

**Submission by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**  
**For the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Compilation Report**  
**Universal Periodic Review: 3rd Cycle, 34th Session**

**SLOVENIA**

**I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Slovenia succeeded to the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* and to its *1967 Protocol* (hereinafter jointly referred to as the “*1951 Convention*”) on 6 July 1992, after it declared its independence from Yugoslavia on 25 June 1991. Slovenia is also a State party to the *1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (the “*1954 Convention*”), but is not yet a State party to the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (the “*1961 Convention*”).

The total number of detected irregular arrivals in Slovenia in 2018 was 9,149 (compared to 1,934 in 2017). In the same period, 4,784 persons were returned to other countries based on bilateral agreements.<sup>1</sup> Despite the increase in irregular arrivals, the number of asylum applications was relatively low. In 2018, 2,875 persons lodged an asylum application; 101 persons were granted international protection, 135 applications were rejected and in 2,372 cases the asylum procedure was discontinued. The main countries of origin of asylum-seekers were Pakistan (27%), Algeria (17%), Afghanistan (16%), Morocco (6%), Iran (6%) and Syria (6%). The majority of asylum-seekers were male.<sup>2</sup>

Slovenia has a standard asylum procedure governed by the provisions of the *International Protection Act*<sup>3</sup> and the *Foreigners Act*.<sup>4</sup> After an individual expresses her/his intention to seek asylum, the Police conduct a preliminary procedure and transfer her/him to an asylum home, where the formal procedure starts by submitting an application for international protection to the Ministry of the Interior. Rejected asylum-seekers at the first instance have the right to judicial review before the Administrative Court, and, if not successful, can resort to extraordinary remedies before the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court.

**II. ACHIEVEMENTS AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS**

**Positive developments linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations**

**Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendation no. 115.58: “Ensure thorough implementation of the anti-discrimination legislation in order to prevent and combat the discrimination based on any criteria, notably racial and ethnic. (Romania)”**

<sup>1</sup> According to the Report of the Uniformed Police Directorate on illegal migration, 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018. Available at: [https://www.policija.si/images/stories/Statistika/MejnaProblematika/IlegalneMigracije/2018/Januar-december\\_2018.pdf](https://www.policija.si/images/stories/Statistika/MejnaProblematika/IlegalneMigracije/2018/Januar-december_2018.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> According to statistics of the Ministry of Interior, January – December 2018. Available at: [http://www.mnz.gov.si/mnz\\_zav/tujci\\_v\\_sloveniji/statistika/](http://www.mnz.gov.si/mnz_zav/tujci_v_sloveniji/statistika/).

<sup>3</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 16/17, as amended.

<sup>4</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 1/18 - official consolidated text and 9/18 - p., as amended.

UNHCR welcomes the adoption of the new *Protection against Discrimination Act*, which entered into force on 24 May 2016.<sup>5</sup> This *Act* defines and prohibits discrimination, lays down bodies and measures for the promotion of equal treatment, specifies the position and powers of the Advocate for the Principle of Equality and determines the legal protection of discriminated persons.

**Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendation no. 115.95 “Enact comprehensive legislation addressing the situation of the “erased”, ensuring them appropriate assistance and protection (Uruguay)”.**

UNHCR notes the progress made in recent years to regularize the status of the “erased” and welcomes the establishment of a compensation scheme. Slovenia implemented the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Kuric and Others v. Slovenia*.<sup>6</sup> In this respect, UNHCR commends Slovenia for the adoption in 2013 of the *Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents* and its 2018 amendment, which abrogated the limitation of monetary compensation for the “erased”.<sup>7</sup>

### **Additional positive developments**

UNHCR commends Slovenia for supporting the adoption of the *Global Compact on Refugees* in December 2018, which represents the political will and ambition of the international community as a whole for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and host countries.

