no influence on what is going on in the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To involve, in line with the rights-based approach, groups facing discrimination at all levels of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies affecting them.

To promote greater dialogue and cooperation between the different institutional actors working with equality, non-discrimination and youth, together with youth organisations.

To strengthen an inclusive school system that would allow full accessibility for minorities and provide an education promoting acceptance of diversity and minorities.

FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Previous recommendations

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.

Recommendation made by Algeria

Only 5 out of 150 Members of Parliament were younger than 30 in 2012, out of which 4 were men and 1 a woman.

The research revealed no interest (29.6%) or little interest (50.6%) in politics among young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhance young people's access to decision-making processes and encourage young people's full participation in the societal life.

Increase the representation of youth in decision-making positions in political and economic life.

Lower the age of candidacy to 18, aligning it with the legal voting age.

Foster mutual Solidarity between society and young people.

Gender mainstreaming in public policies, as the cross-sectional principle, should take possible gender differences into account and integrate gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies. Gender representation and gender responsive content - need to be taken into consideration in all phases of the policy-making process.