

SITUATION REPORT ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE 3RD ROUND OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

I. Preparation of the report at the national level

The report was drawn up by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (MFEA SR) based on documents from the competent ministries and institutions in accordance with the guidelines contained in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Decision 17/119. The report was the subject of a review by the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (Government HRC), which acts as an advisory body to the Government of the Slovak Republic (Government) in the field of human rights. The report underwent a due national approval process and was approved by the Government.

II. Developments in the field of human rights protection and promotion in the Slovak Republic following the second round of the Universal Periodic Review

In the period since 2014, which follows the second round of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Slovak Republic (SR) has seen many positive changes in the field of human rights.

The National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence was approved by the Government on 15 January 2014, and at the same time the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children was established as a separate organisational entity belonging to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR (MLSAF SR). On 11 October 2017, the Government approved an update of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence.

As for prevention and elimination of violence against women, several measures have been adopted in line with the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2014-2019.

On 20 November 2014, the Government adopted the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2014-2019 and the Action Plan for Gender Equality 2014-2019.

On 18 February 2015, the Government approved the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the SR. The Strategy defines 7 priorities within which specific tasks in the field of human rights were formulated: (i) Analysis of the state of human rights in the SR, (ii) Strengthening institutions that promote and protect human rights in the SR, (iii) Education, training and research in the field of human rights, (iv) Selected systemic measures for the field of judicial and other legal protection, (v) systemic measures for preventing and eliminating barriers to achieving true equality and decent life for all population groups, (vi) Adoption of systematic and comprehensive measures against all forms of intolerance, (vii) Full and systematic utilisation of the SR membership of international human rights organisations with a view to improve human rights promotion and protection.

As for the issues of racism, xenophobia and antisemitism, two documents were approved by the Government: the Concept for the Fight against Extremism 2015-2019 and the Action Plan

for Preventing and Eliminating Racism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism 2016-2018. On 13 January 2016, the Government approved the Action Plan for Preventing all Forms of Discrimination 2016-2019.

The amendment to the Act on upbringing and education (Schools Act) of 2015 provides that pupils with special upbringing and educational needs which result only from their growing up in socially disadvantaged backgrounds are not to be enrolled in special education class, and it further provides that such pupils are to be enrolled in mainstream classes. Subsequently, it provided for the allowance for pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, so that it meets its purpose, i.e. meets the requirements for providing conditions, content, forms and approaches in upbringing and education necessary for the development of pupils' abilities and personalities, and for attaining adequate education and adequate social inclusion.

According to the amendment to the Act on Financing Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities effective from 1 September 2018 until 31 December 2018, pupils who, for the purposes of the allowance for improving conditions of upbringing and education for pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, qualify as pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds also include pupils who are members of households where a household member receives benefits in material need, and their legal guardians can demonstrate this to a school director.

The establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities was an important and positively assessed change. These offices, which act as specialised offices for rights advocates, were established in the SR by the Act on the Commissioner for Children and the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities dated 25 June 2015. The so-called Lanzarote Convention, the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse became effective in the SR on 1 July 2016.

As part of recasting the civil procedure law, three new codes effective as of 1 July 2016 were adopted: The Code of Civil Dispute Procedure, the Code of Civil Non-Dispute Procedure and the Code of Administrative Procedure. The aim of the new system of procedural rules is to ensure more effective, faster and more cost-efficient proceedings and to create such procedural-legal institutes which will allow us to come as close as possible to the ideal of fast and fair protection of rights and legally-protected interests, assuming a responsible attitude shown by parties to civil proceedings towards court proceedings, and to create conditions for better-quality court decisions and finally, to improve enforcement of rights adjudicated on during court proceedings.

The Act on Criminal Liability of Legal Persons effective as of 1 July 2016 introduced direct criminal liability applying to legal persons established for the purpose of committing a crime or otherwise actively engaged in criminal activities which threaten or violate the rights of others (where these are typically cases of exploitation of so-called vulnerable persons, such as women, children, persons from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, foreigners, etc.). The scope of this Act is defined rather broadly, ensuring that an act is treated as criminal according to this Act even when it is so established by an international agreement which was ratified and declared in a manner provided for by the Act and which is legally binding on the SR. Criminal liability of a legal person does not presuppose holding a natural person liable and does not cease upon declaring bankruptcy, entering liquidation, dissolving the legal

person or upon initiating receivership, but is transferred onto all legal successors of this legal person, which also applies to unserved sentences.

Changes were also made to the Criminal Code (CC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CP) effective as of 1 January 2017. The aim of the amendment is more effective investigation of crimes of extremism and racially motivated crimes. In view of achieving this aim, the definition of extremist material has been changed. The dictum according to which a material is extremist only if its connection with incitement to hatred, violence and other undesirable phenomena is proven was abandoned. The founding of a movement aimed at the suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms has become a criminal offence, not just its support and promotion, as was the case till now. The amendment also makes the definition of racially motivated crime more precise. In order to classify a criminal offence as racially motivated, actual belonging of an individual or persons to a certain race, nation, nationality or ethnic group will no longer be necessary, instead, their assumed belonging to one of these groups will suffice (identity attributed by the perpetrator). The competence to assess such criminal offences and to make decisions on them has been transferred exclusively onto the Special Criminal Court in Pezinok. All such cases have been entrusted to the Special Prosecution Office. Following the aforementioned provision, the Ministry of Justice of the SR (MJ SR) has also extended the set of expert sections and fields to include an expert section for the field of extremism, as actual experience shows that its absence has been a hindrance to thorough investigation of these criminal offences. The new expert section called Social Sciences and Humanities is divided into two fields: political extremism and religious extremism.

The Crime Victims Act (Victims Act), effective as of 1 January 2018 provides for the rights, support and protection of crime victims, the relationship between the state and entities providing assistance to victims, and for financial compensation for victims of deliberate violent crime. It introduces the concepts ‘victim’, ‘particularly vulnerable victim’, ‘secondary and repeated victimisation’ and ‘domestic violence crimes’ into the legal system. Every person who claims that he or she is a crime victim is considered a victim under this Act until it is proven otherwise or unless it is an apparent case of abuse of the status of victimhood, regardless of whether the perpetrator of the crime has been identified, arrested, faces prosecution or has been convicted. The rights granted by this Act are exercised without any discrimination based on sex, religion or belief, race, belonging to a nationality or ethnic group, health status, age, sexual orientation, colour, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, wealth or other status. Entities which, by virtue of their authority or activities, influence or may influence the status or the situation of a victim shall treat victims considerately, professionally, with respect and, as far as possible, charitably, while taking into account their age, sex, health status, including mental health, and mental maturity in a manner which avoids increasing the harm caused to the victim by the crime, as well as secondary victimisation. The Act grants victims the right to be provided professional assistance according to their specific needs and to the extent appropriate to the harm caused by the crime, especially by being provided an adequate explanation of information, legal assistance to exercise their rights, psychological support to lessen the effects of the crime, counselling regarding the risk and prevention of repeated victimisation, intimidation and retaliation. A particularly vulnerable victim has, under the conditions set out in the Act, the right to be provided free assistance, professional psychological emergency intervention, emergency accommodation in a crisis care home, if a particularly vulnerable person faces a direct risk to

life or health. A victim also has the right to be protected against secondary or repeated victimisation.

The adoption of the Victims Act also resulted in amending the provisions of CC laying down a special motive (§140). In the case of selected criminal offences, having the characteristics of a special motive warrants the use of heavier sentences. The previous provisions related to special motive in §140e established that a criminal offence is committed out of a special motive if it is committed out of hatred towards a group of persons or an individual for their actual or assumed membership of a race, nation, nationality, ethnic group, for their actual or assumed origin, colour, sexual orientation, political opinion or religion. The amendment to the CC also added sex to the definition of a reason for hatred. Changes to the CP extended the principles of criminal proceedings, introduced new provisions for informing obligations in relation to an aggrieved person and witness, strengthened the position of an aggrieved person (victim) in criminal proceedings and laid down the conditions of conducting interrogation taking into account the needs of victims, especially children, and finally, restricted the use of the instrument of confrontation.

III. Implementation of recommendations addressed to the Slovak Republic as part of the second round of the universal periodic review

In the second round of the UPR the SR received 146 recommendations, rejecting 13 and only partially rejecting 5. As the individual parts of the report presented below imply, the SR is implementing all the other recommendations. The recommendations are grouped into chapters according to the topic areas they cover.

A. Fight against racism and extremism and racially motivated crimes (recommendations No. 36, 40, 42, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 55, 57-61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 92-96, 122)

Crimes of extremism are: the crime of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement leading to the suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms, expressing affinity to a movement leading to the suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms, producing extremist materials, keeping extremist materials, denying and approving of the holocaust, the crimes of political regimes and crimes against humanity, defaming a nation, race or belief, inciting hatred towards a nationality, race or ethnic group, apartheid and discrimination against a group of persons, and crimes committed out of hatred towards a group of persons or an individual for their actual or assumed membership of a race, nation, nationality, ethnic group, for their actual or assumed origin, colour, sex, sexual orientation, political opinion or religion. In the case of certain crimes, the Act states that a heavier sentence shall be used if a perpetrator commits one of these crimes as a public figure.

On 1 January 2017, the CC introduced a new fact in issue §424a – Apartheid and discrimination against a group of persons, which transferred discrimination from civil law to criminal law.

On 1 January 2017, the agenda of extremist crimes was taken over by the Special Prosecution Office of the General Prosecutor's Office of the SR (Special Prosecution Office). The fact that this criminal law is implemented directly by a GP SR testifies to the level of public interest in detecting and punishing racially motivated crimes. In 2016, 20 known perpetrators of reported crimes were being prosecuted by the prosecution, with the number of accused persons being

prosecuted by the Special Prosecution Office reaching 33 on 1 November 2017. In addition to performing direct prosecution oversight of preparatory proceedings to ensure their lawfulness is maintained, the prosecutors of the Special Prosecution Office also participate in preparing OSCE training programmes on hate crimes for prosecutors and judges, as well as for members of the Police Force of the SR (PF).

The amendment to the CC and the CP, effective from 1 January 2017, resulted in changes aimed at more effective investigation of racially motivated crimes. The amendment also made the definition of racially motivated crime more precise. In order to classify a criminal offence as racially motivated, actual belonging of an individual or persons to a certain race, nation, nationality, ethnic group, etc. will no longer be necessary; instead, their assumed belonging to one of these groups will suffice (identity attributed by the perpetrator). In general, if a perpetrator's hatred towards his or her victim is due to actual or assumed identity of the victim under the provision on special motive, (§140e), this is deemed as a circumstance warranting the use of a heavier sentence.

On 5 March 2014, the General Prosecutor of the SR issued an instruction to modify the procedure followed by prosecutors authorised to implement the agenda of racially motivated crimes, crimes of extremism and spectator violence. The instruction is published on the GP SR website and is known to the general public. Annual work meetings organised by the GP SR also helped increase the level of professional competence of prosecutors working in the assessed field. Their purpose was to inform prosecutors of the current problems of application practice, as well as of significant court decisions in the field of racially motivated crimes, crimes of extremism and spectator violence.

The positions of senior officer for work in communities have been set up at the section for socially excluded groups at local police force departments within the PF since 2003. There are currently 290 such positions at 117 local police departments of the PF.

The Ministry of Interior of the SR (MI SR) launched the campaign of a project co-financed by the European Commission called Effective Monitoring, Investigation and Countering of Violent Extremism in Cyberspace (EMICVEC) consisting of several stages:

1 "Let's not allow Slovakia to turn brown": On 9 September 2016, the online editions of several daily newspapers were released in old brown colour to mark the occasion of the Holocaust and Racial Violence Victims Commemoration Day, serving as a reminder of the role of the media in shaping public opinion and in breaking down stereotypes in how minorities are perceived.

2. The "Protinenávisť.sk" (against hatred) website: contains advice and tools on how not to be defeated by "majority opinion", as well as answers to the most common hoaxes and myths about minorities.

In order to fight extremism and following the changes of the criminal codes, the National Counter-Terrorism Unit was created within the competence of the National Criminal Agency of the Presidium of the PF in 2017 consisting of 4 branches, Bratislava, the West, the Centre and the East, in addition to the Extremism Screening Centre. Staff at the Extremism Screening Centre of the National Counter-Terrorism Unit actively monitor extremist organisations in the entire cyberspace. The Extremism Screening Centre performs all tasks contained in The Concept for the Fight against Extremism for the 2015-2019 period.

The PF pays attention to each reported case of violence, reviews each case individually and implements it according to the applicable legislation. Enshrined in §1 CP is a general obligation of law enforcement authorities and courts to proceed at each individual stage of criminal proceedings in such a way as to fulfil the subject of the law, i.e. to adequately detect criminal offences and to justly punish perpetrators on the one hand, and to respect fundamental human rights and freedoms of physical persons and legal persons throughout proceedings on the other. Prompt, impartial and efficient investigation is one of the basic principles of criminal proceedings.

The Sered' Holocaust Museum was opened in the town of Sered' in 2016 as part of the Slovak National Museum – Museum of Jewish Culture, involved in educational activities and programmes aimed at preventing expressions of antisemitism, racism, extremism and radicalisation in the society.

The Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica implements an educational programme entitled “Ethnic Cleansing, Genocide and Racial Intolerance in History”, which also reflects on modern expressions of racism, Neo-Nacism and xenophobia.

Implementation of the first part of the Theatre against Extremism project, organised by the Slovak National Theatre in 2016 in cooperation with the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, was a major project in the fight against discrimination and racism. The aim of the project was to create two mini stage plays with the topic of racism, extremism, holocaust, totalitarianism, and to draw young theatre-goers' attention to humanity, humanism, democracy, tolerance and knowledge of historical context.

B. Fight against human trafficking and assistance to victims (recommendations No. 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86)

The Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the MI SR (IC MI SR), the Section for Crime Prevention of the Office of the Minister of the Interior (SCP OMI) and Departments of Communication and Prevention at Regional Directorates of the PF deal with preventive activities focused on the fight against human trafficking. The National Unit for Fighting Illegal Migration at the Office of the Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the PF (NUFIM) is a specialised unit dealing with detecting and investigating crimes of human trafficking since 1 July 2013. Since the inclusion of the issues of human trafficking in the structure of the NUFIM, the SR has seen a gradual increase in the number of cases of human trafficking, in the number of initiated criminal proceedings, as well as an increased number of identified victims of human trafficking and criminals convicted of these crimes.

The implementation of campaigns focused on preventing human trafficking continued in the 2014-2017 period. A schedule of training courses was created, focusing on increasing the level of professional competence of both government and non-government entities. Staff at IC MI SR give lectures at schools, and for children in children's care homes, who are a group at risk in terms of human trafficking. The MI SR also launched the GIFT BOX Slovakia – People Are Not for Sale campaign, and organised a film festival to mark the occasion of the European Day Against Human Trafficking, where a collection of short films presented forms of modern slavery. The SR also participated in the “HESTIA – Preventing Human Trafficking and Sham Marriages – a Multidisciplinary Solution” project, financed by the EU. To mark the

occasion of the European Day Against Human Trafficking, the SCP OMI has been organising the “Marathon against Human Trafficking” since 2015, intended for secondary school students, who are shown the most common forms of exploitation in the SR (sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced begging) through short stage plays.

The IC MI SR is in charge of the Programme of Support and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking. A victim is understood as citizen of the SR, an EU citizen or a citizen of a third country who is justifiably suspected to have become a victim of human trafficking in the SR. The aim of the programme is to provide assistance to human trafficking victims, ensure protection of their fundamental human rights, freedoms and dignity, and to encourage victims to give witness statements allowing law enforcement authorities to detect, prosecute and convict perpetrators of human trafficking. Regarding the implementation of the programme, the MI SR has signed contracts on providing assistance to human trafficking victims with non-governmental organisations, the Slovak crisis centre DOTYK and the Slovak Catholic Charity. The NUFIM cooperates with the International Organisation for Migration in Bratislava as necessary.

The procedure for identifying victims in the SR and their possible inclusion in the programme is set out in the National Referral Mechanism. The main objective is to ensure respect for victims’ human rights and effective availability of services to be provided to them. As its secondary effect, it may help develop national policies and procedures related to victims, such as the legislation applied to the legalisation of their stay and resettlement, their compensation and provision of protection. This Mechanism institutionalises cooperation between government and non-government entities. Its structure at the highest level consists of the national coordinator for the field of human trafficking, representatives of government authorities, representatives of local authorities and non-governmental/international organisations in the Expert Group for the Field of Human Trafficking, as well as ad hoc working groups dealing with specific problems concerning victims. Any government authority entity, or an international or non-governmental organisation, as well as the victim himself can identify a potential victim by calling the National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings at +421 800 800 818.

The National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for the 2011-2014 period and the National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for the 2015-2018 period contain the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking. The objective of the Programme for the 2015-2018 period is to ensure a comprehensive and effective fight against human trafficking that supports the development of coordinated activities of all stakeholders to reduce risks and prevent crimes of human trafficking, while creating conditions for providing assistance to human trafficking victims and for ensuring protection of their human rights, freedoms and dignity, taking account of gender-related aspects.

Based on the requirements of application practice, the internal procedure for child social and legal protection institutions and social probation institutions in applying measures for victims of human trafficking is laid down in the internal standard “Implementation of Measures of Socio-legal Protection of Children and Social Care for Victims of Human Trafficking – Guidelines and Recommended Procedure No. 6-3/2016”, effective from 1 November 2016. In working with human trafficking victims, an authority of socio-legal protection of children and social care proceeds according to the Family Act, which imposes an obligation upon the

authority, as part of measures to be applied, to apply or ensure the application of professional methods to assist children or adult physical persons who were victims of human trafficking. When applying these measures, an authority of socio-legal protection of children and social care cooperates with the police, courts, schools, municipalities, accredited entities, health institutions, and with other legal and physical persons engaged in this field.

C. Functioning of courts (recommendations No. 87, 88, 89, 90, 91)

The MJ SR takes measures towards strengthening an independent judicial system. Changes were introduced through the amendment of the Act on Judges and Assistant Judges, effective from 1 July 2017, whose aim is a faster and well-functioning judiciary.

The Judicial Council of the SR is a constitutional body of judicial legitimacy. The amendment to the Act on Judges and Assistant Judges resulted in a change regarding nominations of members of the Judicial Council by the government, the parliament and the president. These should typically nominate a person who is not a judge. A balance between judges and non-judges in the Judicial Council and ensuring its apolitical nature is one of the conditions of proper functioning of the Judicial Council and, ultimately, the entire judiciary.

Other changes include new legislation introducing and specifying the process of selecting judges. The purpose of this change is to eliminate the slow process of filling vacant judges' positions. It introduced so-called collective selection processes for filling vacant judges' positions. They are based on the principle of regions and are conducted in all eight regions of the SR on the same day. The outcome of a selection process results in a list of candidates for judges' positions who will be ready to fill vacant judges' positions after undergoing the required checks performed by the National Security Authority and after completing preparatory training. This measure will allow faster and more flexible replacement of judicial personnel capacities at individual courts, which can ultimately shorten court proceedings. Collective selection processes will take place at least once a year. The first collective selection process took place on 27 November 2017 in Bratislava.

Evaluation of the work of judges has also undergone changes. Judges will now be evaluated by professional evaluation committees composed of judges or emeritus judges. A committee from one region will evaluate judges from another region. Evaluations of judges will be published, with repeated negative evaluations still representing serious disciplinary misconduct, as three consecutive negative evaluations may result in disciplinary action against the given judge with the possibility of cancellation of his position.

Oversight performed by the Judicial Council has been introduced for disciplinary proceedings against judges to ensure their smooth progress. The Judicial Council has been authorised to act if delays in disciplinary proceedings occur. The common goal of the aforementioned changes is to achieve an independent and well-functioning judiciary.

Based on an agreement signed between the SR and the Council of Europe, the subject of which is an audit of the Slovak judiciary to be performed by CEPEJ (The European Commission for Efficiency of Justice) as part of the "Efficiency and Quality of the Slovak Judicial System" project, an analysis of the Slovak judiciary has been underway since April 2017. The subject of the agreement also includes proposals for addressing identified shortcomings, assistance in developing an analytical centre to be set up at the MJ SR and introduction of court management at selected courts. Using objective criteria, the cooperation

project with CEPEJ should arrive at a “diagnosis” of the Slovak judiciary and help address shortcomings in an effective way. The outcome should be an efficiently functioning judicial system that will better serve its citizens.