## **II. KEY PROTECTION ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Challenges linked to outstanding 2nd cycle UPR recommendations**

#### **Issue 1: Stateless and "erased" persons**

**Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendation no. 115.17: “Accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and take all relevant measures in order to reduce the number of stateless persons (Hungary)”, and no. 115.97 “Recognize fully the civil and political rights of “erased” citizens and facilitate their complete social integration (Australia)”.**

Slovenia does not have a statelessness determination procedure in place. Establishing such a procedure is the most efficient means for a State Party to the 1954 *Convention* to identify the beneficiaries of the *Convention* with a view to providing them with appropriate protection.

Slovenia has not acceded to the 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*. Accession to the 1961 *Convention* would result in a stronger framework to prevent and reduce

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<sup>5</sup> Protection against Discrimination Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 33/16 and 21/18 – ZNOrg). Available at: [http://www.pisrs.si/Pis\\_web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7273](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis_web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7273).

<sup>6</sup> On 26 June 2012, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case of *Kuric and Others v. Slovenia* (Appl. No. 26828/06), which raised questions surrounding the ‘erased’. The Court held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and/or family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR); a violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) in combination with Article 8 ECHR; and a violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) in combination with Article 8 ECHR. The Court noted in particular that the applicants had been deprived of the legal status that had previously given them access to a wide range of rights - including entitlement to health insurance and pension rights – and opportunities, for instance in the sphere of employment. The Court concluded that the Slovenian State should have regularised the residence status of former Yugoslav citizens. Furthermore, the Court indicated to Slovenia that it should set up a compensation scheme for the erased people in Slovenia.

<sup>7</sup> Act Amending the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 85/18). Available at: [http://pisrs.si/Pis\\_web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7948](http://pisrs.si/Pis_web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7948).

statelessness. The *1961 Convention* provides for an international framework to ensure the right of every person to a nationality by establishing safeguards to prevent statelessness at birth and later in life. An increase in the number of State parties to the *1961 Convention* is essential to strengthening international efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness.

Article 9 of the *Act on Citizenship of Slovenia* grants citizenship to children born in the country when the child's parents are unknown, their nationality is unknown or when the parents are stateless. This safeguard does not prevent children from being born stateless in the territory to parents who cannot transfer their nationality to their child, as envisaged under Article 1 of the *1961 Convention*. Relatedly, UNHCR is aware of cases of children being stateless due to the authorities' refusal to include the father in the birth certificate even though he may be willing to undergo DNA testing. This causes problems when the mother is unable to transfer her nationality to her child according to the law of her country of origin.

After the declaration of the country's independence, nationals of former Yugoslavia who had permanent residence in Slovenia have been "erased", as their names were removed from the population registers in 1992. Despite the steps already taken to tackle this issue, the status of the "erased" persons still has not been resolved. The legislation currently in force<sup>8</sup> offers the "erased" who did not regularize their status in the prescribed period only a temporary solution based on renewable short term admission permits and obliges them to undergo expulsion proceedings to obtain them.

#### **Recommendations:**

UNHCR recommends that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia:

- (a) Put in place a statelessness determination procedure to ensure the protection of stateless persons under the *1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* and implement legislation that codifies the protection guarantees contained therein;
- (b) Accede to the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*;
- (c) Amend the *Citizenship Act* to ensure that all children born in the territory of Slovenia acquire Slovenian nationality if they are otherwise stateless; and
- (d) Continue taking steps towards an effective solution for the situation of the so called "erased" individuals who became stateless following the dissolution of Yugoslavia by facilitating their access to Slovenian citizenship.

#### **Issue 2: Racism and xenophobia**

**Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendation no. 115.85:** "Strengthen activities to raise awareness in society of the need to eliminate discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against minorities and other groups. (Costa Rica)".

Public opinion and attitudes towards asylum-seekers and refugees further deteriorated in 2018. Factors such as an increased rate of irregular arrivals and the discussions linked to the *Global Compact for Migration* have further polarized the discourse around refugees and asylum-seekers. Refugees and asylum-seekers are regularly being referred to as migrants by the Slovenian Government, as well as the vast majority of the media. While the larger urban areas remain more receptive to refugees, smaller local communities are more reluctant to receive them, and have actively protested against establishments of accommodation facilities in their midst.

