



Att.: The Human Rights Committee

**Re: Supplementary comments on Slovak republic for the preparation of the List of Issues and the consideration during the review.**

Dear Members of the Committee:

This letter and an attached written comments intend to supplement the Third Periodic Reports of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the performance of its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is to be reviewed by the Human Rights Committee. *The Center for Civil and Human Rights (Poradňa)* and *People in Need Slovakia (ĽvT)*, both independent non-governmental organizations from Slovakia, hope to further the work of the Committee by providing independent information concerning the rights protected by the Covenant.

The attached comments highlight several areas of concern related to the status of Roma ethnic minority living in Slovakia – in particular, issues of discrimination in the field of health care and education, the issue of forced and coerced sterilizations of Romani women and police harassment and ill-treatment against Roma minority. We believe that the state parties' commitment to comply with the Covenant with respect to Roma minority living in Slovakia should receive serious attention.

In connection with the information provided by the written comments, we respectfully suggest these thematic questions to be considered for the preparation of the List of Issues:

1. What steps have been adopted to compensate forcibly sterilized Romani women, including those women who were sterilized during communist regime?
2. Are efforts being made to establish an independent commission to investigate all practices of forced sterilization of Romani women and to propose overall compensation schemes to victims?
3. What legislation and policies are being pursued to train health care professionals in order to provide non-discriminatory services to all patients in their practices?
4. What efforts have been made to promote awareness among Romani women of their rights and remedies in the face of discriminatory treatment from health care professionals?
5. Are efforts being made to further elaborate on the prohibition of segregation in education formally declared in the School Act and introduce measures for uncovering, sanctioning and preventing from racial segregation in education?

6. Are efforts being made to review the school legislation and measures with respect to 'de facto' segregation impact they may have on Romani children?
7. Are principles of inclusive education taking into consideration when drafting legislation and Government measures in this area?
8. Please provide information on the recent Government plans to introduce boarding schools for Roma children from socially disadvantaged environment?
9. How often Anti- discrimination Act is being used by victims of discrimination as a legal tool of protection in practice? How many discrimination cases have been decided by civil courts and what remedies to victims have been awarded in these cases?
10. What efforts have been made to ensure effective application of Anti- discrimination Act in practice?
11. Are efforts being made to ensure the active role of Slovak National Centre for Human Rights in implementing Anti- discrimination Act in practice and providing effective free legal representation for victims of discrimination?
12. Please provide information on the occurrence of cases of police harassment against Roma minority during the reporting period, on investigation of these cases and remedies provided for injured persons?

There still remains a gap between the guarantees of the Covenant and the reality of Roma rights. We appreciate the active interest that the Committee has taken in rights of Roma minority and we hope that this information will be useful in the Committee's review of the Slovak government's compliance with the Covenant. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely Yours,

Stefan Ivanco  
On behalf of Poradňa

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On behalf of ČvT

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