D. The right to work and to fair and satisfactory working conditions (recommendations No. 102, 103, 104, 105)

The right to access to employment is provided for in the Act on Employment Services. A citizen has the right to choose employment freely and work anywhere in the SR, or can choose to work abroad. In accordance with the Labour Code women and men are entitled to the same pay for the same work or for work of the same value. Under the Act on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and Protection against Discrimination (Anti-Discrimination Act), sexual harassment at workplaces is prohibited.

The Government has for a long time strived to protect and ensure decent working conditions meeting European standards. In order to protect decent work conditions, it has for a long time pursued an adequate minimum wage increase, which helps increase living standards, contributes to the fight against poverty and helps raise overall salary rates within the national economy. As part of providing employment services in accordance with the Act on Employment Services, the priority is to respond to the needs of disadvantaged groups of job candidates on the labour market. The problem of addressing long-term unemployment is the focus of the Action Plan for Strengthening the Integration of the Long-Term Unemployed into the Labour Market in the SR, approved by a resolution of the Monitoring Committee of “Human Resources Development” Operational Programme (HR OP) for the 2014-2020 programming period of 25 November 2016. The Act on Social Economy and Social Enterprises approved by the Government on 10 January 2018 is a key reform for strengthening the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market. The adoption of the cross-cutting legislation will create a favourable environment for supporting social enterprises in the social economy, as well as social innovations.

The MLSAF SR continuously adopts measures to reduce the salary gap between men and women. One of the most significant ones is an outreach campaign highlighting the ever-shrinking salaries paid to women, in addition to offering advice on the www.kedvyrastiem.sk (when I grow up) website on how to protect against discrimination on the labour market. Another significant measure to reduce the gender pay gap is a gradual minimum wage increase, as women find themselves in low-income jobs more often than men. Another important instrument for increasing employment and income levels for women was the national project “Family and Work” focused on balancing family and work life and on work opportunities for mothers with small children.

As for the fight against discrimination, an important and indispensable role is played by social partners by promoting equal treatment, for example through monitoring workplace practices, access to employment, professional training and career progression, as well as through monitoring collective agreements, codes of conduct, research, or through sharing experience and best practice. In line with the principle of equal treatment, discrimination on the grounds of marital or family status, colour, language, political or other opinion, engagement in trade unions, national or social origin, disability, age, wealth, gender or other status is prohibited.

The MLSAF SR is preparing a nationwide survey of the occurrence of sexual harassment at workplaces. Results should be available in 2018. Labour directorates monitor discrimination on the labour market and review cases of possible discrimination. The preparation of the Methodology for Labour Inspectorates to ensure effective monitoring of cases of discrimination is underway.

13 measures were implemented based on the action plan for the field of employment in 2016. In 2017, in order to improve incentivising measures for disadvantaged groups, the Plenipotentiary of the Government for Roma Communities signed, on behalf of the MI SR, the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Increasing Employability and Employment of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities with the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR. One of its objectives is cooperation in mobilising engagement of individual target groups from marginalised Roma communities in various national projects with a special focus on the projects financed from priority axis 2 HR OP – Initiative to Support Youth Employment. During the 2016-2017 period, the measures were implemented using a wide range of measures at the section for education by looking for new ways of supporting youth employment, by means of programmes supporting entry onto the labour market, re-training, and by creating conditions for disadvantaged job candidates to enter the labour market through social economy entities.

E. The right to an adequate standard of living (recommendations No. 106, 107, 137)

The human right to safe drinking water and hygiene is implemented in the SR on the basis of four conditions defined at the UN level: affordability, sufficiency, quality and accessibility. The SR has a sufficient number of water resources used for supplying the population with drinking water from the public supply network. The share of population supplied with drinking water is 92.6%.

As part of the programming process for the 2014-2020 period, the HR OP includes definitions of specific measures in the field of housing policy for improving access to drinking and non-potable water for municipalities with marginalised Roma communities.

The Quality of Environment OP includes support for restoring key water treatment plants and bolstering their capacity. The support from the Environmental Fund leads to gradual additional construction of water supply networks in the whole country, with further support provided to address local problems with the quality of supplied water.

The Rural Development Programme of the SR for the 2014-2020 period also supports the construction, restoration, modernisation and completion of water supply networks along with well deepening in villages.

The upcoming call by the MI SR within the HR OP focusing on completing the basic technical infrastructure of urban Roma settlements, as well as another call focusing on Improved Forms of Housing for Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities with Elements of Transitional Housing are further instruments to implement the measures aimed at ensuring access to drinking water.

In 2017, within the scope of the effort to ensure protection of public health in marginalised Roma communities, the MI SR announced a call focused on constructing or completing a

waste separation and municipal waste collection system, and on work to clear illegal landfills, including the elimination of the adverse effects of illegal landfills.

Supporting incomes, access to employment, education and integration into the labour market, access to public services and development of human capital, in the case of individuals and socially excluded groups or groups at risk of social exclusion on the one hand, and in the case of policy-makers and service providers on the other, are considered to be the key measures used by the SR to ensure sustainable reduction of poverty and elimination of social exclusion. The Government has for a long time strived to protect and ensure decent working conditions meeting the European standards. In order to protect decent work conditions, it has for a long time pursued an adequate minimum wage increase, which helps increase living standards, contributes to the fight against poverty and helps raise overall salary rates within the national economy. As part of providing employment services in accordance with the Act on Employment Services, the priority is to respond to the needs of disadvantaged groups of job candidates on the labour market. The problems of addressing long-term unemployment are the focus of the Action Plan for Strengthening the Integration of the Long-Term Unemployed into the Labour Market in the SR, approved on 25 November 2016.

F. The right to health (recommendations No. 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113)

The current legislation in the SR allows healthcare professionals to apply a conscientious objection. Applying the conscientious objection allows a person to fully exercise the right to freedom of conscience and personal belief regarding the protection of an unborn child by a healthcare professional. It is laid down in the Act on the Provision of Healthcare Services and the Act on the Healthcare Providers, Health Workers and Professional Organisations in the Health Service. The right of a healthcare professional to apply the conscientious objection is further explicitly provided for in the Code of Ethics for Healthcare Professionals, which forms Annex 4 to the Act on Healthcare Providers, Health Workers and Professional Organisations in the Health Service.

The problems of reproductive health are also dealt with by the National Programme for the Care of Children and Adolescents, whose aim is to ensure optimum care for pregnant women and newborns. It includes both the effort and successful implementation of measures to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates, as well as improvement of the health status of new-born infants by providing equal access to health care, including family planning with an emphasis on Roma communities and other disadvantaged population groups. In order to protect the health and life of unborn children, the SR promotes the use of *in utero* medical procedures.

All women in Slovakia have sufficient access to contraception methods. According to the data from the database of registered medicines at the State Institute for Drug Control, there are currently 387 types of hormonal contraceptives and 13 types of topical contraceptives registered in the SR that healthcare providers can prescribe to women. These contraceptives along with other forms of contraception are not covered by public health insurance, although in cases where their use is medically justified, they may be covered by a healthcare insurer from public health insurance. Condoms are freely available for sale at retail outlets.

As part of its efforts to improve access to healthcare gynaecology and obstetrics wards for marginalised Roma women, the Ministry of Health of the SR (hereafter as “MH SR”) is

preparing a pilot scheme within the Healthy Communities project to create health education assistant positions in hospitals (i.e. at gynaecology and obstetrics wards). Health education assistants are all employees from among the Roma population who are continuously educated in the field of healthcare and reproductive health. They are a key element in breaking down social barriers to providing healthcare to Roma minorities. Health education assistants will identify and link special needs of Roma women on the hand with the requirements of medical staff on the other, with an emphasis on an intercultural approach. This will allow the monitoring of possible signs of segregation of Roma women in providing healthcare.

G. Abuse of power by a public official and police assaults (recommendations No. 13, 57, 58, 59, 60, 94, 95, 96)

Reports of alleged inhumane treatment or use of violence against arrested, detained or accused persons by members of the PF are duly examined and investigated by an investigator or an authorised member of the PF of the Office of Inspection Service of the Section of Control and Inspection Service of the MI SR regardless of sex, race or ethnic origin of the aggrieved persons.

Oversight of preparatory proceedings to ensure their lawfulness before instituting a prosecution is provided by a prosecutor. Every decision made by an authorised member of the PF in a given matter can be examined by prosecution.

Resolution No. 650/2015 of the Government set the following task: “to pay sustained attention to the activities of the Section of Control and Inspection Service of the MI SR in its investigation of reports submitted by arrested, detained or accused persons regarding injuries which they claim were caused to them by members of the PF, to record information about such problems in reports on the criminality of members of the PF, and to submit it for negotiations of the Government annually by 30 April”. On 20 March 2017, based on the task it received, the Section of Control and Inspection Service of the MI SR produced the “Report on the Criminality of Members of the PF in 2016”.

Members of the PF are regularly retrained on the provisions of the Act of the PF, the Regulation of the Minister of the Interior of the SR on the Code of Ethics for Members of the PF, as well as the European Convention on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Increased attention is also paid to the behaviour of members of the PF during service interventions against persons and measures are taken to address the shortcomings and causes of their occurrence. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the MI SR and the OSCE ODIHR on 14 September 2017, the MI SR covers the implementation of ODIHR education in the context of the SR for members of the PF regarding hate crimes.

In its manifesto for the 2016-2020 period, the Government made a commitment to advance the institutional strengthening of the control activities of armed police units and the creation of conditions to set up a dedicated section of the prosecution that will oversee the prosecution of members of the PF for committing criminal offences. As for internal order and security, it also made a commitment to strengthen the authority of the Defence and Security Committee of the National Council of the SR in terms of oversight to ensure members of armed units maintain the lawfulness of their actions.

The SR is regularly visited by the European Committee to prevent torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, with the focus on examining the treatment of imprisoned persons in order to strengthen their protection against torture or degrading treatment or punishment.

H. The rights of persons belonging to national minorities (recommendation No. 116, 117, 118, 119, 120)

In 2015, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government for National Minorities (OPGSRNM), in cooperation with the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and with the participation of representatives of national minorities, prepared a draft of the Action Plan to Protect the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for the 2016-2020 period. The objective identified in the Action Plan is to ensure an efficient, transparent and reliable system for protecting and promoting the rights of people belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, which includes ensuring more robust institutional resources for the system. This objective was developed into seven operational objectives. The first operational objective will include, among other measures, performing an analysis of the possibilities to use temporary countervailing measures in preventing discrimination against persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups. A methodology for adoption of temporary countervailing measures in the field of the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups will be designed, including the creation of standards, models and measures for the implementation of temporary countervailing measures.

The OPGSRNM promotes elements of informal education within the individual sub-programmes of the Culture of National Minorities Subsidy Programme. For example, in 2017, the programme supported research in mother tongue teaching, thematic events for primary and secondary schools students focused on improving the standard of using the language of the Hungarian national minority, as well as the organisation of a symposium in the field of sociolinguistics, mother tongue methodology and translatology focused on language education in a national minority language.

The Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups is a permanent body of the Government HRC. Among other things, it acts as a consulting body for matters related to the participation of national minorities and ethnic groups in the conduct of affairs related to national minorities and ethnic groups under Article 34, paragraph 2c, of the Constitution of the SR. 13 national minorities are represented in the Committee (Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Czech, Ukrainian, German, Polish, Moravian, Russian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Jewish and Serbian).

On 25 August 2016, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR (MESRS SR) approved the new Framework Curriculum for primary schools with a national minority language as the language of instruction, valid from 1 September 2016. It increases the number of lessons for the national minority language and literature subject in primary education from 21 to 24, with the number of lessons dedicated to a national minority language up from 5 to 8.

The amendment to the decree of the Government which lays down the details of the breakdown of financial resources from the national budget for schools and school facilities, effective from 1 January 2018, increased normative funding for primary schools with a

language of instruction other than Slovak from 108% to 113% of the corresponding normative funding, and introduced new normative funding for primary schools where a national minority language is taught at 104% of the corresponding normative funding.

In 2017, the MESRS SR launched the IKATIKA pilot project. The aim of the project was to provide access to digital educational content for kindergartens and grade zero of primary schools. The work included organising training courses, publishing a methodological handbook and examining bilingual digital technologies and interactive methods in education. 30 kindergartens and primary schools with children from mixed language backgrounds and children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds were involved in the project. Due to its success, the MESRS SR plans to continue with the project.

The subsidy programme of the Office of the Government entitled the Culture of National Minorities, with the Plenipotentiary of the Government for National Minorities acting as its guarantor, has been an important instrument of supporting activities to eliminate and prevent discrimination till January 2018. The funds of the subsidy programme were mainly used to support the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities, education and training regarding the rights of national minorities, and to support interethnic and intercultural dialogue, as well as understanding between the national majority and national minorities and ethnic groups.

The Act on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities establishing a new public institution became effective on 1 July 2017. The aim of the project was to transform the previous subsidy system of the OG SR and create an institution which ensures effective and systematic promotion of cultural and arts activities of all national minorities in the SR, which is administratively independent of central government authorities, and represented by experts from all national minorities. The law lays down the calculation of the proportion of funding allocated to the individual expert boards expressed as a percentage share. The purpose of the Fund is the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities, education and training regarding the rights of national minorities, and the development and support of intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens belonging to the Slovak majority and citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in Slovakia.

The Culture of Disadvantaged Groups subsidy programme, which allows the fulfilment and development of the needs of persons with disabilities and otherwise disadvantaged population groups, is an effective instrument of promoting social inclusion and cohesion that has worked for a long time. The sum of EUR 375,000 was distributed every year during the 2014-2016 period as part of the Culture of Disadvantaged Groups subsidy programme, whose guarantor is the Ministry of Culture of the SR. The sum of EUR 980,000 has been available for allocation within the Culture of Disadvantaged Groups subsidy programme since 2017.

I. Implementation of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020 (recommendations No. 121, 122, 123, 124)

On 22 February 2017, the Government adopted new, updated action plans for the Strategy of the SR for the Integration of Roma until 2020 for the 2016-2018 period for the fields of education, employment, health, housing, and a new action plan for the field of financial inclusion. On 13 September 2017, the Government approved new action plans of this strategy

for the fields of non-discrimination and the fields of approaches directed at the majority society – Initiative of Roma Integration through Communication. The amount of public funds planned for 2017 for these action plans totals EUR 136,171,438.42.

The system of financial instruments which secures funds from government loans was used to complete a call providing financial instruments at the section of transitional housing and micro-loan programmes for DIY construction of housing, and to launch a national project called “Support of the Settlement of Land Ownership in Marginalised Roma Communities”. As for legislation, there was an amendment to the Act on Land Conversion, Settlement of Land Ownership, Land Register Offices, the Slovak Land Fund and Land Communities, and an amendment to the Decree on Determining the General Value of Property. Individual national projects implemented by the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (OPGSRRC) within the European solidarity assistance co-financing system have a direct impact on creating employment opportunities for the Roma, including those engaged in public service and in the implementation of these projects, and also track integration and the process of inclusion. The national project “Monitoring and Evaluation of Inclusive Policies and Their Impact on Marginalised Roma Communities” focuses on a comprehensive system of monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies. A decision based on a previous call entitled “Support of a Comprehensive System of Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Collection on Inclusive Policies Focused on the Socio-Economic Living Conditions of the Roma Population”, particularly of marginalised Roma communities, has been effective since 23 October 2017. The last monitoring report for 2016 was approved by the Government in 2017. In accordance with Resolution No. 87 of the Government of 22 February 2017, the evaluation of the strategy is scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2019 and by 30 June 2021. This system also contains plans of comprehensive engagement of non-governmental entities in the evaluation process, in the same way this element was also engaged in the preparation process from the outset and is engaged in the process of implementing the strategy.

Education of members of the PF in the field of human rights and elimination of expressions of extremism with respect to the Roma national minority is in the plan of the main tasks of the MI SR for 2018 and in the action plan for non-discrimination, approved by the Government in 2017. The OPGSRRC cooperates in this field with the Council of Europe Directorate General for Roma Issues and with ODIHR OSCE.

The educational programme called the “Specificities of the Service of a Senior Officer for Work in Communities” was accredited at the Secondary Vocational School of the PF in Košice in 2017.

On 14 November 2017, the Minister of the Interior of the SR, in cooperation with the OPGSRRC, issued a measure regarding a working group for addressing the problems of socially excluded groups. This working group will work under the authority of the Vice-President of the PF and will link the key organisational elements of the MI SR and the PF at the section for public administration, the EU solidarity assistance, integration of Roma communities and social work, implementation of national projects, economic and material resources, with the aim to also produce comprehensive solutions in the field of prevention and elimination of the occurrence of hate speech and hate crimes. The objective of the work of

OPGSRRC will be to advance substitution solutions in conflict situations if there are negative reactions due to concentrated poverty.

In addition to the Implementation of the Strategy of the SR for the Integration of the Roma until 2020, the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia (CBS) set up a separate CBS coordinator position for assisting in pastoral work for the Roma, in order to contribute to eliminating discrimination against any minority, encourage and educate Roma women and men and participate in educating all children without distinction. The Catholic Church in the SR works with marginalised Roma communities and assists in their education and inclusion in the society also through education in financial literacy, reading literacy, health and employment. Through the pastoral work of priests in several hundreds of parishes with a high proportion of Roma population, they carry out a whole host of joint activities (pilgrimages, seminars, meetings, network building, expert groups) for the Roma and Slovaks, in order to help eradicate negative stereotypes about the Roma.

J. Access to education for the Roma (recommendations No. 114, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 142)

The rights established by the Schools Act are guaranteed equally for everyone in line with the principle of equal treatment in education established by anti-discrimination legislation. Roma children and pupils in the school upbringing and education system of the SR have an equal status with the same guaranteed rights as all children and pupils.

The Act on Financing Primary and Secondary Schools and School Facilities was amended to ensure better access to kindergarten education for children from marginalised Roma communities. As of 1 January 2018, an allowance is provided to partially cover the costs of upbringing and education of children attending kindergartens within the network of schools who are a year away from commencing compulsory education or are members of households where a household member receives benefits in material need, and their legal guardians can demonstrate this to a school director. This has extended the category of claimants who qualify for the allowance for the upbringing and education of kindergarten children, as legal guardians are now exempt from contributions to partially cover costs. The aim of this legislation was to eliminate the problems seen in application practice in accepting these children into kindergartens.

The MESRS SR provides important support in this field through the European Social Fund on the basis of HR OP, which is focused on supporting education, employment, social inclusion and vulnerable groups on the labour market. The national project called “School Open to All” was launched within the HR OP Education priority axis on 1 February 2016, with planned duration of 46 months and EUR 29,877,073.16 of funds to be allocated. The primary aim of the project is to ensure equal access to quality education and to improve the results and competencies of kindergarten children and primary school pupils by supporting inclusive education and by enhancing professional competencies of the PF and AF. The creation of local desegregation plans at 130 primary schools is an important part of the project. Further, on 30 December 2016, as part of the Education priority axis within the HR OP, a demand-focused call was announced for applications for a non-repayable financial contribution called “More Success at Primary School”, with EUR 50 million available for allocation. The call is aimed at supporting inclusion at primary schools through the work of teaching assistants,

pedagogical staff and inclusion teams (consisting of a school psychologist, special education teacher, and social teacher).

With the introduction of an amendment to the Schools Act, the state's control mechanism for upbringing-related counselling and prevention has become stricter. Subsequently, in the academic year 2015-2016, the State School Inspection (SSI) carried out 12 thematic inspections to examine the standard of professional services at school facilities providing upbringing-related counselling and prevention services. The MESRS SR received a recommendation from the chief inspector of schools in accordance with the applicable regulations, following which it made a decision to exclude Dad, Mum and Me – the Private Centre for Special Pedagogy Counselling with its registered office at Uzovské Pekľany 67, along with its External Facility in Prešov, part of Dad, Mum and Me – the Private Centre for Special Pedagogy Counselling with its registered office at Uzovské Pekľany 67, from the network of schools and school facilities as of 31 May 2016. The MESRS SR also excluded the Private Special Primary School with registered address at Rokycany 40, along with the following external facilities belonging to the school: External Office at Rokycany 46, part of the Private Special Primary School with its registered office at Rokycany 40, External Office in Šarišské Michal'any, part of the Private Special Primary School with its registered office at Rokycany 40, and External Office at Žehňa 22, from the network of schools and school facilities as of 1 September 2017.