#### **Recommendations:**

UNHCR recommends that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia:

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<sup>8</sup> Article 51 of the Act Amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 59/17). Available at: [http://pisrs.si/Pis\\_web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7327](http://pisrs.si/Pis_web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7327)

- (a) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to promote a better understanding of the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees.

### **Additional protection challenges**

#### **Issue 3: Protection of asylum-seekers and refugees**

The *International Protection Act* is not fully in line with the *1951 Convention*, as it lacks specific legal guarantees against *non-refoulement* as required under Article 33 of the 1951 Convention.

In this regard, the UN Committee against Torture, at its 46th Session, indicated that it was “concerned that the new Law on International Protection which regulates asylum and asylum-related matters, does not contain a clause on non-refoulement, where there are substantial grounds for believing that, if expelled, returned or extradited to another State, a person would be in danger of being subjected to torture. It is also concerned about the length and uncertainties related to the refugee status determination process (art. 3).”<sup>9</sup> The Committee recommended that Slovenia ensure that the principle of *non-refoulement* is established in all legislative acts that regulate asylum-related matters, including the procedures for subsidiary protection concerning vulnerable groups, in particular victims of trafficking. It also recommended that Slovenia amend the *International Protection Act* to reflect the principles and criteria established in international refugee law and human rights standards, especially the *1951 Convention*.

Slovenia currently remains open to persons in need of protection. However, NGOs reported denials of access to the asylum procedure by Border Guards in 2018.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, UNHCR is concerned that a new amendment to the *Foreigners Act*, which came into force in 2017, may undermine the right to seek asylum and protection from *refoulement*.<sup>11</sup> New Article 10.b of the *Foreigners Act* introduces a possibility for the National Assembly to limit access to the territory and asylum procedures in cases of mass influx of refugees and migrants. While unaccompanied and separated children as well as persons with special needs will still have access to the territory and procedures, the police will escort back to the border others who do not meet the conditions of entry and who crossed the border in an irregular manner. This restrictive measure has not yet been activated by the Parliament, as required by law. The Ombudsperson initiated proceedings before the Constitutional Court to review the constitutionality of the Act.<sup>12</sup>

Access to medical and psychological services is limited. Asylum-seekers have access only to basic medical services and it is only in exceptional circumstances following the approval of an interdepartmental committee that they may be granted specialized medical and/or psychological treatment.

Currently, Slovenia does not provide comprehensive protection to children, especially unaccompanied and separated children, because there is no formal mechanism in place to consider the child’s best interests in decisions that affect them. The guardianship system for unaccompanied children is not effective and in most cases the guardians are not trained and have little experience working with foreign children.

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<sup>9</sup> UN Committee against Torture, Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture - Slovenia, June 2011, CAT/C/SVN/CO/3, paras. 17 and 20.

<sup>10</sup> See e.g. <https://www.total-slovenia-news.com/news/1670-arnesty-contradicts-police-denials-that-slovenia-is-illegally-rejecting-migrants>.

<sup>11</sup> Article 10.b of the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 59/17). Available at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5761>.

<sup>12</sup> Application no. U-I-59/17.

Refugees are entitled to rental subsidies for up to 3 years. However, under the current national legislation, the possibility to apply for social housing is restricted to Slovenian citizens.<sup>13</sup>

**Recommendations:**

UNHCR recommends that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia:

- (a) Introduce specific legal safeguards against *refoulement* in the *International Protection Act*, in line with Article 33 of the *1951 Convention* and international human rights law instruments;
- (b) Maintain effective access to territory and procedures for asylum-seekers and refugees;
- (c) Ensure adequate access to health care for asylum-seekers;
- (d) Adopt measures to establish safeguards enabling adequate protection and ensuring best interests of unaccompanied and separated children during the asylum procedure; and
- (e) Ensure that refugees have access to social housing on equal terms as Slovenian citizens.

**UNHCR**  
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<sup>13</sup> Rules on the rental of non-profit apartments. Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 14/04, 34/04, 62/06, 11/09, 81/11 and 47/14. Available at: <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV5102>.

## ANNEX

### Excerpts of relevant Recommendations from the 2nd cycle Universal Periodic Review, Concluding Observations from UN Treaty Bodies and Recommendations of Special Procedures mandate holders

## SLOVENIA

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts from the 2nd cycle UPR recommendations, UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies' Concluding Observations, and recommendations from UN Special Procedures mandate holders' reports relating to issues of interest and persons of concern to UNHCR with regards to SLOVENIA.

### I. Universal Periodic Review (Second Cycle – 2014)

Recommendation <sup>14</sup>	Recommending State/s	Position <sup>15</sup>
<b>Stateless and "erased" persons</b>		
115.17 Accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and take all relevant measures in order to reduce the number of stateless persons;	Hungary	Noted
115.53 Continue to formulate, implement and enhance public policies aimed at raising awareness of discrimination-related issues in society and ensure effective remedies to victims of discrimination and statelessness;	Brasil	Supported
115.66 Continue to combat intolerance based on ethnic origin and ensure the full respect of the human rights of the so-called "erased" people;	Portugal	Supported
115.94 Bring forward legislation providing a clear legal process for the restoration of rights for individuals affected by the erasure;	United Kingdom	Supported
115.95 Enact comprehensive legislation addressing the situation of the "erased", ensuring them appropriate assistance and protection;	Uruguay	Supported
115.96 Immediately reconstitute permanent residence for the "erased" persons and adequately compensate them;	Venezuela	Supported
115.97 Recognize fully the civil and political rights of "erased" citizens and facilitate their complete social integration;	Australia	Supported
115.99 Adopt further measures to facilitate effective access of the so-called "erased" to permanent residency and citizenship;	Czech Republic	Supported
115.100 Take all appropriate measures to enable and facilitate the acquisition of Slovenian citizenship by the "erased persons", paying particular attention to the children of "erased persons" in 1992, who are still stateless. Ensure compensation for all "erased persons" and, in this regard, review their compensation schemes, on the basis of the amounts and criteria established by the European Court of Human Rights and ensure the implementation of measures to reintegrate "erased persons";	France	Supported
115.102 Take comprehensive measures to protect the rights of all national minorities, including the so-called erased people and promote their full integration into society;	India	Supported
115.149 Ensure the full enjoyment of the political, civil, economic and social rights of "erased" people, including health, social security, education and	Ireland	Supported

<sup>14</sup> All recommendations made to Slovenia during its 2nd cycle UPR can be found in: "Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Slovenia" (10 December 2014), A/HRC/28/15, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Slindex.aspx>.

<sup>15</sup> Slovenia's views and replies, in English, can be found in: *Addendum* (4 March 2015), A/HRC/28/15/Add.1, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Slindex.aspx>.

employment, by regulating the status of the remaining “erased” persons and providing adequate reparation to those affected;		
115.161 Regularize the status of all erased persons of origin from other former Yugoslavian republics;	Sierra Leone	Supported
<b>Equality and non-discrimination</b>		
115.22 Broaden the mandate and powers of the institutions tasked with guaranteeing the principle of equality and non-discrimination;	Israel	Supported
115.44 Address discrimination by the public and private sectors as a matter of priority;	Israel	Supported
115.48 Establish a better coordination between the different institutional bodies competent in matters of non-discrimination;	Spain	Supported
115.50 Adopt policies to ensure equality of rights for all persons, without discrimination of gender, religion, race or sexual orientation, in line with international standards;	Uruguay	Supported
115.59 Continue making efforts to achieve full social equality between men and women;	Nicaragua	Supported
115.60 Adopt proactive measures to ensure access to equal opportunities and promote equal gender representation in decision-making positions, and implement non-discriminatory policies to ensure equal pay for women and men;	Bahrain	Supported
<b>Torture and ill-treatment</b>		
115.36 Bring the national human rights institution into compliance with the Paris Principles and broaden its mandate to carry out investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment;	Ukraine	Supported
115.37 Create the conditions that allow the Human Rights Ombudsperson to acquire A status according to the Paris Principles, by enlarging its mandate to receive allegations of torture and abuse and by providing it with the necessary resources to enable it to fulfil its functions;	Chile	Supported
<b>Violence against women and children</b>		
115.41 Adopt amendments to the Marriage and Family Relations Act in line with previous efforts and add a provision that prohibits other forms of demeaning treatment of children, such as psychological violence;	Norway	Noted
115.106 Take further steps to implement the national programme of family violence prevention; ensure implementation of the national programme of family violence prevention (2009–2014) and prevent all forms of violence against women and children, including domestic violence;	Netherlands, Bahrain	Supported
115.108 Adopt a national strategy on combating domestic violence;	Russian Federation	Supported
115.114 Ensure that legislation is drafted and enacted to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including in the home;	Sweden	Supported
<b>Trafficking and exploitation</b>		
115.119 Intensify its work to provide specialized training for investigators, prosecutors and judges in applying the human trafficking statute;	Norway	Supported
115.122 Combat trafficking, punish perpetrators and compensate and rehabilitate victims;	Venezuela	Supported
115.123 Further strengthen the steps taken in regard to trafficking, particularly in reference to women and children;	Afghanistan	Supported
<b>Racism and xenophobia</b>		
115.58 Ensure thorough implementation of the anti-discrimination legislation in order to prevent and combat the discrimination based on any criteria, notably racial and ethnic;	Romania	Supported