Due to the restructuring of the diagnostics system, an amendment to the Act on State Administration in Education and Local School Administration effective from 1 September 2017 was adopted. School facilities providing upbringing-related counselling and prevention services will continue to be included in the network of schools and school facilities until 31 December 2018.

In 2016, EUR 1,545,037.42 of funds were allocated for measures as part of fulfilling the updated action plan for the field education within the Strategy of the SR for the Integration of the Roma. Likewise, OPGSRRC's subsidy scheme provided a subsidy for the Roma Education Fund to Promote Tutoring and Mentoring foundation. A project proposal of a national project entitled Promotion of Pre-Primary Education of Children from Marginalised Roma Communities, to be implemented by the OPGSRRC, was approved in 2017.

In 2018, the system of cooperation between the Plenipotentiary of the Government for Roma Communities and the MI SR includes plans to announce a call for projects to receive a non-repayable financial contribution focusing on the "Provision of Scholarships to Secondary School Students to Raise the Standard of Education among Members of Marginalised Communities", especially the Roma.

K. Settlement of ownership of land under Roma dwellings (recommendations No. 139, 140, 141)

In 2017, the Act on Land Conversion, Settlement of Land Ownership, Land Register Offices, the Slovak Land Fund and Land Communities was amended to allow carrying out simple land conversions, including conversions of what was originally agricultural land, with compensation to be offered to its owners either in the form of housing land or money. An amendment to the Decree of the MJ SR on Determining the General Value of Property allows

determining the price of land in clustered settlements with dwellings occupied mostly by spatially or socially excluded population groups.

The OPGSRRC implemented pilot projects focused on settling property and land ownership. It managed to settle ownership of land where Roma dwellings had been built in the villages of Čierny Balog, Studienka and Tichý Potok. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, State Forests of the SR and the Slovak Land Fund set up a working group focused on settling land ownership and land legalisation.

A project called “Promotion of Land Ownership in Marginalised Roma Communities” has been implemented since 2017. The project provides assistance to municipalities in the process of settling ownership of land where clustered settlements inhabited by marginalised Roma communities have been built. The objective is to support the settling of ownership of land under Roma dwellings in Roma settlements focusing on improving hygiene standards in marginalised Roma communities and on systematic reduction of the number of illegal housing with extremely low hygiene standards. The OPGSRRC continues to liaise with the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR (MTC SR) in setting up the relevant instruments for territorial planning and for post-completion approvals of constructions in the process of drafting new codes of practice at the section of territorial planning and construction.

As for forced evictions, the MTC SR has no knowledge of any construction project proposals that would directly threaten the homes of members of marginalised communities or members of Roma communities in particular, and certainly not in a way that would put them at direct risk of losing their homes. There is no such applicable legal regulation that would permit a construction whose primary purpose is segregation of a certain population group.

Those so-called “anti-Roma” walls or fences were not approved by government authorities (the construction office) as segregation walls. If it is shown after the completion of a construction that its existence demonstrably precludes a population group from exercising its statutory rights and freedoms, thereby segregating such a population group, the Slovak legal system allows the affected population group to protect itself by reporting the case to the prosecution or by filing a complaint at a civil court. The affected population group can therefore claim its rights by obtaining a court decision ordering the removal of such a segregative construction.

Since 2013, the OPGSRRC has repeatedly launched pilot projects of “DIY Construction of Rental Family Housing”. The aim of creating the system of DIY construction was to achieve greater involvement of the Roma themselves in transforming Roma settlements, which cuts constructions costs. Another anticipated positive result was that the Roma could learn work skills that would increase their employability. These projects mostly involved flats that became municipal property within the system of the Act on Subsidies within the authority of the MI SR, and investment was channelled towards reimbursing the cost of construction materials, testing different models to determine the variation in costs according to the degree of involvement of the Roma in construction. Based on the testing, it was found that the procurement price of such family houses was lower because the cost of DIY labour formed a part of their value, but not a part of their procurement price. In line with the requirements of the Act on Subsidies within the authority of the MI SR, the condition of 10-year project sustainability and disposal prohibition have been built into these pilot projects.

In 2016, the Act on Subsidies within the authority of the MI SR allowed the OPGSRRC to begin supporting a project to build systems of transitional housing to aid social mobility and integration of members of marginalised Roma communities.

The MTC SR strived to contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights in the field of public access to accessible and affordable housing. The current provisions of Act on Territorial Planning and Building Order and the related legal regulations under the authority of the MTC SR guarantee equality and protection of human rights in the field of construction, housing and state support for all citizens of the SR.

L. Migration and asylum policy (recommendations No. 145, 146)

Identification of asylum-seeking minors or minors who have been granted international protection in the SR is verified already during the asylum process. If a minor comes from a country with an ongoing armed conflict, his or her application review process should include verification of whether he was involved in the armed conflict.

It is also possible to identify asylum-seeking minors who were involved in armed conflict when assessing a minor's vulnerability in accordance with the Act on Asylum. The MI SR creates suitable conditions for accommodation and care of foreigners in asylum facilities. Suitable conditions are understood as taking appropriate measures to prevent attacks and violence, as well as providing protection to victims of human trafficking.

If an asylum seeker is identified as a minor who was involved in armed conflict, members of staff at the Migration Office of the MI SR are professionally trained to work with such a group of minors. Since 2014, the Migration Office of the MI SR has not had any cases of asylum-seeking minors who were involved in armed conflict.

Asylum seekers and persons who have been granted international protection are guaranteed various rights in the SR. The MI SR covers the cost of urgent medical care for asylum seekers who do not have public health insurance. The MI SR ensures suitable medical care for asylum-seeking minors who are victims of abuse, negligence, exploitation, torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or who have suffered from armed conflict (the Act on Asylum). Medical care for persons who have been granted asylum is covered by public health insurance (the Act on Health Insurance). In the case of a foreigner who has been granted subsidiary protection and does not have public health insurance, the MI SR covers medical care provided in the SR to the extent to which it is covered based on public health insurance (the Act on Asylum).

Protection and promotion of the rights of foreigners, i.e. migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection, is provided in the SR by the Centre for Legal Aid under the authority of the MI SR and by non-governmental organisations.

IV. Overview of current implementation of the recommendations from the 2nd round of the universal periodic review, submitted in the middle of the review cycle

On 17 November 2017, the SR submitted a document to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights a document entitled "The Current State of the Implementation of the Recommendations Addressed to the SR as Part of the 2nd Round of the UPR, Submitted in the Middle of the Review Cycle".

V. Voluntary pledges and commitments

The SR has been a member of the UNHRC since 1 January 2018. For this purpose, the MFEA SR, in cooperation with the materially competent ministries and institutions, prepared a document entitled “Voluntary Pledges and Commitments of the SR at the UNHRC for the 2018-2020 Period”, approved by the Government on 5 April 2017. The document contains SR voluntary pledges and commitments at the national and international levels during its membership of the UNHRC. The priorities of the SR membership will be the fight against all forms of racism and xenophobia, promotion of children’s rights and promotion of religion or belief and religious tolerance.

Annex

Overview of recommendations addressed to the Slovak Republic as part of the second round of the universal periodic review

| Odporúčanie a vecná kompetencia | Slovak Republic's position | Implementation (Implementation method) |
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| 1. Reconsider the ratification of OP-CAT (Denmark) | Accepted | The MJ SR is currently preparing the documents required for the Slovak Republic to sign and subsequently ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 2. Ratify OP-CAT (Estonia, Hungary) | Accepted | See response to recommendation No. 1. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 3. Ratify CPED and OP-CAT (Tunisia, Chile) | Accepted | The International Convention (UN) for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was signed by the Slovak Republic on 26 September 2007 and ratified on 15 December 2014. Upon ratification, the Slovak Republic made a statement that it recognizes the authority of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances under Articles 31 and 32 of the Convention. See response to recommendation No. 1 regarding the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |

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| <p>4. Continue its efforts initiated to achieve ratification of CPED and accept the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (Argentina)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 3.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>5. Ratify promptly CPED (Belgium)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 3.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>6. Consider becoming party to ICRMW and to OP-CAT (Azerbaijan)</p> | <p>The recommendation was not accepted by the Slovak Republic due to the fact that the ICRMW does not distinguish between legal and illegal stay of persons in a country.</p> | |
| <p>7. Ratify ICRMW (Algeria, Egypt)</p> | <p>See Slovak Republic's position on No. 6.</p> | |
| <p>8. Consider the possibility of ratifying ICRMW (Ecuador)</p> | <p>See Slovak Republic's position on No. 6.</p> | |
| <p>9. Take a step further in the area of migrants' rights protection and consider ratifying the ICRMW and ILO Convention no. 189 (Philippines)</p> | <p>See Slovak Republic's position on No. 6.</p> <p>The Slovak Republic did not accept the recommendation to ratify ILO Convention No. 189, as by ratifying this Convention, the Slovak Republic would</p> | |

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| | make commitments that are beyond its current national legislation, which it considers sufficient. | |
| 10. Ratify ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 (Venezuela) | See Slovak Republic's position on Nos. 6 and 9. | |
| 11. Ratify those international instruments, which have not yet been ratified (Cote d'Ivoire) | Accepted | <p>The Slovak Republic ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The instrument of ratification was deposited with the depositary of the Convention, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on 1 March 2016. The Convention entered into force for the Slovak Republic on 1 July 2016.</p> <p>See response to recommendations Nos. 1 and 3.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| 12. Favourably respond and react to future calls and recommendations of the Ombudswoman, particularly when it comes to the situation of Roma (Slovenia) | Accepted | <p>The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (OPGSRRC) cooperates with the Office of the Ombudswoman, informing of its activities. Moreover, since 2017, they have cooperated by exchanging information and by coordinating steps to be taken even in individual cases. It has established the same cooperation with the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (SNCHR), which is represented in the steering group for reviewing and updating the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020, and for creating and implementing its action plans, as well as monitoring and evaluation.</p> |

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| <p>13. Implement recommendations made in the Office of the Ombudswoman's extraordinary report related to human rights complaints on access to education, procedural guarantees in the demolition of illegal dwellings and police conduct (Canada)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> <p>According to the amendment to the Act on Financing Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities effective from 1 September 2018 until 31 December 2018, pupils who, for the purposes of the allowance for improving conditions of upbringing and education for pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, qualify as pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds also include pupils who are members of households where a household member receives benefits in material need, and their legal guardians can demonstrate this to a school director.</p> <p>The Act on Financing Schools and School Facilities was amended to ensure better access to kindergarten education for children from marginalized Roma communities. As of 1 January 2018, an allowance is provided to partially cover the costs of upbringing and education to children attending kindergartens within the network of schools who are a year away from commencing compulsory education or are members of households where a household member receives benefits in material need, and their legal guardians can demonstrate this to a school director. This has extended the category of claimants who qualify for the allowance for the upbringing and education of kindergarten children, as legal guardians are now exempt from contributions to partially cover costs. The aim of this legislation was to eliminate the problems seen in application practice in accepting these children into kindergartens.</p> <p>In 2018, the system of cooperation between the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities and the MI SR includes plans to announce a call for projects to receive a non-repayable financial contribution focusing on the provision of scholarships to secondary school students to raise the standard of</p> |
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| | | <p>education, especially among the Roma. At the section for the integration of Roma, the recommendations made by the Ombudsman are implemented in individual reports in the Strategy for the Integration of Roma until 2020 and in the revised Strategy for the Integration of the Roma until 2020, as well as in the new action plans for this strategy within the competence of the OPGSRRC.</p> <p>The project called “Support of the Settlement of Land Ownership in Marginalized Roma Communities” has been implemented since 2017, providing assistance to municipalities in the process of settling ownership of land where clustered settlements inhabited by marginalized Roma communities have been built. The objective is to support the settling of ownership of land under Roma dwellings in Roma settlements focusing on improving hygiene standards in marginalized Roma communities and on systematic reduction of the number of illegal housing with extremely low hygiene standards.</p> <p>In cooperation with the MI SR and the Council of Europe Directorate General for Roma Issues, the OPGSRRC organized a national seminar for lawyers in the field of Roma anti-discrimination focusing on the right of Roma communities to housing.</p> <p>Investigation of crimes committed by members of the Police Force (PF SR) is overseen by a materially competent inspection service within the competence of the MI SR, which pays due attention to investigation of all crimes committed by members of the PF.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>14. Take all necessary steps to ensure that its national</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In April 2018, the MJ SR submitted a draft SNCHR reform, which entered the legislative process. The draft was rejected by several</p> |

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| <p>human rights institution is fully effective and independent in accordance with the Paris Principles (France), Take appropriate measures to ensure that the national human rights institution functions in compliance with the Paris Principles (India), Take further steps to ensure that its national human rights institution is aligned with the Paris Principles (Philippines), Continue with its efforts for the establishment of independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Pakistan) Undertake the necessary steps to ensure that its national institution is fully consistent with the Paris Principles (Morocco), Take the necessary measures to strengthen the independence and mandate of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights and ensure that it complies with the Paris Principles (Mexico), Strengthen the independence and mandate of its National Centre for Human Rights so as to enable it to function in compliance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia)</p> | | <p>institutions and the Ministry will submit a new draft incorporating their comments in autumn.</p> <p><i>The recommendation is being implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>15. Bring its National Centre for Human Rights into conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Turkmenistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation no. 14.</p> <p><i>The recommendation is being implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>16. Continue working in order to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation no. 14.</p> |

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| <p>Principles, taking into account the recommendations from the treaty bodies in this regard (Guatemala)</p> | | <p><i>The recommendation is being implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>17. Continue its efforts to re-accredit the National Slovak Human Rights Centre as the national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Algeria)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 14.</p> <p><i>The recommendation is being implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>18. Strengthen the independence and mandate of the National Slovak Human Rights Centre so that it operates in compliance with the Paris Principles and be given the necessary resources (Tunisia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 14.</p> <p><i>The recommendation is being implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>19. Strengthen the independence and the mandate of its national human rights institution and provide it with adequate financial and human resources to assist it in meeting the standards required by the Paris Principles (Ireland)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The budget approved for the SNCHR for 2014 (EUR 518,242), 2015 (EUR 518,242), 2016 (EUR 548,242), 2017 (EUR 553,242) and the draft budget for 2018 (EUR 565,356) provided adequate funds to implement these recommendations, while taking into account the limitations of the national budget in terms of available resources.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>20. Allocate appropriate resources to the Office of the Ombudswoman to facilitate equal access to justice for all citizens and further strengthen its monitoring and reporting capacity (Canada)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The review of this task will build on the conclusions which will follow from an overview of the tasks and status of the institutions dedicated to human rights protection and promotion in line with the tasks contained in the review of recommendations Nos. 14-19.</p> <p>The budget approved for the Office of the Ombudsman for 2014 (EUR 1,165,048), 2015 (EUR 1,179,558), 2016 (EUR 1,198,038), 2017 (EUR 1,239,871) and the draft budget for 2018 (EUR 1,535,649) provided adequate funds to implement these recommendations, while taking into account the limitations of the</p> |

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| | | national budget in terms of available resources. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 21. Establish an independent mechanism to investigate complaints related to discrimination and segregation within the schooling system (Egypt) | The Slovak Republic rejected this recommendation due to the fact that these matters are duly addressed at the legislative and institutional levels. | |
| 22. Work with the EU and the UN for further participation of other important human rights mechanisms, including the protocols to the CRC (Viet Nam) | Accepted | The Slovak Republic, as a party to agreements on human rights at the universal and regional levels, has an obligation to submit regular reports to inspection or treaty bodies on progress made in implementing the individual agreements. It fulfils the obligation. The Slovak Republic ratified all optional protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: OP 1 on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 7 July 2006; OP 2 on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for the Purpose of Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on 25 June 2004, and OP on the Reporting Procedure, which established a mechanism for individual reports of children's rights violations on 3 December 2013. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 23. That the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality take steps towards the implementation of a nation-wide strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights (United Kingdom) | Accepted | The Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (the Council) is a expert, advisory, coordinative and consultative body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the field of protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms. The role of the Council is to formulate opinions on the Slovak Republic's |

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| | | <p>domestic fulfilment of international commitments in the field of human rights, especially commitments arising from international agreements, including the related optional protocols ratified by the Slovak Republic and agreements on human rights and fundamental freedoms to which the Slovak Republic is a party. The role of the Council is not to take steps towards implementing the national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Council is regularly (once a year) informed of the fulfilment of tasks contained in the national strategy.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>24. Speed up the preparation of a national human rights promotion and protection strategy (Uruguay)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Slovak Republic was approved by Resolution No. 71 of the Government of the Slovak Republic of 18 February 2015.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>25. Promptly put in place the national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights that integrates the contributions arising from this review (Nicaragua)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 24.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>26. Continue its efforts and momentum on the current human rights programme, with more focus on social inclusion, participation of the Roma in employment opportunity, adequate housing, gender equality and capacity building for national human rights institutions in the country (Viet Nam)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In 2017, updated action plans of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020 for the 2016-2018 period were approved in the areas of education, employment, health, housing, along with an action plan in the area of financial inclusion, non-discrimination and approaches directed at the majority society – Initiative of Roma Integration through Communication.</p> <p>The individual national projects called “Community Centres in Towns and Villages with MRC – Phase 1, Field Social Work and Field Work in Municipalities with MRC, implemented by the OPGSRRRC within the European Solidarity Assistance co-financing</p> |

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| | | <p>system have a direct impact on creating employment opportunities for the Roma, including those engaged in public service and in the implementation of these projects, while tracking integration and the process of inclusion.</p> <p>This effect is also achieved by implementing the national project “Healthy Communities 2A”. The target number of persons engaged in the project is 264 and the target number of members of marginalised Roma communities using the services at the section of health education is 30,000. This project, in its basic operation, has been set to cover 150 municipalities, which are also listed in the Take Away package, and its future development is expected to add further 164 municipalities.</p> <p>In 2017, the system of cooperation between the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities and the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic (MTC SR) included the process of adopting an amendment to the Act on Subsidies For Development of Housing and for Social Housing and to the Act on the State Fund for Housing Development. These generally binding legal regulations created a legal instrument for investment to build new flats provided by the State Fund for Housing Development (SFHD) worth up to 100% of their procurement price, in addition to raising price limits. The scope of investment provided by the SFHD has been extended to include acquisition of land for construction of rental housing. The amendments, within their regulatory scope, also introduced and provided for the term “start-up flat” in the common standard category of flats.</p> <p>These are mainly the national projects called “Community Centres in Towns and Villages with Marginalised Roma Communities –</p> |
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| | | <p>Phase 1, Field Social Work and Field Work in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities 1. 150 municipalities are involved in this phase in the Take Away package, with typical planned average numbers of clients reaching 30,000 and 80,000.</p> <p>A system within the competence of the MTC SR to support the procurement of rental housing flats serving as social housing has been in place for a long time, using a combination of subsidies in accordance with the Act on Subsidies For Development of Housing and for Social Housing and low-interest loans from the SFHD. The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the National Strategy for Gender Equality and the Action Plan for Gender Equality for the 2014-2019 period. The National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for the 2014-2019 period was also adopted. The tasks and measures arising from these documents are being implemented.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>27. Continue efforts to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to promote and protect human rights, including through the ratification of ICRMW (Indonesia)</p> | <p>See the Slovak Republic's position on No. 6.</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 24 in the part regarding the creation of the national action plan in the field of human rights</p> <p>See response to recommendation No. 14 in the part amending the regulations which provide for national institutions for human rights.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>28. Continue its efforts particularly to ensure equal treatment in the education system and equal access to</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic provides important support in this field through the European Social Fund on the basis of HR OP, which is focused on</p> |

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| <p>job opportunities (France)</p> | | <p>supporting education, employment, social inclusion and vulnerable groups on the labour market. The national project called “School Open to All” was launched within the HR OP Education priority axis on 1 February 2016, with planned duration of 46 months and EUR 29,877,073.16 of funds to be allocated. The primary aim of the project is to ensure equal access to quality education and to improve the results and competencies of kindergarten children and primary school pupils by supporting inclusive education and by enhancing professional competencies of the PF and AF. The creation of local desegregation plans at 130 primary schools is an important part of the project. Further, on 30 December 2016, as part of the Education priority axis within the HR OP, a demand-focused call was announced for applications for a non-repayable financial contribution called “More Success at Primary School”, with EUR 50 million available for allocation. The call is aimed at supporting inclusion at primary schools through the work of teaching assistants, pedagogical staff and inclusion teams (consisting of a school psychologist, special education teacher, and social teacher).</p> <p>Having received a grant from the European Commission, the OPGSRRC implemented a project in 2017 entitled “Promotion of Active Participation and Consultation Processes in the Field of Implementation and Monitoring of Roma Integration and Roma Youth Policies in the Slovak Republic” with the aim to create conditions for future participation of Roma youth in public policy.</p> <p>In 2017, the MI SR announced a call within the “Support of a Comprehensive System of Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Collection on Inclusive Policies Focused on the Socio-Economic Living Conditions of the Roma Population” project, which will allow the OPGSRRC to monitor thoroughly the implementation of measures to ensure equal access to education, employment</p> |
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| | | <p>opportunities, to the services at the section for housing, financial services and to public health and health service.</p> <p>Equal access to employment opportunities is guaranteed by the Act on Employment Services. Citizens have the right to access to employment without any restrictions in employment relationships or similar legal relationships in line with the principle of equal treatment established by the Anti-Discrimination Act. The Labour Code provides that when employing a natural person, an employer must not breach the principle of equal treatment as far as access to employment is concerned.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>29. That a national action plan for the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons in Slovakia is developed and implemented, within the context of the planned human rights strategy (Norway)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>An action plan was created also in response to the tasks set in the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Slovak Republic (task V.1). The working group for legislation and strategies of the Committee for the Rights of LGBTI persons prepared the Action Plan for LGBTI persons for the 2016-2019 period. The document has not been submitted for negotiations of the Government of the Slovak Republic. However, some of the proposed tasks are being implemented anyway.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>30. Develop additional programmes, including a national action plan for children, to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children (Philippines)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence was approved on 15 January 2014, and at the same time the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children was established as a separate organisational entity belonging to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (MLSAF SR). Since the start of the implementation period of The National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence, a great deal of emphasis has been placed on increasing awareness of the issues violence</p> |

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| | | <p>against children and on ways to help. In connection with this, the National Coordination Centre launched a website in 2015 www.detstvobeznasilia.gov.sk (childhood without violence), which aims to become the basic information channel providing information related to the issues of violence against children for professionals and adult lay public, as well as children themselves. The National Project to Support the Protection of Children against Violence was approved on 23 October 2017, focusing on streamlining the system for protecting children against violence by setting up systemic coordination of entities participating in tasks related to the protection of children.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>31. Further improve human rights records in the country (Azerbaijan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic takes steps towards raising the profile of human rights at the international level also by ratifying and implementing international agreements in the field of human rights. During the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Slovak Republic was elected a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2018-2020. In addition, it takes active steps at the national level focused on advancing policies aimed at raising the standard of human rights protection. The Slovak Republic was the second EU member state to adopt the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 18 February 2015.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>32. Include in its National Strategy for Gender Equality 2009-2013 measures to promote the participation of women in decision-making bodies in the public and private sphere (Spain)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>On 20 November 2014, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the National Strategy for Gender Equality for the 2014-2019 period and the related Action Plan for Gender Equality for the 2014-2019 period. The individual activities and measures it specifies were prepared in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and the Council of the Government of the Slovak</p> |

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| | | <p>Republic for Human Rights and Gender Equality. The Strategy and the Action Plan are closely linked and represent a comprehensive conceptual framework for promoting equality of men and women.</p> <p>The Strategy specifies six strategic areas and priorities. Within strategic area 2, Participation in decision-making in public and economic life, it sets the following objective: Reduction of gender gap in participation between women and men in decision-making positions, and within this objective, it sets the following targets: 2.1 To increase representation of women in decision-making processes in political life, including their motivation and possibilities to be election candidates and to participate; 2.2 To promote women's entrepreneurship by creating systemic measures, including balancing family and work life; 2.3 To increase representation of women in economic decision-making positions.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>33. Expedite its implementation of the measures to ensure equality for men and women (Bangladesh)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 32.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>34. Take steps to ensure equality between men and women that guarantee non-discrimination and gender equality (Venezuela)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 32.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>35. Strengthen measures aimed at ensuring gender equality as well as preventing violence against women (Cote d'Ivoire)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Act on Crime Victims became effective on 1 January 2018. The Act introduces basic concepts such as 'victim', 'particularly vulnerable victim', or 'domestic violence crimes' into the legal system. A domestic violence crime is, among other things, a crime committed by using violence or the threat of violence against a spouse, former spouse, partner, former partner, parent of the same child or to other person who lives or lived in the same household. Particularly vulnerable persons are also persons who are victims of</p> |

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| | | <p>domestic violence crimes.</p> <p>The adoption of the Act on Crime Victims also resulted in amending the provisions of the Criminal Law laying down special motive (§140). In the case of selected criminal offences, having the characteristics of a special motive warrants the use of heavier sentences. The amendment to the Criminal Law also adds sex to the definition of a reason for hatred.</p> <p>Domestic violence is a criminal offence in the Slovak Republic. The interpretation of these unlawful acts covers all possible situations, while respecting the international definition of this criminal offence. Besides domestic violence crimes, the Criminal Law specifically defines sexual violence crimes, as well as rape, which also includes marital rape. The Slovak legal system does not tolerate any form of rape during marriage.</p> <p>In recent years, a series of amendments amending a number of provisions of the CL, the Criminal Code and other laws, which were substantially related to prosecution of violence against women including domestic violence, have been adopted in the Slovak Republic. One of the measures is evicting the offender from the shared household. The period of time a police officer is authorised to evict a violent person for has been extended from 48 hours to 10 days. The eviction includes the obligation of an evicted person not to approach the person under threat closer than the distance of 10 metres.</p> <p>The project of establishing the Coordination-Methodological Centre for Gender-Based and Domestic Violence (CMC) remains one of the key projects in the field. The CMC was officially established in 2015. The main objective is to create, implement and coordinate a</p> |
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| | | <p>comprehensive national policy in the field. The CMC set up an expert team responsible for professional coordination and supervision of systematic prevention and intervention to support victims and to provide services in the field of violence against women and domestic violence. The CMC ensures professional coordination of activities through methodological guidelines on providing services in the field of primary prevention and elimination of violence against women and their children, and creates conditions for multi-institutional cooperation.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 32.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>36. Take measures to effectively implement the prohibition of discrimination enshrined in the Anti-Discrimination Act (Pakistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Act on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and Protection against Discrimination, containing specific rules for remedying violations of the right to equal treatment, including provision of court protection, is a cross-cutting legal regulation in the fight against discrimination. This act also sets the rules of temporary countervailing measures, which takes into account the EU Framework for national strategies for the integration of Roma until 2020, and the framework for the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020.</p> <p>Following the approval of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Slovak Republic, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved, by Resolution No. 5 of 13 January 2016, the Action Plan for Preventing all Forms of Discrimination for the 2016-2019 period, prepared by the MJ SR and MLSAF SR. Its aim is to improve the framework for prosecuting discrimination and to increase awareness among professionals and lay public, particularly public administration.</p> |

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| | | <p>On 1 January 2017, the CL introduced a new constituting fact §424a – Apartheid and discrimination against a group of persons, which transferred discrimination from civil law to criminal law.</p> <p>The Action Plan for Preventing and Eliminating Racism, Xenophobia, Antisemitism and Other Forms of Racism for the 2016-2018 period was approved on 13 January 2016.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>37. Continue its efforts in effectively implementing the amendment to the Anti-Discrimination Act with a view to further combating discrimination in the country (Cambodia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 36.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>38. Enforce the legal and institutional framework on combating discrimination (Romania)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 14 and 36.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>39. Take steps to effectively implement the ban on discrimination contained in the anti-discrimination law and the law on schools (Belgium)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>With the introduction of an amendment to the Act on Upbringing and Education, the state’s control mechanism for upbringing-related counselling and prevention has become stricter. Subsequently, in the academic year 2015-2016, the State School Inspection (SSI) carried out 12 thematic inspections to examine the standard of professional services at school facilities providing upbringing-related counselling and prevention services. The MESRS SR received a proposal of the main school inspector in line with the applicable regulations and subsequently decided about exclusion of several school facilities and schools.</p> <p>A project proposal of a national project entitled “Promotion of Pre-Primary Education of Children from MRC”, to be implemented by the OPGSRRRC, was approved in 2017.</p> |

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| | | See response to recommendations Nos. 13 and 36. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 40. Increase awareness raising programmes and campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for diversity among its population (Malaysia) | Accepted | <p>In the period from 2014 to 2016, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (MFEA SR) was the guarantor of a subsidy scheme for the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms. Within this scheme, funds of EUR 845,000 were made available for allocation in 2014, EUR 769,500 in 2015 and EUR 763,500 in 2016.</p> <p>As of 1 December 2016, the MJ SR provides (previously under the authority of MFEA SR) subsidies for advancing, promoting and protecting human rights and freedoms, and for preventing all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and other forms of intolerance. 236 applications for subsidies were submitted in 2017, and the MJ SR supported 53 projects from the scheme, allocating EUR 760,000.</p> <p>During the 2014-2018 period, the MESRS SR was the guarantor of the 2014-2020 Youth Programmes. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the MESRS SR used the Youth Policy PRIORITIES sub-programme to support organisations whose projects focused mainly on developing young people's ability to critically approach and evaluate information in the online world, on developing tolerance towards diversity, empathy towards migrants and marginalised population groups, and on increasing the professionalism of youth workers, youth leaders and young leaders in the field of upbringing and education regarding human rights. Within this subsidy scheme to support human rights protection activities, funds of EUR 51,243 were made available for allocation in 2015, EUR 54,925 in 2016 and EUR 54,827 in 2017. The Council of Europe campaign "No Hate Speech Movement" was placed under the auspices of the</p> |

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| | | <p>section for youth at the MESRS SR, and in the period from 2013 until the end of 2017, the Slovak Republic actively participated in the campaign activities. Its aim was to increase engagement and awareness among young people in the field of fighting online hate speech, which has been on the rise in recent years, and to equip young people with the abilities necessary for identifying such human rights violations. The campaign advocates equality, dignity, human rights and diversity.</p> <p>The Act on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities was adopted in 2017 to establish a fund providing financial resources for the purposes of training and education regarding the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, for the purposes of ensuring intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens belonging to the Slovak majority and citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups.</p> <p>The aim of the “Initiative for Roma Integration through Communication” is to positively moderate public opinion, eliminating prejudice and stereotypes and strengthening intercultural dialogue. The tasks include setting up a working group focusing on public opinion to eliminate and remove mutual prejudice held by both the majority and the Roma populations, and to ensure long-term and stable functioning of the initiative, as well as implementing a long-term public education campaign aimed at inclusive presentation of minorities based on a comprehensive communication strategy, while ensuring a responsible approach.</p> <p>Lectures, discussions and educational concerts focused on tolerance and respect for diversity are predominantly dedicated to children. The MJ SR also carried out the campaign through the</p> |
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| | | <p>“Protinenávisti.sk” (against hatred) website.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>41. Continue awareness-raising programmes about racial and ethnic diversity in schools, strengthening the monitoring of the implementation of anti-discriminatory policies, especially in remote areas (Uruguay)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The SNCHR plays the role of an equality body in the Slovak Republic. From the beginning of 2017 until 17 October 2017, the Centre delivered 76 events at 18 primary schools and 16 secondary schools for 2,175 pupils and students. Activities were carried out at the level of all regions of the Slovak Republic. At present, the SNCHR has arranged education with schools virtually until the end of June 2018.</p> <p>For a number of years, the SNCHR has cooperated with the Regional Outreach Centre in Nové Zámky, the National Outreach Centre in Bratislava and several libraries (Public Library of Ján Bocatio, Ján Kollár Library, Bratislava City Library). The SNCHR provides information about human rights, tolerance, multiculturalism and non-discrimination in a captivating, creative and interactive way using games, modelled situations, presentations or films. It offers 7 standard themes within its standard portfolio of outreach and educational activities. Educational events for schools organised by the SNCHR are free of charge.</p> <p>In 2018, following the approval of the Act on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities, the competence to allocate funding was transferred from the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (OG SR) to a new public institution. The fulfilment of the main tasks of the on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities will be coordinated with expert committees, whose members are democratically elected by national minority organisations.</p> |

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| | | <p>The MESRS SR continued to allocate targeted funding in 2017 to finance a development project entitled “Regional and Multicultural Education for Pupils Belonging to National Minorities” for primary and secondary schools with a national minority language of instruction and for schools where a national minority language is taught, with total spending worth EUR 20,790, and a development project entitled “Promotion of Training and Education of Primary School Pupils from Socially Disadvantaged Backgrounds”, with total spending worth EUR 49,000.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>42. Step up efforts to combat prejudices against ethnic minorities and to improve relations between the general public and minority communities (Malaysia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020 is currently being implemented, which was a response to the need to address challenges regarding social inclusion of Roma communities. The Strategy focuses on three target groups: the Roma as a national minority, Roma communities and MRC.</p> <p>Especially in the case of MRC, there is frequent, or so-called multiple discrimination, affecting not just girls and women, but also persons with disabilities. The Action Plans for Roma integration were also largely focused on the school system and education. The amendment to the Act on Upbringing and Education, effective from 1 September 2016, was the most significant step in this regard, as minimum numbers of students in a class no longer apply to primary schools with a national minority language of instruction.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 41.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>43. Intensify measures aiming at promoting tolerance, intercultural dialogue and the respect of diversity,</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Every year, the Roma Spirit project, which was supported in 2016, significantly contributes to the development of tolerance, intercultural dialogue and awareness of important achievements and</p> |

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| <p>strengthening awareness-raising campaigns (Spain)</p> | | <p>projects in the field of Roma integration. The award ceremony at this event is broadcast by Radio and Television of Slovakia (RTVS) every year. As part of the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the EU, the EUROPA ROMA SPIRIT event, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, was broadcast in EU member states.</p> <p>On 13 September 2017, a new action plan in the area of approaches directed at the majority society – Initiative of Roma Integration through Communication was approved by a resolution of the Slovak Republic. Its aim is to positively moderate public opinion, eliminating prejudice and stereotypes and strengthening intercultural dialogue. The tasks of this plan include setting up a working group focusing on positive moderation of public opinion to eliminate and remove mutual prejudice held by both the majority and the Roma populations, and to ensure long-term and stable functioning of the initiative, and implementing a long-term public education campaign aimed at inclusive presentation of minorities based on a comprehensive communication strategy, while ensuring a responsible approach.</p> <p>“The Culture of Disadvantaged Groups” subsidy programme, which allows the fulfilment and development of the needs of persons with disabilities and otherwise disadvantaged population groups, is an effective instrument of promoting social inclusion and cohesion that has worked for a long time. The subsidy programme supports the activities of persons with disabilities or otherwise disadvantaged population groups, including those cultural activities of these persons which involve promotion of equality of opportunities, integration into society, prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, discrimination, racism, xenophobia and extremism, and promotion of education leading to tolerance, the strengthening of social and family cohesion and development of intercultural</p> |
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| | | <p>dialogue.</p> <p>The Sered' Holocaust Museum was opened in the town of Sered' in 2016 as part of the Slovak National Museum – Museum of Jewish Culture. It engages in educational activities and programmes aimed at preventing expressions of antisemitism, racism, extremism and radicalisation in the society.</p> <p>As part of continuing teacher education, the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica implements an educational programme entitled “Ethnic Cleansing, Genocide and Racial Intolerance in History”, which also reflects on modern expressions of racism, Neo-Nacism a xenophobia.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 40.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>44. Take actions to combat discrimination and prejudice by promoting intercultural dialogue in cooperation with the media to prevent racist statements, hate speech and attacks against ethnic minorities and promote respect for cultural diversity (Thailand)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In response to the activities of the members of a certain political party, the OPGSRRC’s system of human rights protection submitted a recommendation to the Prosecutor-General of the Slovak Republic to dissolve the political party, which was followed by the Prosecutor-General of the Slovak Republic submitting a recommendation to the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>Due to the need of education in the historical events of the Roma Holocaust, the OPGSRRC initiated negotiations with the science facility of the Slovak National Archive with the aim to carry out scientific research in these historical events leading to three publications formats, namely a monograph, a scientific work and educational materials, which will also serve as a material for intercultural dialogue and elimination of expressions of the far-right and expressions of extremism and racism.</p> <p>The Act on Broadcasting and Retransmission provides that an</p> |

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| | | <p>audiovisual media service, a programme service or its elements must not interfere with human dignity or fundamental rights of others. Likewise, they must not promote violence or explicitly or implicitly incite hatred, disparage or defame on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, faith and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, membership of a nationality or ethnic group. These duties also apply to a broadcaster by means of the internet.</p> <p>According to the Code of Ethics for Advertising Practice approved by the Advertising Council, an advertisement must not contain anything that would insult consumers' feelings with respect to race, nationality, politics or religion. An advertisement must not promote any form of discrimination, especially not on the grounds of race, nationality, religion, political opinion, sex or age.</p> <p>In 2017, Director General of RTVS established the RTVS Ethics Commission as an independent advisory body of RTVS, whose role is to assess possible violations of the ethical principles contained in the Status of RTVS Staff and Collaborators, the Code of Ethics on the Use of Social Networks for the Staff and Collaborators of the RTVS News, Sport and Journalism Section, or the Code of Ethics for Journalists, and to issue statements on matters which may affect the activities described in these documents or RTVS' credibility.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 41.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>45. Continue to take measures to combat intolerance based on ethnic origin, in particular against the Roma community (Portugal)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The OPGSRRC cooperates in this field with the National Counter-Terrorism Unit, whose authority also covers the elimination of extremism, particularly in the field of the far-right. The same extent of cooperation is maintained with the Section for Crime Prevention at the Office of the Minister of the Interior (SCP OMI).</p> |

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| | | <p>The working group under the authority of the Vice-President of the PF will link the key organisational elements of the MI SR and the PF at the section for public administration, the EU solidarity assistance, integration of Roma communities and social work, implementation of national projects, economic and material resources, with the aim to also produce comprehensive solutions in the field of prevention and elimination of the occurrence of hate speech and hate crimes. The objective of the work of the OPGSRRC will be to advance substitution solutions in conflict situations if there are negative reactions due to concentrated poverty. This brings the cooperation the OPGSRRC and the Presidium of the PF SR have engaged in so far, especially in the field of cooperation at the section of senior officers' activities at the MI SR for work in communities, to a new institutional level.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 41.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>46. Take the necessary measures to continue promoting a culture of tolerance and non-discrimination in Slovak society (Nicaragua)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The aim of the Act on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities as amended was to transform the previous subsidy system of the OG SR and create an institution which ensures effective and systematic promotion of cultural and arts activities of all national minorities in the Slovak Republic, is administratively independent of the central government authorities, and is represented by experts from all national minorities. The law lays down the calculation of the proportion of funding allocated to the individual expert boards expressed as a percentage share. The purpose of the Fund is primarily the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities, education and training regarding the rights of members of national minorities, and the development and support of intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens belonging</p> |

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| | | <p>to the Slovak majority and citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in Slovakia.</p> <p>Implementation of the first part of the “Theatre against Extremism” project, organised by the Slovak National Theatre in 2016 in cooperation with the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, was a major project in the fight against discrimination and racism. The output of the project was the creation of two mini stage plays on the topic of racism, extremism, holocaust and totalitarianism with the aim to draw young theatre-goers’ attention to humanity, humanism, democracy, tolerance and knowledge of historical context. The documentary theatre play called “Natálka” is the first of two stage plays created by the Slovak National Theatre Drama Company as part of the project. The stage play is inspired by a real story about a Neo-Nazi attack on a Roma family in the Czech Republic. The project is intended for secondary schools, is free of charge and is followed by a discussion with experts.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>47. Intensify efforts in the field of ethnic diversity, including by strengthening the inclusive and multicultural education system (Indonesia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In 2017, the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities created a language map of Roma communities in Slovakia, an important information source for a future set-up of schools with mother tongue education, including cases of dual identity, which also identifies the extent of ethnic diversity with the Roma population itself.</p> <p>Ifjú Szivek, a dance theatre operating under the founder’s competence of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (MC SR), is a professional arts organisation with a nationwide reach in the field of folk art production and interpretation. Its activities include artistic, educational and training programmes that build on the traditional culture of members of the Hungarian national minority and other national minorities living in Slovakia.</p> |