115.81 Adopt immediate and positive measures to combat all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against the Roma communities and other ethnic groups, with regard to access to housing, quality education, employment and health care;	Bahrain	Supported
115.85 Strengthen activities to raise awareness in society of the need to eliminate discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against minorities and other groups;	Costa Rica	Supported
115.103 Take legal measures aimed at preventing ethnically motivated crimes;	Iran	Supported

## II. Treaty Bodies

### Human Rights Committee

Concluding Observations, (21 April 2016), [CCPR/C/SVN/CO/3](#)

#### **Asylum seekers, migrants and refugees**

15. The Committee regrets the measures taken by the State party to respond to the recent influx of asylum seekers and migrants, including: (a) the construction of a razor wire fence along its border with Croatia; (b) the adoption, on 18 February 2016, of a joint statement of the heads of police services of Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia placing limits to entry into the State party solely on the basis of nationality and the possession of identification documents, rather than on an individual assessment of whether or not the individuals concerned are in need of protection against non-*refoulement*; and (c) the amendment of the Defence Act granting the armed forces additional powers, including with regard to crowd control, in a manner which is vague and broad and lacking sufficient oversight, accountability and complaint mechanisms. The Committee is also concerned that the amendments to the International Protection Act, adopted by Parliament in March 2016, may undermine the rights of persons seeking protection against non-*refoulement* to have their application for asylum effectively determined, particularly as a result of the simplification and expedition of the application processing procedure for those arriving from “safe countries”. The Committee also expresses concern at the lack of free access to legal representation for persons needing it and seeking protection against non-*refoulement* (arts. 2, 6, 7, 13 and 26).

#### **16. The State party should:**

- (a) Ensure that any response to the influx of asylum seekers and migrants is in line with its obligations under the Covenant, and regularly review the necessity and proportionality of the measures adopted;**
- (b) Take effective steps to allow persons in need of international protection access to the relevant procedures for international protection, and ensure that any measures taken by the State party, including in relation to bilateral and regional agreements, do not discriminate on the basis of country of origin, arrival or transit;**
- (c) Ensure that the procedure for international protection allows for an individual assessment based on the circumstances of each case by trained professionals with legal expertise;**
- (d) Ensure that legal representation of adequate quality is systematically made accessible throughout the entire procedure for requesting international protection;**
- (e) Ensure full respect of the principle of non-*refoulement*;**
- (f) Consider steps to facilitate the process of family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection.**



17. The Committee regrets the lack of information provided by the State party concerning the general conditions in refugee camps and shelters, particularly given reports of cases of hypothermia, lack of access to basic needs, including food and medicine, overcrowding and unsanitary conditions in Brezice and Dobova (art. 7).