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| | | <p>Public funding is also used to finance artistic ensembles that develop the culture of other national minorities: the Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov, founded in 1945, with a special focus on developing the cultural life of the Ruthenians living in the Slovak Republic, and the professional folk art ensemble called Poddukelský umelecký ľudový súbor (the Poddukelský Folk Art Ensemble), founded in 1955 in Prešov with the aim to develop and present the Ruthenian vocal-musical and dance heritage on the stage.</p> <p>Dedicated to the Roma community is the Romathan Theatre in Košice (founded in 1992) with a mission to “develop Roma art and culture as a basis for self-understanding and discovery of the Roma’s own national identity, their human pride and confidence”.</p> <p>As part of the EU agenda, the MC SR participates in the work of the Open Coordination Method Working Group referred to as “Promotion of the Contribution of Culture to Social Inclusion”, which was set up within priority area A – “Accessible and Inclusive Culture” of the Working Plan for Culture of the 2015-2018 period.</p> <p>The amendment to the decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic which lays down the details of the breakdown of financial resources from the national budget for schools and school facilities, effective from 1 January 2018, increased normative funding for primary schools with a language of instruction other than Slovak from 108% to 113% of the corresponding normative funding, and introduced new normative funding for primary schools where a national minority language is taught at 104% of the corresponding normative funding. In 2017, the MESRS SR launched the IKATIKA pilot project. The aim of the project was to provide access to digital educational content for kindergartens and grade zero of primary school. The work included organisation of training</p> |
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| | | <p>courses, publishing a methodological handbook and examining bilingual digital technologies and interactive methods in education. 30 kindergartens and primary schools with children from mixed language backgrounds and children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds were involved in the project. Due to its success, the MESRS SR plans to continue with the project.</p> <p>See also response to recommendations No. 41 and 46.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>48. Take more resolute legal and practical measures to combat intolerance based on ethnic origin and take further steps to promote mutual understanding and respect between persons belonging to various groups (Iran)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The amendment to the Criminal Law and the Criminal Code, effective from 1 January 2017, resulted in changes aimed at more effective investigation of crimes of extremism and racially motivated crimes.</p> <p>In general, if perpetrator's hatred towards his victim is due to actual or assumed identity of the victim under the provision on special motive, (§140e), this is deemed as a circumstance warranting the use of a heavier sentence.</p> <p>The amendment introduced a new criminal offence – apartheid and discrimination of a group of persons (§424a Criminal Law). The legislation is evidence of the Slovak Republic's fulfilment of its commitments arising from the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.</p> <p>The amendment also criminalises establishment of a group or movement which demonstrably leads to the suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms, and has extended the definition of a group or movement leading to the suppression of fundamental</p> |

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| | | <p>rights and freedoms to include groups, movements and ideologies which have led to the suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms in the past, not just those that do so at present. The amendment's entry into effect means that investigation of crimes of extremism and decision-making thereon have been entrusted to the Office of Special Prosecution and the Specialised Criminal Court.</p> <p>The MJ SR also decided to extend the set of expert sections and sectors to include a dedicated expert section for the field of extremism, that is, political extremism and religious extremism.</p> <p>The 26th Meeting of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (16 March 2017) was dedicated to the topic of measures in the fight against extremism in order to inform the Council members and the Government of the Slovak Republic of the steps taken by the ministries in the field. Resolution No. 168 of the Council of 16 March 2017 imposed an obligation on the Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Antisemitism and Other Forms of Intolerance to regularly submit information to the Council about implemented measures and progress made in the fight against extremism.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 41.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>49. Adopt effective measures to prevent any manifestation of discrimination and racism (Uzbekistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Concept for the Fight against Extremism for the 2015-2019 period was adopted by Resolution No. 129 of the Government of the Slovak Republic of 18 March 2015. The OPGSRRC contributes to the fulfilment of the individual tasks arising from the Concept through its cooperation with the Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Antisemitism and Other Forms</p> |

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| | | <p>of Intolerance. In 2016 and 2017, its cooperation with the Committee and the PF SR also focused on anti-Roma hate speech in the digital world. This cooperation also focused on exchanging information in the field of material and immaterial symbolism.</p> <p>In 2016, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Antisemitism and Other Forms of Intolerance for the 2016-2018 period.</p> <p>In line with the approved “Strategy for the Integration of Roma until 2020”, measures and activities to improve the situation of the Roma in the fields of education, employment, health and housing were carried out. On 22 February 2017, new/updated action plans for the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020 for the 2016-2018 period for the fields of education, employment, health, housing, and a new action plan for the field of financial inclusion, were adopted by Resolution No. 87 of the Government of the Slovak Republic. On 13 September 2017, new action plans of this strategy for the field of non-discrimination and approaches directed at the majority society – Initiative of Roma Integration through Communication were approved by Resolution No. 424 of the Government of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>The Act on Criminal Liability of Legal Persons was adopted in 2016 within the system of general prevention, extending the set of criminal offence committed by legal persons to include crimes of extremism specified in §140a Criminal Law.</p> <p>The amendment to the Criminal Law effective from 1 January 2017 introduced a more precise definition of extremist material, specific</p> |
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| | | <p>motive and crimes of extremis.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>50. Intensify efforts to combat discrimination against ethnic minorities, particularly Roma and migrants (Venezuela)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>To submit documentary evidence to law enforcement authorities, the OPGSRRC worked on specific cases of right-wing extremism with history institutes, science institutes and museums. This system of cooperation included the first discourse analysis and historical comparison of expressions of right-wing anti-Roma extremism. The system of intensifying the efforts made by the OPGSRRC was also reflected in closer cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsman.</p> <p>The National Outreach Centre publishes the “Social Prevention” specialist journal, which deals with topics regarding negative social phenomena (including xenophobia, racism and extremism) and regularly carries out activities in individual regions for staff working in the field of cultural-outreach activities.</p> <p>The Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica implements, within its continuing education programme for teachers in history, citizenship education, social studies and ethics, an educational programme called “Ethnic Cleansing, Genocide and Racial Intolerance in History”, which brings new research findings about the “solution to the Jewish question” in Slovakia during the period between 1939 and 1945, the “solution to the Jewish question” during World War Two and persecution of the Roma in Slovakia, in addition to addressing modern expressions of racism, Neo-Nazism and xenophobia, while enhancing teachers’ key professional competencies in the use of historical sources and application of the oral history method. Throughout the year, the Museum carries out an educational programme for primary school students called “Suitcase Number...”, focused on the “solution to the Jewish question” in Slovakia during the period between 1939 and</p> |

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| | | <p>1945, as well as modern extremism and racism.</p> <p>In order to set specific tasks in an effort to eliminate and prevent discrimination on grounds of membership of a national minority, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (OPSRNM) engaged in the process of preparing the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Slovak Republic. In 2015, following this process, the OPGSRNM, in cooperation with the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and in a participatory manner with the participation of representatives of national minorities, prepared a draft of the Action Plan to Protect the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for the 2016-2020 period. The objective identified in the Action Plan is to ensure an efficient, transparent and reliable system for protecting and promoting the rights of people belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, which includes ensuring more robust institutional resources for the system. This objective was developed into seven operational objective, with each of them being developed to the level of specific measures and activities, which include fulfilment indicators, fulfilment deadlines, responsible persons, cooperating entities and sources of funding. The first operational objective, focused on ensuring a comprehensive approach to the creation of legal regulations related to the rights and status of national minorities, will involve, among other measures, performing an analysis of the possibilities to use temporary countervailing measures in preventing discrimination against persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, as well as designing a methodology for adopting temporary countervailing measures in the field of the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups, including the creation of standards, models and measures for implementing temporary countervailing measures.</p> |
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| | | See also response to recommendations Nos. 43,45 and 49. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 51. Continue to intensify the necessary actions to eliminate discrimination as well as the trend and/or media dissemination of stereotypes, which may encourage discrimination against minorities, particularly against Roma and Hungarians (Argentina) | Accepted | See response to recommendations Nos. 40 and 50. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 52. Eradicate stereotypes and widespread abuse of Roma (Bangladesh) | Accepted | Partial goals of the action plans for the fields of non-discrimination of the Roma and approaches directed at the majority population – Initiative of Roma Integration through Communication, are designed to support the development of Roma identity and minority culture and to present it to the public to break down negative stereotypes and develop tolerance and information sources for the media with the aim to further develop the production of information that eliminates one-sided negative sources. Such a new communication strategy will be based on a study of ways to undermine stereotypes and prejudice, and its implementation will, first and foremost, focus on its application to selected first-contact professions. The objective of this communication strategy is to create substantial room for a public discussion by launching a new electronic service, while carrying out an intensive educational campaign. On the other hand, the cumulative activities of the other action plans of the Strategy will contribute to reducing the negative phenomena arising from concentrated poverty. See also response to recommendation No. 43. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 53. Take concrete steps to further develop and implement initiatives targeting not only the Roma minority but | Accepted | By approving the “Strategy for the Integration of Roma until 2020”, the Government of the Slovak Republic took on a role whereby it manages public discussion and drives public policy and public |

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| <p>also the majority population, including children and adults, in order to increase mutual understanding and respect with a view of combating the nourishment of societal discrimination against Roma (Denmark)</p> | | <p>opinion with respect to Roma, including greater public awareness regarding the Roma.</p> <p>The results of these tasks will be also shown in the form of continued cooperation with the “Dosta” campaign, Roma involvement in media campaigns and in the form of an interactive electronic communication platform. This system will also lead to a synergy among the processes carried out within the national project called “Evaluation Monitoring”, to be implemented by the OPGSRRRC in the forthcoming period.</p> <p>The Museum of Roma Culture (part of the Slovak National Museum) implements programmes for primary schools, namely Roma Crafts/Romaňi but’i, Our Journey/Miro drom (a recreation of the life of the Roma in interwar Czechoslovakia using contemporary documentaries) and Great Pain/Bari dukh (a programme focused on the Roma Holocaust and the fate suffered by the Roma during World War Two).</p> <p>The national project of the “Documentation-Information Centre for Roma Culture”, which helps break down prejudice and stereotypes, is a substantial contribution to the level of awareness of the Roma culture among the majority population. The project aims to build a digital database of the Roma culture. The role of the Centre is to gather comprehensive information about Roma culture, history, language, traditions and other aspects of the life of the Roma in a single place, and to create unique access to required and requested information about everything associated with the Roma community.</p> <p>The OPGSRRRC supported a project by the Open Society Foundation called “Undermining Stereotypes and Prejudice towards the Roma Population: Creation of a Communication Strategy and Its</p> |
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| | | <p>Implementation in Selected First-Contact Professions in a Selected Region of the Slovak Republic”. The project’s main objective was to create a framework communication strategy for a long-term public education campaign. The results of the project were built into the action plans for non-discrimination of the Roma and approaches directed at the majority population – Initiative of Roma Integration through Communication until 2020.</p> <p>The objective of this long-term campaign is to assist in the integration of the Roma into the society. The “Romane nevipena – Roma newspaper”, whose aim is to build positive relationships with the majority population, is now published following the recommendations from the project. The magazine replaced the electronic format called “Good News from the Regions” in 2017.</p> <p>The Art Centre F6, working with the Greek Catholic Roma Mission, records and publishes videos featuring testimonies about the coexistence of the Roma and the Slovaks as part of the so-called RomaSlovak project, publishes the Rómska Samária magazine, and organises the ZmierenieTour, a joint tour by a Roma and a Slovak gospel band to inspire towards a harmonious coexistence of the Roma and the Slovaks.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 49 and 52.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>54. Make all necessary efforts to address discrimination against Roma, including in employment, education, health care, housing and loan practices (Australia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>On 22 February 2017, new/updated action plans for the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020 for the 2016-2018 period in the area of education, employment, health, housing, and a new action plan in the area of financial inclusion, were adopted by Resolution No. 87 of the Government of the</p> |

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| | | <p>Slovak Republic.</p> <p>In 2016, OPGSRRC subsidies were provided to support access to drinking and non-potable water, to support the completion of basic technical infrastructure in clustered MRC settlements, to support a pilot construction project of transitional housing to aid social mobility and integration of members of MRC, to support missionary work, employment, employability and placement onto the labour market, to support the building of partnerships and cooperation in addressing social and cultural needs and in addressing the extremely unfavourable situation of certain Roma communities.</p> <p>An amendment to the Act on Subsidies under the competence of the MI SR was adopted in 2017 in order to streamline the pooling of financial resources from the national budget to address social and cultural needs, as well as extremely unfavourable situation of certain Roma communities. This legislation extended certain exclusive procedures in granting these subsidies as well as multi-source subsidies for supporting recovery operations after emergency situations in settlements caused by natural disasters, by the impact of natural forces or fires, and for supporting the supply of electricity, heating, fuel or drinking water in situations that threaten human life or health, particularly in situations caused by adverse environmental or weather conditions.</p> <p>The adoption of an amendment to the Act on Gambling in 2016 introduced new state control instruments and protective elements against pathological gambling and access to games of chance, including internet games, to prevent falling into poverty and to protect the families of pathological gamblers. A register of natural persons excluded from gambling has been created for this purpose, while the Act establishes mechanisms for enforcing such exclusion</p> |
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| | | <p>of persons.</p> <p>The objectives and priorities of the Slovak Republic in the field of housing are defined in the framework document “the Concept for the Housing Policy until 2020”, approved by the government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 13 of 7 January 2015.</p> <p>As for consumer loans, in accordance with the Act on Consumer Loans and Other Loans for Consumers, and mortgages in accordance with the Act on Mortgages, the conditions of their provision are non-discriminatory and are the same for all consumers.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 49 and 53.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>55. Create effective administrative and judicial mechanisms to remedy discriminatory acts against Roma and other minorities (India)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Act on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and Protection against Discrimination (the Anti-Discrimination Act), as amended in 2004 by transposition of EU directives, introduced a general framework for applying the principle of equal treatment, along with legal protection instruments in the case of its violation. It also specifies exceptions to the principle of equal treatment and the details of the possibility to file a complaint at the court in the case of its violations. The amendment to the Act effective from April 2013 significantly extended the possibility to adopt so-called temporary countervailing measures. These are measures directed at certain disadvantaged groups, whose purpose is to countervail existing inequalities. Temporary countervailing measures can be adopted in the fields of employment, education, healthcare, social security, and in the field of goods and service provision, including commercial housing. The aim of these measures is to reduce or eliminate inequalities. Public administration authorities or other legal entities</p> |

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| | | <p>can adopt temporary countervailing measures leading to the elimination of disadvantages due to racial or ethnic origin, membership of a national minority or ethnic group, gender or sex, or age or disability, with the aim to ensure equality of opportunities in practice. The Code of Civil Dispute Procedure, approved as part of recasting the civil procedure law in 2015, harmonised the obligation to bear a reverse burden of proof in proceedings by means of a reference to the provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act. In the case of anti-discrimination disputes, the linking of the Code of Civil Dispute Procedure with the Anti-Discrimination Act also gave an exclusive status to the applicant by excluding the provisions about missing a deadline, if such a court decision is made against the applicant. It also provided, at the same level, for the protection of a party in the case of individual employment disputes occurring due to a violation of the principle of equal treatment.</p> <p>The Code of Civil Dispute Procedure defined anti-discrimination disputes as a separate type of court proceedings that, compared with general court proceedings, are governed by different rules strengthening the status of the applicant (e.g. reverse burden of proof).</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 50.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>56. Strengthen measures on combating discrimination against women and Roma, as well as eliminate stereotypes of Roma and indigenous people through awareness-raising campaigns (Azerbaijan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic has stepped up its fight against discrimination by adopting the National Strategy for Gender Equality, the Action Plan for Gender Equality for the 2014-2020 period and the Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women until 2019.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 40 and 43.</p> |

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| | | <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| <p>57. Strengthen its efforts to combat racist attacks committed by law enforcement personnel, particularly against the Roma, by among others, providing special training to law enforcement personnel aimed at promoting respect for human rights and tolerance for diversity (Austria)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Within the system of communication with the Council of Europe Directorate General for Roma Issues and ODIHR OSCE, the OPGSRRC accepted an offer of cooperation and joint authority in further training of members of the PF SR. The MI SR also accepts this task of further training of members of the PF SR in the field of human rights and elimination of expressions of extremism with respect to the Roma community, following a recommendation by the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, as part of its plan of the main tasks for 2018. The task is also included in the Action Plan for the Field of Non-Discrimination, approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2017. Following a recommendation by the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities in connection with the implementation of international commitments arising from privileged international agreements, the MI SR also incorporates into its plan of the main tasks for 2018 the task of ensuring prompt, impartial and efficient investigation of all accusations of excessive use of force, including torture and bad treatment by the police.</p> <p>Through the Judicial Academy, the MJ SR launched the PAHCT educational programme in cooperation with ODIHR OSCE in autumn 2017, focused on hate crimes (extremism). The training is intended for prosecutors, special prosecutors, judges at the Specialised Criminal Court and judges.</p> <p>As for the issue of bad treatment by members of the PF SR, members of the PF SR are regularly retrained on the provisions of the Act of the PF, the Regulation of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on the Code of Ethics for Members of the PF,</p> |

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| | | <p>as well as the European Convention on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Increased attention is also paid to the behaviour of members of the PF SR during service interventions against persons and measures are taken to address shortcomings and the causes of their occurrence.</p> <p>Based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the MI SR and the OSCE ODIHR on 14 September 2017, the MI SR covers the implementation of ODHIR education in the context of the Slovak Republic for members of the PF SR regarding hate crimes.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 45.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>58. Unequivocally and publicly condemn attacks against Roma and other minorities whenever they occur and effectively investigate all reported cases of harassment of members of the Roma by the police forces (Austria)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Based on specific reports, investigators at the section for control and inspection service perform appropriate law enforcement acts. The Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities publicly condemned every verbal attack, or an attack on a person's integrity, which he had identified as having been motivated by hatred.</p> <p>See also response to recommendations No. 13, 28, 45 and 57.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>59. Increase its efforts to combat racist attacks committed by law enforcement personnel, particularly against the Roma (Iran)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 57.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>60. Do all the necessary to prevent and effectively and</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 57.</p> |

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| <p>thoroughly investigate all violent attacks against the Roma, including those committed by the police forces (Slovenia)</p> | | <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>61. Enhance its efforts to curb hate speech in the media while investigating and appropriately sanctioning the perpetrators for such hate speeches (Bangladesh)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Oversight of compliance with the legal regulations that provide for broadcasting, retransmission and the provision of audiovisual services is performed upon request by the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission, established by the Act on Broadcasting and Retransmission and on Amendments to the Act on Telecommunications as amended, which also performs state administration in the field of broadcasting, retransmission and provision of audiovisual services upon request and to the extent specified by the Act. Interference with human dignity and humanity may lead to the following sanctions imposed by the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission: notification of a violation of the Act; broadcasting an announcement about a violation of the Act; withdrawing a programme or its provision or a part of it; a fine, and if a broadcaster, despite any imposed sanctions, repeatedly, deliberately and in a serious manner promotes violence and explicitly or implicitly incites hatred, disparages or defames on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, belief and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, membership of a nationality or ethnic group, or promotes war or describes cruel or otherwise inhumane actions in a manner which unduly downplays, legitimises or condones them, the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission shall withdraw his licence. It is possible to protect against hate speech in broadcasting and in other media by means of civil and criminal law.</p> <p>The PF SR pays due attention to each reported case of violence, reviews each case individually and implements it according to the applicable legislation. Enshrined Criminal Code is a general obligation of law enforcement authorities and courts to proceed at</p> |