**18. The State party should immediately take measures to ensure adequate living conditions in full respect of the right to be protected against inhuman or degrading treatment in all refugee camps and shelters, and guarantee access to basic needs, including food, health-care services, psychological support and legal counselling.**

#### **Persons in vulnerable situations in the migration flow**

19. The Committee is concerned at the lack of adequate protection provided to unaccompanied minors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking in the recent migration flow through the State party. It notes with concern the lack of psychosocial support provided to such individuals at entry and exit points and of a formal mechanism to refer victims to assistance providers. The Committee is concerned that access to long-term State-funded assistance for victims of trafficking is limited to those who cooperate with law enforcement authorities in investigations and criminal proceedings (arts. 8 and 24).

**20. The State party should establish a uniform and formal mechanism to identify persons in vulnerable situations in the migration flow, including unaccompanied minors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking, as well as a common referral mechanism to ensure their protection and rehabilitation. It should also ensure that law enforcement officials and other relevant professionals are fully trained in the appropriate standards and procedures to effectively identify and assist victims. It should further ensure that victims of trafficking are provided adequate assistance regardless of whether they cooperate with law enforcement authorities in investigations and criminal proceedings.**

#### **“Erased” persons**

21. The Committee notes the adoption in 2010 of the act regulating the status of all citizens of the successor States of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to enable persons who were removed or “erased” from the Slovenian registry of permanent residents in 1992 to re-establish their permanent residency status. The Committee also notes the adoption in 2013 of the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents. The Committee expresses concern, however, that there are currently no avenues for restoring the legal status of a significant number of “erased” persons since the expiry in 2013 of the 2010 Act, and that only a limited number of persons have received compensation (arts. 2, 17 and 26).

**22. The State party should ensure that all remaining “erased” persons can restore their legal status without undue administrative constraints. It should also ensure that all “erased” persons are provided full and effective reparation, including restitution and compensation.**

#### **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

Concluding Observations, (24 November, 2015), [CEDAW/C/SVN/CO/5-6](#)

#### **Nationality**

25. The Committee is concerned that, notwithstanding recently adopted measures and fast-track procedures to regulate the status of and provide redress and compensation to persons who were deleted from the register of permanent residents and transferred to the register of aliens following the State party’s independence, a number of them, including women and girls in situations of vulnerability, have not benefited from improvements in their situation.

26. The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To simplify the procedures for the issuance of permanent residence permits to all persons who were deleted from the register of permanent residents in 1992;
- (b) To ensure that, in addition to receiving pecuniary compensation, all women and girls whose names were deleted from the register are entitled to payment of compulsory health insurance contributions, priority consideration in social assistance programmes and public funds, State scholarships, housing and access to the education system, on a basis of equality with Slovenian citizens, and to participation or priority treatment in integration programmes;
- (c) Facilitate family reunification under more favourable conditions for such women and girls.

#### **Refugee and asylum-seeking women**

37. The Committee notes that a number of refugees and asylum seekers have recently entered the State party and that priority has been given to the provision of shelters and basic services. The Committee is concerned, however, that the shelters are overcrowded and do not provide adequate medical care, sanitary conditions, psychological support and legal counselling, in particular for women and girls, who are affected disproportionately by the situation.

38. The Committee urges the State party to ensure protection for all refugee and asylum-seeking women, strengthen its efforts to improve their living conditions by providing adequate health care, sanitary conditions, psychological support and legal counselling, especially for women with children, pregnant women or women at risk of trafficking or who are victims of violence, and take specific measures to reduce overcrowding in shelters. It also urges the State party to uphold the principle of non-*refoulement* and to take a gender-sensitive approach to the continuing refugee inflows and to the asylum claims, including in procedural matters, in line with the rights covered in the Convention and its general recommendation No. 32 (2014) on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women. It recommends that the State party consider ratifying the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

### **III. Special Procedures Mandate Holders**

#### **Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, on her mission to Slovenia**

Addendum: Mission to Slovenia (4 August 2015) [A/HRC/30/43/Add.1](#)

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

##### **“Discrimination”**

76. The Independent Expert notes the progress made in recent years to regularize the status of “the erased” and welcomes the creation of a compensation scheme. There is an urgent need to guarantee the rights of the dwindling number of former permanent residents of Slovenia.