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| | | <p>each individual stage of criminal proceedings in such a way as to fulfil the subject of the law, i.e. to adequately detect criminal offences and to justly punish perpetrators on the one hand, and to respect fundamental human rights and freedoms of natural persons and legal persons throughout proceedings on the other. The provision of the Criminal Code applies irrespective of which type of crime mentioned in the separate part of the Criminal Law it is related to. Prompt, impartial and efficient investigation is one of the basic principles of criminal proceedings.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>62. Modify the criminal codes to clearly address hate speech and racial and religious incitement in the context of election campaigns (Egypt)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 48.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>63. Investigate and prosecute allegations of all hate speech and political discourse against minorities (Malaysia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 61.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>64. Investigate and punish all instances of racist statements or of intolerance of ethnic minorities in speeches by politicians and public officials (Mexico)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 61.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>65. Step up its efforts towards advancing the specific courses of action taken in its struggle against discrimination such as programmes to fight poverty and social exclusion, the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 and the endorsement of the Committee for the Rights of LGBTI persons, and launch campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for diversity aimed at all segments of society (Brazil)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In 2016, 66 measures were introduced as part of the process of implementing the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma.</p> <p>In the field of policy focused on social inclusion and adequate housing for Roma, the MLSAF SR implements the “Field Social Work in Municipalities I” project, focused on assisting persons at risk of poverty, persons under threat of social exclusion or socially excluded persons. This assistance is provided in the form of direct</p> |

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| | | <p>support for these persons or by improving the accessibility and quality of services, the overall social infrastructure and other instruments of assistance through preventive measures, education, professional training, research, healthcare, etc. The national project “Field Social Work” contributes to increasing people’s active participation in addressing their social situation, in streamlining the current instruments and in introducing new instruments with active participation of target groups, as well as to the development and accessibility of selected social services.</p> <p>The project entitled “Engagement of the Unemployed in the Restoration of Cultural Heritage” is an effective measure in the field of social inclusion. Based on an agreement with the MLSAF SR, the MC SR provides subsidies within the subsidy sub-programme “Restoration of Historical Parks and Architectural Sites in a Critical Construction-Technical State”. This instrument allows integration of the unemployed by creating work opportunities for marginalised groups in the field of cultural heritage restoration, which helps in their social inclusion.</p> <p>The Committee for the Rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender and Intersexual Persons (“Committee for the Rights of LGBTI People”) was established by Resolution No. 516 of the Government of the Slovak Republic on 3 October 2012, as the Government of the Slovak Republic approved a supplement to the Statute of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. The Committee for the Rights of LGBTI People has the status of a permanent expert body of the Council. Its duties include work on public policy creation regarding the rights and status of LGBTI people.</p> |
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| | | See also response to recommendation No. 49. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 66. Adopt effective measures to combat extremism and prevent all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including amending its legislation so as to forbid and prevent activities of extremist organizations (Belarus) | Accepted | <p>By its Resolution No. 71 of 18 February 2015, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, where it declared in priority VI its commitment to adopt systematic and comprehensive measures focused on preventing and eliminating all forms of intolerance.</p> <p>The MI SR launched a campaign of the project called “Effective Monitoring, Investigation and Countering of Violent Extremism in Cyberspace” (EMICVEC).</p> <p>The National Counter-Terrorism Unit was created under the authority of the Presidium of the PF SR in 2017 for the purpose of fighting terrorism. The staff at the extremism screening centre actively monitor extremist organisations, not just on social networks, but in the entire cyberspace.</p> <p>In the 2014-2016 period, the number of racially motivated crimes and crimes with an element of extremism dealt with by the prosecution remained steady. Reports on the work of the GP SR in the assessed period state that racially motivated crimes and crimes with an element of extremism do not represent a large share of overall crime rates. These crimes were largely committed by isolated individuals. One of the forms of committing the assessed crimes was the use of the internet for releasing aggressive and hate-fuelled texts and statements, or for selling or purchasing various products demonstrating their owners’ affiliation or affinity to groups focusing on suppressing fundamental rights and freedoms. Mass</p> |

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| | | <p>availability of these means of communication makes it possible to reach larger groups of people, which increases the seriousness of the committed crime as a result. When detecting these crimes, law enforcement authorities are restricted by the prosecution's technical personnel capacities. Detection and penalisation of spreading extremist ideas and of various expressions of racist and xenophobic nature via the internet is a serious problem, especially in view of the fact this is a space which, by virtue of its anonymity allowing virtually uncontrolled exchange of information, induces the feeling of impunity and immunity to prosecution.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 48.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>67. Increase the monitoring of extremist organizations that act in a discriminatory manner, take effective measures against them, and criminalize and prosecute the financing and participation in those organizations (Spain)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 48, 66.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>68. Ban in law and prevent activities of the extremist organizations (Uzbekistan)</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic has partially accepted the recommendation. The issue of “banned organisations” is provided for directly in the national legislation, which also contains legislation regarding the dissolution of an</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 48, 66.</p> |

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| | <p>organisation. If it is shown that the activities of an extremist organisation which is active in the Slovak Republic and which is officially registered as a political party or a civil society organisation are dangerous for the society, it is possible to dissolve and ban such an organisation by a court decision.</p> | <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>69. Step up its efforts to clamp down on racism and acts of extremism in line with its concept of combating extremism for 2011-2014 (China)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Concept for the Fight against Extremism for the 2015-2019 period was adopted in the Slovak Republic in the field of public policy with the aim to prevent radicalisation leading to extremism through early intervention and systematic education of individual target groups. This represents an extension of the capacities and possibilities to detect and persecute crimes of extremism in the field of repression.</p> <p>It involves the creation of effective organisational instruments, deployment of specialists and the related training of these persons, subsequent set-up of mechanisms for performing tasks related to the protection of the constitutional system, internal order and national security.</p> <p>The Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups reacted to several cases of expressions of racism and extremism with a</p> |

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| | | <p>statement, strongly condemning expressions of intolerance, xenophobia, racism, and any other expressions of race defamation.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>70. Continue to support the rights of the LGBTI community through its human rights framework (Australia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 29.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been partially implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>71. Consider adopting measures to prevent gender-based violence, including amending legislation to include such an offence (Thailand)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 35.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>72. Take steps for the comprehensive prohibition of corporal punishment, including when exercising parental rights (Estonia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The amendment to the Act on Socio-Legal Protection of Children and Social Care effective from 1 January 2009 provides for explicit prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment, as well as other abusive and degrading punishments in the use of measures of social and legal protection of children and social care. The legislation imposing zero tolerance of corporal punishment is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UN Committee Recommendations issued in response to a progress report submitted by the Slovak Republic on the implementation of the Convention. This amendment also provides for the obligation of social and legal protection of children and social care institution (CSLPaSP) to always opt for and use an appropriate measure according to the law every time it is notified of the use of abusive a degrading punishments on a child by a parent or a person who personally cares for the child.</p> <p>By adopting the amendment to the Act on Offences effective from 1 January 2016, the Slovak Republic emphasised the unlawfulness of all violent acts that affect the physical integrity of a close person</p> |

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| | | <p>or a person entrusted to another person for care or upbringing, including a child. In accordance with the amendment to the CL effective from 1 January 2016, repeatedly occurring offences of this nature are treated as a crime of torture of a close or entrusted person. The amendment effective from 1 January 2017 made the provision which lays down the sentences for reoffending more precise, as it led to varying interpretations in actual practice in the past. In accordance with the applicable legal regulations, these acts cannot be legitimised by exercising parental rights and obligations.</p> <p>The provision of §30 (3) of the Act on Family provides that parents are entitled to use appropriate measures in a child’s upbringing in a manner which does not threaten its health, dignity, or mental, physical or emotional development. Due to the fact that corporal punishment, as it is commonly understood, has the potential to threaten child’s health, dignity, and its mental, physical and emotional development, the applicable legislation no longer tolerates it. It follows from the above that parental rights and obligations in child upbringing are specified in such a way as to ensure protection against a threat to child health, dignity, and to its mental, physical and emotional development, and to allow the use of appropriate measures in child upbringing which take into account the specific circumstances and needs of families.</p> <p>The provision of §3r on Upbringing and Education prohibits the use of all forms of corporal punishment.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>73. That legislation on the ban of corporal punishment in the exercise of parental rights be approved (Portugal)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 72.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |

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| <p>74. Reinforce preventive measures for combating trafficking in women and girls for purposes such as sexual exploitation (Sri Lanka)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the MI SR, the SCP OMI, and Departments of Communication and Prevention at Regional Directorates of the PF deal with preventive activities focused on the fight against human trafficking within the MI SR. As of 1 July 2013, the National Unit for Fighting Illegal Migration at the Office of the Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the PF is a specialized unit dealing with detecting and investigating crimes of human trafficking.</p> <p>Several outreach and education campaigns implemented in the 2014–2017 period focused on preventing human trafficking. A schedule of training courses was created, focusing on increasing the level of professional competence of both government and non-government entities in this field. Staff at MI SR give ad hoc lectures at schools, and for children in children’s care homes, who are a group at risk in terms of human trafficking. In order to provide information to the public, they attend meetings with various formats (conferences, workshops, panel discussions and round tables, breakfasts with journalists).</p> <p>The Slovak Republic participated in the “HESTIA – Preventing Human Trafficking and Sham Marriages – a Multidisciplinary Solution” project, financed by the EU.</p> <p>As part of its human trafficking prevention efforts, the MI SR implemented a number of outreach and educational campaigns, such as “GIFT BOX Slovakia – People Are Not for Sale” and a film festival to mark the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
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| <p>75. Implement effectively the National Plan of Action on Combating Human Trafficking (Turkmenistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The adoption of the Crime Victims Act and on Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts, effective from 1 January 2018, transposes Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012, which lays down the minimum standards in the fields of human rights and support and protection of crime victims, replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. The transposition of the directive was among the objectives of the plan under the authority of the MJ SR.</p> <p>The National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for the 2011-2014 period and the National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for the 2015-2018 period contain the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking, reviewed annually, with reviews submitted on an annual basis to the Expert Group for Combating Human Trafficking, chaired by the National Coordinator for the Field of Combating Human Trafficking, whose representatives are all relevant government authorities and non-governmental organisations.</p> <p>The objective of the National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for the 2015–2018 period is to ensure a comprehensive and effective fight against human trafficking that supports the development of coordinated activities of all stakeholders to reduce risks and prevent crimes of human trafficking, while creating conditions for providing support and assistance to human trafficking victims and for ensuring protection of their human rights, freedoms and dignity.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>76. Provide adequate resources to fully implement its National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Following the coordination meetings of the participating entities stated in the response to recommendation No. 30, these meetings include analyses and reviews of the occurrence of violence against</p> |

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| <p>Beings, paying particular attention to combating trafficking of children (Philippines)</p> | | <p>children in individual districts, where important indicators include the number of cases of violence against children and the dominant characteristics of these cases on the one hand, and risk factors associated with the occurrence of violence against children on the other. Such findings from coordination meetings appear to be important also in potential detection of criminal acts, including child trafficking. Ad hoc coordination meetings are held when particularly serious cases occur, serving as an important instrument for detecting undesirable phenomena and for improving the procedures used to protect children against violence.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>77. Step up efforts in the area of combating trafficking in human beings, including measures on the protection, reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking (Belarus)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Integration of foreigners, including human trafficking victims, is ensured by means of the provisions of the Act on Employment Services, according to which an employer can employ a citizen of a third country whose permission to stay has been extended due to the fact that he or she is a human trafficking victim. Such a third country citizen is not required to provide a confirmation that he or she is permitted to fill a job position requiring high-level qualifications, or that he or she is permitted to fill an open job position, or a work permit.</p> <p>The Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the MI SR is the guarantor of the “Programme to Support and Protect Human Trafficking Victims”. A victim may be provided care in the form of necessary emergency care, emergency care, reintegration or integration, or in the form of assisted voluntary return. The aim of the programme is to provide assistance to human trafficking victims, to ensure the protection of their fundamental human rights, freedoms and dignity, and to motivate them to give witness testimony.</p> |

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| | | <p>The Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the MI SR organised training sessions as part of the “Strengthening of Joint Measures for the Prevention of Forced Labour of Roma Communities and the Development of a Referral Mechanism”. Their purpose was to develop a referral mechanism to ensure that human trafficking victims are provided adequate assistance and to facilitate detection of human trafficking crimes. The training focused on the “Methodological Tool for the Procedure in Providing Assistance to Human Trafficking Victims with a Special Focus on Children and Foreigners”. In the 2014-2015 period, these efforts resulted in the Migration Office of the MI SR identifying 6 asylum seekers as potential human trafficking victims, with 1 potential victim agreeing to be provided assistance from the programme, and in the foreign police identifying 4 foreigners (out of whom 3 were children), with all of the identified persons being included in the programme and receiving the required assistance.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>78. Pay special attention to the adoption of comprehensive measures to address the aggravating problem of trafficking in children. Consider the possibility of sending an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (Belarus)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Based on the requirements of application practice arising from legislative changes and from the implementation of the principles of current international directives and regulations, the new internal standard “Applying Measures of Socio-Legal Protection of Children and Social Care for Victims of Human Trafficking – Guidelines and Recommended Procedure No. 6-3/2016”, effective from 1 November 2016, was introduced to modify the internal procedure for CSLPaSP in applying measures for victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>The application of measures by CSLPaSP focuses on providing social counselling, participation in programmes focused on assisting</p> |

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| | | <p>human trafficking victims and field social work. The counselling and psychology services department primarily provides psychological counselling and psychological assistance. CSLPaSP acts as a caretaker during legal proceedings. Preventive and search activities focus on risk groups and risk situations.</p> <p>In working with human trafficking victims, a CSLPaSP proceeds according to §11 (3) of the Family Act, which imposes an obligation upon the facility, as part of measures to be applied, to apply or ensure the application of professional methods to assist children or adult natural persons who were victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>When applying these measures, a CSLPaSP closely cooperates with the police, court, prosecution, schools, school facilities, municipalities, higher territorial units, accredited entities, healthcare institutions, and other legal and natural persons engaged in this field.</p> <p>Care for minors who are human trafficking victims is provided by the Children's Home in Topolčany, where six professional members of staff have been trained in cooperation with the MI SR to work with human trafficking victims. In line with the tasks of the National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking, activities for children were focused primarily on information and promotion campaigns, education and preventive activities for groups at risk of human trafficking, particularly children and young adults placed in youth detention centres and unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>The Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention plays the role of a national reporting body or that of a similar mechanism established in accordance with Article 19 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and</p> |
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| | | <p>of the Council of 5 April 2012 on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which replaces Council Decision 2002/629/JHA.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>79. Continue to strengthen its policy to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking, particularly by providing assistance to victims, regardless of their nationality (Cyprus)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 35 and 75.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>80. Adopt measures to identify the root causes for the exploitation of children, including through prostitution and pornography, and implement adequate mechanisms for prevention and protection (Ecuador)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The so-called Lanzarote Convention – the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, became effective in the Slovak Republic on 1 July 2016. The purpose of the Convention was to prevent and fight sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, protect the rights of child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and to promote national and international cooperation against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. One of the tasks of the updated strategic objective of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence is a review of the need for further legislative and non-legislative measures related to the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in the Slovak legal system. Due to the need to highlight the seriousness of the issue of sexual abuse, a new online campaign aimed at raising public awareness of the issue was launched in 2017. The campaign was also directed at sexual extortion and coercion by supporting the distribution of a video by the EUROPOL “Say No”. It was also in connection with the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse that the second part of the online campaign was launched in November 2017, focusing on raising awareness of the need to protect children against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, namely also in the context of using</p> |

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| | | <p>information and communication technology.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>81. Continue to fight human trafficking in all its forms paying special attention to the situation of the victims (Romania)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 74.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>82. Ensure that assistance is provided to all victims of human trafficking and that the authorities devise specific programmes aiming at the reintegration of victims of human trafficking into the labour market and education system (Iran)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Crime Victims Act introduces certain basic concepts into the legal system such as ‘crime victim’, ‘particularly vulnerable victim’, ‘repeated and secondary victimisation’, where a human trafficking victim is also understood under this Act as a particularly vulnerable victim. Particularly vulnerable victims are entitled to specialised assistance free of charge.</p> <p>See also response to recommendations No. 75 and 77.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>83. Ensure close cooperation between the police and the NGOs which provide assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings (Slovenia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Regarding the implementation of the “Programme to Support and Protect Human Trafficking Victims”, the MI SR has signed contracts on providing assistance to human trafficking victims with non-governmental organisations, the Slovak Crisis Centre DOTYK and the Slovak Catholic Charity. The National Unit for Fighting Illegal Migration at the Office of the Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the PF also cooperates with the International Organisation for Migration in Bratislava as necessary.</p> <p>As part of cooperation with the civil society (Bránit’ sa oplati Slovensko, o.z. – Defence Is Worth It Slovakia, not-for-profit organisation), it launched the prevention-outreach campaign “Everyone Can Become a Slave... Even Today!”, which has two phases. The first phase is the campaign superzárabok.sk (super earnings) – through a fictitious website, groups at risk gained</p> |

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| | | <p>information about dangers with an incentive to recognise and avoid them, or to contact the relevant authorities or organisations through the novodobrotroci.sk (modern slaves) website. The second phase is the Guardian Angels campaign, which engages people around victims at risk in prevention, and if signs of problems occur, it is the closest persons that are the first to be informed of possible complications.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>84. Improve identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings by setting up a coherent national mechanism of identification and referral of such cases (Moldova)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The procedure for identifying victims in the Slovak Republic and for their possible inclusion in the programme is set out in the National Referral Mechanism. Its main objective is to ensure respect for victims' human rights and effective availability of services to be provided to them. As its secondary effect, it may help develop national policies and procedures related to victims, such as the legislation applied to the legalisation their stay and resettlement, their compensation and provision of protection.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>85. Ensure that child victims of offences under OP-CRC-SC are provided with assistance, including social reintegration and physical and psychological recovery (Moldova)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 35, 78.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>86. That the Government of Slovakia work to raise awareness amongst vulnerable communities of the dangers of human exploitation and to ensure these communities receive adequate support (United Kingdom)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 71, 74.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |

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| <p>87. Ensure full independence of the judiciary system (Turkmenistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The MJ SR takes measures towards strengthening an independent judicial system. Changes were made by the amendment to the Act on Judges and Assistant Judges, which is effective since 1 July 2017. Its objective is a faster judiciary in Slovakia. It is connected to the change of the legal regulation regarding composition of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic. The Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic is a constitutional body of judicial legitimacy. The amendment to the Act on Judges and Assistant Judges resulted in a change regarding nominations of members of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic by the government, the parliament and the president. These should typically nominate a person who is not a judge. A balance between judges and non-judges in the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic and ensuring its apolitical nature is one of the conditions of proper functioning of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic and, ultimately, the entire judiciary.</p> <p>Other changes include new legislation introducing and specifying the process of selecting judges. The purpose of this change is to eliminate the slow process of filling vacant judges' positions. It introduced so-called collective selection processes for filling vacant judges' positions. Evaluation of the work of judges has also undergone changes. Judges will now be evaluated by professional evaluation committees composed of judges or emeritus judges. The committees will be based on the principle of regions, where one region will evaluate judges from another region. This measure avoids certain situations occurring in the past, where a colleague evaluated a colleague at the same court.</p> <p>The common goal of all of the aforementioned changes is to achieve an independent and well-functioning judiciary.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
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| <p>88. That necessary reforms to ensure proper functioning and legitimacy of the judiciary are undertaken, in a transparent and inclusive process with all stakeholders including the civil society (Norway)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 87.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>89. Take effective measures to ensure full independence of the Judicial Council, and the independence of the judiciary (Venezuela)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 87.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>90. Take measures to strengthen the full independence of its legal system and shorten the time it takes for cases to go through the courts in order to boost the population's confidence in the legal system (France)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Three procedural codes were approved in 2015, namely the Code of Civil Dispute Procedure, the Code of Civil Non-Dispute Procedure and the Code of Administrative Procedure, replacing the Code of Civil Procedure. The Codes entered into effect on 1 July 2016. The principles and provisions of the procedural rules contained in the Codes are formulated so as to accelerate court proceedings while ensuring access to justice. These include a preliminary hearing of a dispute, introduction of the principle of concentration of proceedings, restriction of reasons to adjourn proceedings, prevention of annulment of a decision of the court of first instance, the option to answer the court's questions in writing, fines for abusive or apparently unsupported claims of judicial bias, fines for barristers for unacceptable and unjustified appeals, decisions on paying the costs of proceedings, etc.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 87.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>91. Fully implement the European Commission's 2013 recommendations related to the reform of public administration and the efficiency of the judicial system (United States)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Based on an agreement signed between the Slovak Republic and the Council of Europe, the subject of which is an audit of the Slovak judiciary to be performed by CEPEJ (The European Commission for Efficiency of Justice) as part of the "Efficiency and Quality of the Slovak Judicial System" project, an analysis of the Slovak</p> |

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| | | <p>judiciary has been underway since April 2017. The subject of the agreement then includes proposals for addressing identified shortcomings, assistance in developing an analytical centre to be set up at the MJ SR and introduction of court management at selected courts. Using objective criteria, the cooperation project with CEPEJ should arrive at a “diagnosis” of the Slovak judiciary and help address shortcomings in an effective way. The outcome should be an efficiently functioning judicial system that will better serve its citizens.</p> <p>The new Act on the Civil Service entered into force on 10 March 2017, which represents a legislative reform of state employment relationships.</p> <p>Since January 2014, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic has been implementing a national project in the field of human resource management, focused on building analytical capacities. The aim of the project is to gain knowledge and experience at the international level, thereby improving the quality of human resources in state administration.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>92. Investigate and prosecute all perpetrators of violence and hate crimes against Roma (Azerbaijan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities set up cooperation with the section for control and inspection of the MI SR, whose organisational structure includes the office of the inspection service, based on the requirement of permanent cooperation in all cases: cases of excessive use of force or other acts, defined by the international and European legal frameworks, including the exercise of the right of the aggrieved, i.e. legal successors of deceased persons in criminal proceedings, or legal representatives of minors, cases of violence against the Roma on grounds of their ethnicity, undue (illegal and</p> |

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| | | <p>illegitimate) restriction of fundamental rights and freedoms, cases of bad treatment of the Roma, hate crimes committed by members of the PF, actions giving rise to suspicions of discrimination in law enforcement, and cases of inconsistent law enforcement.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>93. Ensure appropriate investigation of all acts of violence committed for racial motives and punish those responsible for them (Uzbekistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 48.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>94. Take all necessary measures to prevent illegal treatment by law enforcement bodies, ensure impartial investigation of all reports of torture and ill-treatment in order to bring the offenders to justice (Uzbekistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In accordance with the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the 2016-2020 period, the MS SR, the MI SR and the General Prosecution of the Slovak Republic, as part of the approved Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2017, were assigned the task (June 2017) of preparing a proposal of legislation to amend and supplement the Act on Public Prosecution as amended, amending and supplementing certain acts. The aim of the proposed law is institutional strengthening of the independence of mechanisms for controlling the activities of armed units, and the creation of conditions for establishing a section at the General Prosecution to oversee prosecution of crimes committed by members of armed units. The MJ SR requested that the deadline for completing this task be postponed until June 2018. The completion of this task is therefore expected to result in changes that reinforce impartiality in investigating cases of excessive use of force by members of armed units.</p> <p>The Slovak Republic is regularly visited by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which focus on examining the treatment of imprisoned persons with the aim to strengthen their protection</p> |

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| | | <p>against torture or degrading treatment or punishment.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>95. Investigate and prosecute all perpetrators of violence and hate crimes against Roma and amend the Criminal Code so as to introduce and adopt stronger punishments for racially motivated crimes committed by police officers (Iran)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 48 and 94.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>96. Conduct immediate and impartial investigation of all reports on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, bring those found guilty to justice and provide compensation to victims (Belarus)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The outcome of another coordinated plan was an order issued by the President of the PF SR in 2015 stipulating that “video and audio recording devices must be used during all police interventions under single command and during all planned security operations involving more than 15 police officers”. This order issued by the President of the PF therefore extended the obligation of members of the PF to produce video and audio recordings not only during search operations referred to as “100”, but also during security operations and service interventions under single command. As part of further cooperation, the MI SR issued a regulation 2015 requiring the use of audiovisual technology to document deployments of public order units, particularly in cases of anti-social behaviour and unlawful action, and to document orders, instructions and calls by a commander, as well as the activities of public order unit during and after the end of a service intervention or other service activity.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation No. 47.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>97. Make sure that all victims of discrimination have access</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The MLSAF SR cooperated with the MJ SR to create the “Action Plan for Preventing all Forms of Discrimination”. The aim of the</p> |

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| <p>to effective remedies and the means to obtain them (Belgium)</p> | | <p>action plan is to preserve the practice from the previous period, which focused on raising public awareness of non-discrimination and on efforts to improve the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation in practice. In addition, another aim is to improve the institutional framework for the fight against discrimination and to raise awareness among experts and the public, and primarily among public administration authorities. The action plan places a great deal of emphasis on education, financed from the “Human Resources and Effective Public Administration” OP.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>98. Ensure effective legal protection for victims of discrimination (Pakistan)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 14 and 55.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>99. Consider establishing an independent body with the right to undertake unannounced visits to all places of deprivation of liberty, including police stations and pretrial detention facilities, with a view to an early ratification of OP-CAT (Czech Republic)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 1.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>100. Continue to take all necessary steps to combat corruption, ensure judicial independence and promote a fair and transparent legal system for all Slovak citizens (Australia)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The MJ SR prepared the Act on the Creation of Legal Regulations and on the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic, which established a system of public participation in the creation of new legislation. Therefore, every legal regulation also features an evaluation of this process (a report on public participation in the creation of new legislation).</p> <p>The Act on Free Access to Information offers Slovak citizens an opportunity to check and access information from entities which are obliged to provide it to the extent specified by the Act. It also provides for compulsory disclosure of contracts, which are published in the Central Register of Contracts maintained by the OG</p> |

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| | | <p>SR in an electronic form.</p> <p>The introduction of collective selection procedures for judge’s positions opened the whole selection process for judges to the general public, providing an opportunity for the public to check and access information about candidates for the posts and contributing to greater public confidence in courts and in the independence of the judiciary.</p> <p>The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Action Plan for the Open Government Initiative for the 2017-2019 period. Its “Open Justice” section assigned tasks to the MJ SR. The MJ SR gradually implements the assigned tasks. The adopted measures include changes to the method for evaluating judges, designating an authority for oversight of disciplinary action against judges, and changes to the selection process for judges to ensure maximum public oversight, as well as independence and impartiality of the process.</p> <p>All these measures lead to a fair and transparent system for all citizens and contribute to greater transparency and public confidence in the system.</p> <p>The section for the prevention of corruption at the Office of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic was established in 2017. The section is preparing a proposal of the Act on Protection of Persons Reporting Anti-Social Activities, intended to strengthen these persons’ status and protection. It contains provisions on establishing a separate office acting as an independent government authority body with a nationwide reach. It is also preparing a methodology to analyse the corruption risks with the focus on public administration.</p> |
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| | | <p>There is also ongoing cooperation with international organisations, especially with OECD, focusing on strengthening integrity in public administration and on improving the effectiveness of corruption prevention and of the fight against it.</p> <p>Training is carried out focusing on strengthening corruption prevention and on raising anti-corruption awareness.</p> <p>The National Anti-Corruption Unit of the National Criminal Agency of the Presidium of the PF SR performs important tasks at the section for detection and investigation of corruption crimes, as defined in title eight of a specific part of the CL, which present a threat to the stability of the rule of law and proper functioning of democratic institutions, leaving a negative and unacceptable mark on the economy and social and economic progress.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>101. Sustain and promote the family, based on the stable relationship between a man and a woman, as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Holy See)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Constitutional Act no. 161/2014 Coll., effective from 1 September 2014, strengthened the status of marriage between a man and a woman. It added the definition of marriage as “<i>a unique union between a man and a woman</i>” to the text of the constitution. Along with this definition, it added the Slovak Republic’s commitment to the statement that marriage comprehensively protects it and serves its best interest.</p> <p>However, it is important to point out that under the applicable and effective Act on the Family, and under provision No. 41 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, marriage, parenthood and family are protected by law. Article 2 of the Act on the Family explicitly states that “<i>the society comprehensively protects all forms of family</i>”.</p> |

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| <p>102. Continue to strengthen efforts to eliminate discrimination in employment and occupation faced particularly by women and Roma persons, pursuant to the recommendations of ILO supervisory bodies (United States)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> <p>Mitigation of multiple discrimination of the Roma is among the objectives of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma until 2020 and its updated and new action plans. Reduction of differences in employment rates between the Roma and the national average is to be achieved by linking professional training and education with the labour market, by promoting a non-discriminative approach and by applying temporary countervailing measures in actual practice. During the 2016-2017 period, the measures were implemented using a wide range of measures at the section for education by looking for new ways of supporting youth employment, by means of programmes supporting entry onto the labour market, re-training, and by creating conditions for disadvantaged job candidates to enter the labour market through social economy entities.</p> <p>A citizen has the right to unrestricted access to employment in line with the principle of equal treatment in employment relationships and in similar legal relationships, as it is established by the Anti-Discrimination Act. In line with the principle of equal treatment, discrimination on the grounds of marital or family status, colour, language, political or other opinion, engagement in trade unions, national or social origin, disability, age, wealth, gender or other status is prohibited.</p> <p>Another important instrument to increase employment and income levels for women was the national project “Family and Work” focused on balancing family and work life and on work opportunities for mothers with small children.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>103.</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In the Slovak Republic, support of youth employment is delivered</p> |

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| <p>Implement measures that guarantee the right to work to its citizens, in particular to youth under the age of 25 and women (Cuba)</p> | | <p>in accordance with the 22 April 2013 Recommendation of the EU Council on introducing the Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01) and in accordance with the Communication from the European Commission of 19 June 2013 (Working Together with Young People – a Call to Action on Youth Unemployment). This EU Council recommendation was followed by the creation of the National Action Plan for Implementing the Youth Guarantee in the Slovak Republic, which the Government of the Slovak Republic negotiated and took note of at its meeting on 5 February 2014. The introduction of the Youth Guarantee is also included in the National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic 2014, approved by Resolution No. 195 of the Government of the Slovak Republic from 23 April 2014. The Youth Guarantee introduces measures in two main areas: early intervention and activation and support measures for integration into the labour market.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>104. Bridge the wage gap between men and women (Libya)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In accordance with Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Implementation of the Principle of Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Matters of Employment and Occupation, and in accordance with the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, men and women have the right, under §119a of the Labour Code, to equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value. A detailed analysis of gender differences in terms of income is produced in the Slovak Republic every year on the basis of data on average incomes earned by men and women in equivalent job positions at the same employer. Although the results of these analyses between 2005 and 2015 show persisting gender inequalities in terms of income, they also reveal a positive trend showing their continuous reduction. The MLSAF SR continuously</p> |

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| | | <p>adopts measures to reduce the salary gap between men and women. One of the most significant ones is an outreach campaign highlighting the ever-shrinking salaries paid to women, in addition to offering advice on the www.kedvyrastiem.sk (when I grow up) website on how to protect against discrimination on the labour market. Another significant measure to reduce the gender pay gap is a gradual minimum wage increase, as women find themselves in low-income jobs more often than men.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>105. Better ensure the effective enforcement of laws against sexual harassment and adopt additional preventive and protective measures to combat sexual violence in the workplace (Netherlands)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The amendment to the Anti-Discrimination Act contained in Act No. 85/2008 Coll. increased the protection of persons against harassment by including explicit prohibition of sexual harassment.</p> <p>The Code of Civil Dispute Procedure defined anti-discrimination disputes as a separate type of court proceedings that, compared with general court proceedings, are governed by different rules strengthening the status of the applicant (e.g. reverse burden of proof).</p> <p>If an employee affected by this suspects that his employer's or other employee's actions constitute a criminal offence, he has the right to notify the relevant law enforcement authorities.</p> <p>In the legal system of the Slovak Republic, the terms 'discrimination' and 'harassment' are defined in the Anti-Discrimination Act. Under the Labour Code, the exercise of rights and obligations arising from employment relationships must observe accepted principles of morality. No one can abuse these rights and obligations at the expense of the other party to an employment relationship or at the expense of fellow employees. The MLSAF SR is preparing a nationwide survey of the occurrence of</p> |

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| | | <p>sexual harassment at workplaces. Labour directorates monitor discrimination on the labour market and review cases of possible discrimination. Preparation of the Methodology for Labour Inspectorates to ensure effective monitoring of cases of discrimination is underway. The adoption of the methodology will be followed by training for the relevant professions.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>106. Take measures to guarantee access to safe drinking water for all its population (Chile)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In order to streamline the pooling of financial resources from the national budget for supporting social and cultural needs and solutions for Roma communities living in extremely unfavourable conditions, an amendment was adopted in 2017 to the Act on Granting Subsidies within the competence of the MI SR aimed at fast tracked provision of subsidies to support the supply of electricity, heating, fuel or water for human consumption in situations threatening human life or health, particularly in situations with adverse environmental or weather conditions.</p> <p>In December 2016, the MI SR, in cooperation with the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities, announced a call for projects to receive a non-repayable financial contribution entitled Support of Access to Drinking Water in Separated and Segregated MRC through Water Supply Networks, Wells and Surface Water Treatment Plants. The call was announced within priority axis 6, Technical Facilities in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities with an indicative amount of allocated EU funds of EUR 16,000,000 and co-financed from the national budget with a sum of EUR 1,882,352.94 for eligible applicants, i.e. municipalities with marginalised Roma communities. The upcoming call by the MI SR within the HR OP focusing on completing the basic technical infrastructure of urban Roma settlements, as well as another call</p> |

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| | | <p>focusing on Improved Forms of Housing for Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities with Elements of Transitional Housing are further instruments for implementing measures for ensuring access to drinking water.</p> <p>The Quality of Environment OP includes support for restoring key water treatment plants and for bolstering their capacity. The support from the Environmental Fund leads to gradual additional construction of water supply networks in the whole country, with further support provided for addressing local problems with the quality of supplied water.</p> <p>The Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic for the 2014-2020 period also supports the construction, restoration, modernisation and completion of water supply networks along with well deepening in villages.</p> <p>In 2017, the aim to streamline the pooling of financial resources from the national budget for supporting social and cultural needs and solutions for Roma communities living in extremely unfavourable conditions was also a reason for adopting an amendment to the Act on Granting Subsidies within the competence of the MI SR aimed at fast tracked provision of subsidies to support the supply of electricity, heating, fuel or water for human consumption in situations threatening human life or health, particularly in situations with adverse environmental or weather conditions.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>107. Increase inputs to help to improve the living standards</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Supporting incomes, access to employment, education and integration into the labour market, access to public services and</p> |

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| <p>of people living in poverty and create more job opportunities for women, youth and other special groups (China)</p> | | <p>development of human capital, in the case of individuals and socially excluded groups or groups at risk of social exclusion on the one hand, and in the case of policy-makers and service providers on the other, are considered to be the key measures used by the Slovak Republic to ensure sustainable reduction in poverty and elimination of social exclusion. The Government of the Slovak Republic has for a long time strived to protect and ensure decent working conditions meeting European standards. In order to protect decent work conditions, it has for a long time pursued an adequate minimum wage increase, which helps increase living standards, contributes to the fight against poverty and helps raise overall salary rates within the national economy. The problem of addressing long-term unemployment is the focus of the Action Plan for Strengthening the Integration of the Long-Term Unemployed into the Labour Market in the Slovak Republic, approved by a resolution of the Monitoring Committee for HR OP for the 2014-2020 programming period of 25 November 2016.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 39, 54, 102.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>108. Adopt a comprehensive programme on sexual health and reproductive rights based on human rights and WHO standards and allocate sufficient financial and human resources for their implementation (Belgium)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Government of the Slovak Republic assigned to the Minister of Health the task of preparing the “National Programme on Care for Women, Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health”. There are also ongoing discussions among interested parties on various aspects of these problems, as agreement on how to address them has not been reached. It is also for this reason that the Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic requested that the submission of the programme for approval be postponed until October 2019.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |

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| <p>109. Increase access to contraceptive methods for all women as required by CESCR (Belgium)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>According to the data from the database of registered medicines at the State Institute for Drug Control, there are currently 387 types of hormonal contraceptives and 13 types of topical contraceptives registered in the Slovak Republic that healthcare providers can prescribe to women. Contraceptives and other contraception methods are available in the Slovak Republic. Provided that their use is medically justified, their cost may be covered by a healthcare insurer from public health insurance.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>110. Continue to safeguard the choice of health-care workers to have recourse to the principle of conscientious objection (Holy See)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic fully respects conscientious objection of healthcare practitioners to performing an abortion, sterilisation and treatment related to assisted reproduction.</p> <p>A healthcare professional's conscientious objection in providing healthcare is laid down in the Act on the Provision of Healthcare Services and Act on the Healthcare Providers, Health Workers and Professional Organisations in the Health Service. The right of a healthcare professional to apply a conscientious objection is explicitly provided for in the Code of Ethics for Healthcare Professionals, which forms an annex to the Act on Healthcare Providers, Health Workers and Professional Organisations in the Health Service.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>111. Maintain the protection of the right to life from conception to natural death following article 15 of the Slovak constitution that states: "Human life is worthy of protection even prior to birth" (Holy See)</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic partially accepted the recommendation in line with a ruling by the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic PL CC 12/01.</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic fully assists in the exercise of the right to life, as it is enshrined in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the binding international human rights documents it signed and ratified, and in national legislation.</p> <p>In its ruling, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic arrived at the conclusion that the legally permitted choice a woman makes</p> |

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| | | <p>to request termination of pregnancy up to 12 weeks of gestation does not, under the conditions provided for by the law, contradict the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, which provides in Article 15 (1) that human life is the key value of the rule of law. It follows from Article 15 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic that the constitution maker distinguishes between the right of every person to life (first sentence) and protection of an unborn human life (second sentence). This distinction suggests a difference between the right to life as a personal, subjective entitlement and protection of an unborn human life as an objective value. The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic is of the opinion that an unborn human life has the character of an objective value.</p> <p>The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic also emphasised that the right to privacy and protection of private life in connection with the principle of freedom and the fundamental right to human dignity guarantee an individual the possibility of autonomous self-identification. This framework also includes and protects (constitutionally) the choice of a woman concerning her own mental and physical integrity, including her decision on whether she will conceive and on how her pregnancy will develop. By becoming pregnant (whether the pregnancy is planned, unplanned, voluntary or due to violence), a woman does not forego her right to self-identification.</p> <p>In the given ruling, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic arrived at the conclusion that the value of an unborn human life can only be protected insofar as such protection does not interfere with the woman's freedom and her right to privacy.</p> |
| <p>112. Ensure women's access to quality sexual education as well as to condoms and other means necessary for the</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Sexual education is a cross-cutting subject built into the study programmes of all full-time and part-time healthcare education students, which equips students with professional competence to</p> |

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| <p>practice of an informed and responsible sexual health (Mexico)</p> | | <p>perform professional work activities in accordance with Government Regulation No. 296/2012 Coll. on Vocational Qualifications for the Performance of Healthcare Professions, the Method of Continuing Education for Healthcare Professionals, the System of Specialisations and the System of Certified Work Activities. Condoms are freely available for sale at retail outlets.</p> <p>Education in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights is provided within selected minimum standards for continuing education of healthcare professionals. Topics focused on sexual and reproductive health are part of the content of minimum standard theoretical knowledge in the relevant specialised study programmes and certification preparation designed for healthcare professionals involved in the provision of healthcare related to the human reproductive system. Healthcare professionals qualified as doctors (specialisation in gynaecology and obstetrics, specialisation in urology and specialisation in reproductive medicine), healthcare professionals qualified as midwives (specialization in midwifery and care for women in families and communities and certified work in planned parenthood and contraception).</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>113. Adopt a comprehensive programme on sexual and reproductive health and rights, based on international human rights and WHO standards, and involve non-governmental organizations working on women's rights and on reproductive rights in the preparation and implementation of this programe (Netherlands)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendation No. 108.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>114. Continue pursuing appropriate and efficient policies aimed at further improving access to education for</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>An allowance for dependent children during compulsory education (EUR 17.20 a month) was introduced within the system of benefits in material need as part of the Act on the Benefit in Material Need</p> |

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| <p>socially disadvantaged children and consider, if necessary, the adoption of additional measures (Czech Republic)</p> | | <p>and on Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts, effective from 1 January 2014, in order to support child upbringing, education and development during compulsory education.</p> <p>Also, to improve access of socially disadvantaged children to education, subsidies are provided in accordance with the Act on Subsidies within the authority of the MLSAF SR to support upbringing that develops responsible attitudes to schoolwork in children at risk of social exclusion, along with subsidies to support upbringing that develops healthy eating habits in children at risk of social exclusion. In accordance with the current applicable legislation, these two subsidies are provided to children attending kindergartens and primary schools and who are from families receiving benefits in material need or from families whose income does not exceed the subsistence minimum.</p> <p>In 2017, the allowance for a pupil from a socially disadvantaged background amounted to EUR 260, and before the legislative changes, the amount of the allowance came to EUR 109 in 2016, EUR 106 in 2015 and EUR 102.50 in 2014. Total amount of the allowance in 2017 was EUR 7,343,141.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 13 and 26.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>115. Continue efforts to develop the capacities of the institutions that deal with disabled persons (Oman)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>An important step in Slovak Republic's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015 was the adoption of the act establishing the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in Slovakia.</p> <p>The Matej Hrebenda Slovak Library for the Blind in Levoča, whose</p> |

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| | | <p>main activity is promotion of the culture of the visually impaired and of persons with other disabilities, plays a special role in the field of cultural rights of people with disabilities. The library's services are available around the whole country through its 30 branches and through the internet.</p> <p>The Theatre Institute also contributes to multicultural environment and cultural diversity, whose special team provides opportunities to present productions with direct involvement of persons with disabilities. BIBIANA is a cultural institution with a special approach to various topics, with activities that offer visiting children an opportunity to explore its values, which it achieves through the use of literature, visual art, theatre, music, etc. Project authors also accommodate the needs of children with disabilities, so that children can take part in them together and have the same opportunities for entertainment and creativity. Topics are presented in an accessible way allowing children to hold the exhibits in their hands and perceive not just visually, but also through other senses.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (MH SR) supported, through its participation, a conference which featured a panel discussion entitled: "How can we improve doctors' attitudes towards people with disabilities?" Central topic of the conference was the search for a systemic solution improving doctors' attitudes towards people with disabilities.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>116. Improve legislation in the area of the protection of the rights of the national minorities (Russian Federation)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The subsidy programme of the MC SR "Culture of Disadvantaged Population Groups" is an efficient instrument for fulfilling tasks in the field of promoting social inclusion of marginalised groups. The programme is focused on protecting the cultural rights of persons with disabilities, the elderly, MRC, vulnerable groups of children</p> |

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| | | <p>and youth, women, homeless people, migrants, minorities, etc., giving them public exposure and a chance to present their characteristic culture, as well as on preventing discrimination and all forms of violence.</p> <p>The system of specialised museums within the Slovak National Museum is an important and sustainable instrument of protecting the cultural rights of minorities. These are specialised collection-building centres focused on the history and culture of the national minorities living in Slovakia: (Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia in Martin, Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava, Museum of Carpathian German Culture in Bratislava, Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava, Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia in Martin, Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov, Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník, Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava). These museums are specialised documentation, science and research and methodology centres which systematically search, acquire, preserve and professionally process material and immaterial records of the history, culture and traditions of the respective ethnic groups in modern Slovakia, presenting the results of their activities in the form of publications, educational and training activities, exhibitions and cultural events, whose aim is to present to the public their rich cultural heritage.</p> <p>The sub-programme for interethnic and intercultural dialogue and understanding between the national majority and national minorities and ethnic groups was used to support mutual understanding and closer relationships among national minority groups, between the national majority and minorities, as well as among national minorities themselves. Multicultural projects lead to the elimination of racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination.</p> |
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| | | See response to recommendations No. 40 and 50. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 117. Continue improving the protection of national minorities in Slovakia, such as through institutional and legislative developments (Montenegro) | Accepted | See response to recommendations No. 40, 50, 116. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 118. Support the preservation and development of the cultures of national minorities (Sri Lanka) | Accepted | See response to recommendations No. 41 and 116. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 119. Adopt positive policies to include representatives of minorities at various levels in national and local government (Uruguay) | Accepted | As for integration of representatives of minorities at the national level, the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has been established as an expert body of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights and Gender Equality for matters regarding national minorities and ethnic groups and their members. Among other things, it acts as a consulting body for matters related to the participation of national minorities and ethnic groups in the conduct of affairs related to national minorities and ethnic groups under Article 34, paragraph 2c, of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. 13 national minorities are represented in the Committee (Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Czech, Ukrainian, German, Polish, Moravian, Russian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Jewish and Serbian). <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 120. In line with the suggestions of the Council of Europe, improve efforts to provide adequate opportunities for children belonging to minorities to learn their mother tongue and to study in their mother tongue in schools (Hungary) | Accepted | The OPGSRNM promotes elements of informal education within the individual sub-programmes of the Culture of National Minorities Subsidy Programme. For example, in 2017, the programme supported research in mother tongue teaching, thematic events for primary and secondary schools students focused on improving the standard of using the language of the Hungarian national minority, the organisation of a symposium in the field of |

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| | | sociolinguistics, mother tongue methodology and translatology focused on language education in a national minority language. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 121. Fully implement its National Roma Integration Strategy to combat socioeconomic marginalization and discrimination and continue to condemn all acts of violence against Roma persons (United States), Continue to implement the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 (Angola), Reinforce the provisions of the Strategy for the Integration of Roma (Chile), Take all necessary measures to implement the National Roma Integration Strategy. This includes the provision of financial means regarding the efficient implementation of this Strategy (Austria) | Accepted | See response to recommendation No. 13, 26, 28, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 54 and 57. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 122. Strengthen its obligations under the Strategy for Roma Integration with a view to effectively combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other interrelated forms of intolerance (Cuba) | Accepted | See response to recommendation No. 42, 45 and 69. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 123. Continue with activities towards implementing the revised National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion for 2011-2015 and the adopted Strategy for the Integration of Roma up to 2020 (Montenegro) | Accepted | See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 36, 37, 39, 43, 45, 54, 57 and 121. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 124. Assess the implementation of the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 annually and keep Roma NGOs, including women's and children's organizations, | Accepted | The national project “Monitoring and Evaluation of Inclusive Policies and Their Impact on Marginalised Roma Communities” focuses on a comprehensive system of monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies. Starting from 2017, based on Resolution No. 87 |

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| <p>actively involved in the implementation and assessment of the strategy (Finland)</p> | | <p>of the Government of the Slovak Republic of 22 February 2017, annual monitoring reports on the strategy will be presented in May in the following year. The last monitoring report was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2017 for 2016. As part of the national project “Monitoring and Evaluation”, the Slovak Republic follows other EU member states in preparing a new monitoring and evaluation system, including further specification of indicators. The evaluation of the strategy is planned to take place by 30 June 2019 and by 30 June 2021. The system includes plans for comprehensive engagement of non-governmental organizations in the evaluation process.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>125. Promote a more effective policy aimed at integrating Roma on issues related to education, employment, housing and health, that will produce positive results (Venezuela)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 36, 37, 39, 45, 54, 57 and 121.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>126. Focus on education as the most important part of a long term sustainable solution for the Roma population and have patience and perseverance with this work. Roma children must be given the same opportunities and not put in schools aimed at mentally challenged students (Sweden)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In 2017, the SSI carried out a whole system of state school inspections, publishing their results in, for example, the report on the state of creating conditions for ensuring inclusive education for students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds at primary schools in the academic year 2016-2017 in the Slovak Republic, then in the report on the state and level of school integration at primary schools in the Slovak Republic in the academic year 2016-2017, and in the report on the state of removing shortcomings found during inspections at schools and school facilities in the academic year 2016-2017 in the Slovak Republic (at special schools), and in other reports.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 12, 13, 26, 28 and 39.</p> |

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| | | <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 127. Strengthen efforts to include Roma children in mainstream education (Sri Lanka) | Accepted | See response to recommendation No. 13, 26, 28, 39 and 126. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 128. Introduce a clear duty on all schools to desegregate education and end discrimination against Romani children (Israel) | Accepted | The procedure is in line with the conclusions of the EU Council of 8 December 2016 adopted during the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the EU at a meeting in Bratislava entitled “Accelerating the Process of Roma Integration”. These conclusions were also incorporated into the framework of cooperation with the MESRS SR and the SSI in 2017. See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28 and 126. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 129. That further steps are taken in order to review existing policies and practices that lead to segregation of Roma children in schools (Portugal) Adopt a concrete plan and measures leading to the abolition of segregated settings and achievement of better education outcomes for children from Romani communities (Austria) | Accepted | With the introduction of an amendment to the Schools Act, the state’s control mechanism for upbringing-related counselling and prevention has become stricter. Subsequently, in the academic year 2015-2016, the SSI carried out 12 thematic inspections to examine the standard of professional services at school facilities providing upbringing-related counselling and prevention services. The MESRS SR provides important support in this field through the European Social Fund on the basis of HR OP, which is focused on supporting education, employment, social inclusion and vulnerable groups on the labour market. The national project called “School Open to All” was launched within the HR OP Education priority axis on 1 February 2016, with planned duration of 46 months and EUR 29,877,073.16 of funds to be allocated. The primary aim of the project is to ensure equal access to quality education and to improve the results and competencies of kindergarten children and primary school pupils by supporting inclusive education and by enhancing professional competencies of the PF and AF. The creation of local desegregation plans at 130 primary schools is an important part of |

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| | | <p>the project. Further, on 30 December 2016, as part of the Education priority axis within the HR OP, a demand-focused call was announced for applications for a non-repayable financial contribution called “More Success at Primary School”, with EUR 50 million available for allocation. The call is aimed at supporting inclusion at primary schools through the work of teaching assistants, pedagogical staff and inclusion teams (consisting of a school psychologist, special education teacher, and social teacher).</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 126 and 128.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>130. Take measures that ensure that children of ethnic minorities can remain within the school system. In this regard, it is suggested that these measures are implemented at the level of local governments with an important number of Roma or Hungarian population residing there and that adequate follow-up of the progress is carried out in this regard (Uruguay)</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic did not accept the recommendation due to the fact that the Slovak Republic already has a legal and institutional system for providing compulsory school education, including instruments for its enforcement in the interest of the child.</p> | |
| <p>131. Adopt and implement a sound legal framework and appropriate policies to address the issue of discriminatory practices against Roma in the education system, utilizing the definition of segregation provided by the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and of the regional court in Presov, including</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 126 and 128.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |

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| <p>measures to ensure that the courts definition of ethnic segregation in education is disseminated and promoted to the relevant stakeholders (Ireland)</p> | | |
| <p>132. Further increase its efforts to end the segregation of Roma children in schools by tasking an appropriate authority with the clear responsibility of identifying segregation and giving schools binding guidelines to end segregating practices (Finland)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In September 2017, the MESRS SR held, in cooperation with the European Commission’s ET2020 working group on the Promotion of Citizenship and Shared Values of Freedom, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Education, a work meeting called Peer Learning Activities on the Topic of “Identification of Challenges and Ways of Preventing Discrimination and Segregation in Education”. Participants from EU countries came together to explore, exchange knowledge and experience and search for solutions to residential segregation, among other issues, with an emphasis on equal access to quality education, social inclusion and the fight against discrimination in education.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 126 and 128.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>133. Establish a task force of relevant ministries and civil society organizations to develop a plan to desegregate Roma education and to ensure the necessary resources are available to begin implementation (Canada)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The problems of desegregation of the Roma in education was at the core of the activities of the Advisory Commission of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities in preparing the revised and updated Strategy for the Integration of Roma until 2020 and in creating and implementing its action plans, monitoring and evaluation, and is therefore the focus of the Commission’s continuous attention. It is also at the core of the cooperation between the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities and the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>134. That appropriate steps are taken to ensure inclusive</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 126, 128 and 133.</p> |

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| <p>education in Slovak schools and to desegregate students that have been placed in special classes or special schools on other grounds than mental disability (Norway)</p> | | <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>135. Intensify efforts to increase the rate of registration and participation in the educational system of Roma children (Albania)</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic did not accept the recommendation concerning participation of Roma children in the education system. The legal system of compulsory school education provides further instruments for enrolling children, including criminal and legal sanctions for failure to observe it. Compulsory school education is stipulated by law. The national legal system contains provisions which link eligibility for benefits with observance of compulsory school education.</p> | |
| <p>136. Adopt a national strategy and plan of action to ensure access to adequate and acceptable education for Roma children (Uzbekistan)</p> | <p>The Slovak Republic has partially accepted the recommendation. The Slovak Republic</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 126, 128 and 133.</p> |

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| | <p>adopted and implements the Strategy for the Integration of Roma until 2020 and the Revised National Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 for the 2011-2015 period. Education is an integral part of both strategic documents.</p> | |
| <p>137. Pay particular attention to the provision of adequate basic services to the Roma population, such as drinking water, sanitation, electricity and systems of sewage and waste disposal (Spain)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In 2017, the aim to streamline the pooling of financial resources from the national budget for supporting social and cultural needs and solutions for Roma communities living in extremely unfavourable conditions was also a reason for adopting an amendment to the Act on Granting Subsidies within the competence of the MI SR aimed at fast tracked provision of subsidies to support the supply of electricity, heating, fuel or water for human consumption in situations threatening human life or health, particularly in situations with adverse environmental or weather conditions.</p> <p>As part of the programming process for the 2014-2020 period, the HR OP supports specific measures for improving access to drinking and non-potable water for municipalities with marginalised Roma communities. 16 million EUR was allocated for the “Support of Access to Drinking Water in Marginalised Roma Communities through Water Supply Networks, Wells and Surface Water Treatment Plants” activities.</p> |

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| | | <p>The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic does not provide its support for building public water supply networks and public sewage systems based on an ethnic principle, but rather in accordance with the Slovak Republic’s commitments in this field.</p> <p>The Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic for the 2014-2020 period also supports the construction, restoration and completion of sewage systems and water supply networks along with well deepening in villages.</p> <p>In the context of the Slovak Republic, social housing, in accordance with the Act on Subsidies For Development of Housing and for Social Housing, as amended by Act no. 134/2013 Coll., is understood as housing financed from public funding that provides decent living conditions for physical persons who can not afford their own. Implementation by means of the priorities and objectives of the housing policy stated in the national document entitled the “Concept for a State Housing Policy until 2020”.</p> <p>See also response to recommendations No. 13, 54 and 106.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>138. Ensure that housing policies are motivated by the integration of Roma and other marginalized and vulnerable groups and that they avoid all forms of exclusion or forced segregation (Mexico)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28 and 137.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>139. Put an end to forced evictions and demolition of Roma settlements without previous notice and, if such cases take place, offer alternative housing solutions (Spain)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The field of addressing the need for alternative housing is fully within the competence of local authorities.</p> <p>The State Construction Administration has no knowledge of any construction project proposals that would directly threaten the</p> |

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| | | <p>homes of members of marginalised communities or members of Roma communities in particular, or put them at direct risk of losing their homes. No applicable legislation of the SR makes it possible to allow a construction the primary purpose of which is the segregation of a certain group of citizens.</p> <p>The amendments introduced in 2017 to the Act on Subsidies For Development of Housing and on Social Housing and to the Act on the State Fund for Housing Development created a legal instrument for investment to build new flats provided by the State Fund for Housing Development worth up to 100% of the their procurement price, in addition to raising price limits. The scope of investment provided by the State Fund for Housing Development has been extended to include acquisition of land for construction of rental housing. The amendments also introduce the term “start-up flat” in the common standard category of flats.</p> <p>The OPGSRRC continues to cooperate with the relevant branches of the construction office, local government authorities with powers at the section of construction planning proceedings, and with the Slovak Construction Inspectorate with positive results.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28 and 138.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>140. Make sure to strike a balance between the need to give Roma a chance to own their own land and the risk of cemented segregation that might bring. Giving the Roma the chance to buy out the now, sometimes illegal, lands of settlements would create better possibilities also to claim the need for sanitation and municipal</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Act No. 153/2017 Coll. amended the Act on Land Conversion, Settlement of Land Ownership, Land Register Offices, the Slovak Land Fund and Land Communities, which makes it possible to address the problems associated with the need to settle ownership and types of use of land under settlements inhabited by marginalised population groups by means of land conversions. If land conversions are successfully completed, land under settlements will</p> |

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| <p>services (Sweden)</p> | | <p>be acquired by municipalities, which can later sell it to the Roma.</p> <p>MTC SR, in accordance with the Act on Providing Subsidies for Preparing Territorial Planning Documentation, provides subsidies based on municipalities' requests. Applications for subsidies submitted by municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities according to the "Atlas of Roma Communities in Slovakia" are given a priority. The objective of the subsidies is to legalise the settlements of members of marginalised Roma and contribute to the development of relevant infrastructure in such settlements.</p> <p>A subsidy of EUR 24,503,140 was provided in 2016, supporting the procurement of 1,350 rental housing flats designed to serve as social housing. It also allowed the procurement of technical equipment for 794 rental housing flats, with investment reaching EUR 1,149,050.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 13 and 26.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>141. Stop the land segregation that has fomented the building of walls and barriers in areas such as Presov, Michalovce, Partizanske or Trebisov (Spain)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>No applicable legislation of the SR makes it possible to allow a construction the primary purpose of which is the segregation of a certain group of citizens. So called "anti-Roma" walls or fences were not approved by government authorities (the construction office) as segregation walls. If it is shown after the completion of a construction that its existence demonstrably precludes a population group from exercising its legal rights and freedoms, thereby segregating such a population group, the Slovak legal system allows the affected population group to protect itself by reporting the case to the prosecution or by filing a complaint at a civil court. The affected population group can therefore obtain a court decision</p> |

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| | | ordering the removal of such a segregative construction. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 142. Take steps to facilitate access to education, health and housing for the Roma community (India) | Accepted | The MH SR continues to fulfil the objectives of the “Healthy Community” project (funds of 12 million EUR to be allocated by 2019) focused, among other things, on improving access to healthcare. See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 39, 54 and 138. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 143. Take further measures for the sustainable development of the Roma community with a focus on their integration into mainstream society (India) | Accepted | See response to recommendations No. 13, 28, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 126 and 128. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 144. Step up its efforts in order to improve the participation of the Roma minority in parliament, having in view the fact that one Roma candidate was elected in the parliamentary elections in 2012 (Macedonia FYR). | The Slovak Republic did not accept the recommendation due to the fact that it follows from the constitution that the formation of the legislature is based on the principle of citizenship rather than nationality. | The Act on Conditions for Exercising the Right to Vote and on Amendment and Supplementation of certain Acts as amended, which became effective on 1 July 2015, allows every person who meets the conditions of the right to be elected to stand as a candidate in parliamentary elections regardless of nationality. However, election as member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic requires winning a sufficient number of votes. <i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i> |
| 145. Put in place mechanisms to identify at an early stage children among refugees and asylum seekers who might have been involved in armed conflict in order to ensure their protection, recovery and reintegration (Bulgaria) | Accepted | In this case, the Slovak Republic proceeds in accordance with the applicable EU legislation. It is also possible to identify asylum-seeking minors who were involved in armed conflict when assessing a minor’s vulnerability in |

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| | | <p>accordance with the Act on Asylum.</p> <p>If an asylum seeker is identified as a minor who was involved in armed conflict, members of staff at the Migration Office of the MI SR are professionally trained to work with such a group of minors. From 2014 until now, the Migration Office of the MI SR has not had any cases of asylum-seeking minors who were involved in armed conflict.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |
| <p>146. Implement laws and policies that protect and promote the civil, political, social and economic rights of migrants, Roma people, refugees and asylum seekers, especially the rights to health, to education and to work (Holy See)</p> | <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The Act on Employment Services is the basic legislative framework that provides for employment of third country citizens in the Slovak Republic. For the sake of easier access to the labour market, §32 of the Act on Employment Services provides for the possibility to arrange employment for a third country citizen who has been granted asylum, subsidiary protection or temporary protection.</p> <p>Asylum seekers and persons who have been granted international protection are guaranteed numerous different rights in the Slovak Republic, which are implemented across the entire legal system of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>See response to recommendations No. 13, 26, 28, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 126 and 128.</p> <p><i>The recommendation has been implemented.</i></p> |

