

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SLOVAKIA

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does the Government of Slovakia intend to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- How does the Government of Slovakia address the human rights situation of persons belonging to ethnic minorities?
- What human rights education and training is there available for members of the police forces?

GERMANY

- Germany notes with interest the manyfold actions Slovakia is undertaking to improve the situation of the Roma community in the country. According to reports of the UN and NGO Stakeholders, parts of the Roma community still live in isolated settlements with poor housing conditions. There have been reports on cases of forced eviction by local public officials linked with denied relocation, as situation that has led to a limitation of the freedom of movement and residence.
- Germany would like to know what efforts the government undertakes to avoid forced eviction by local public officials, to improve the housing conditions of the Roma and to reduce housing segregation.

SWEDEN

- Sweden welcomes the effort taken by the Government of Slovakia with the establishment of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015. However, credible reports show that the Romani minority continue facing discrimination in access to education, housing, health care and other services, as well as persistent prejudice and hostility. Reports from 2008 show that huge numbers of Romani children are still being placed unnecessarily in special schools and classes for children with mental disabilities and learning difficulties, where they followed a reduced curriculum which gave little possibility for reintegrating into mainstream schools or advancing to secondary education. Others were segregated in Roma-only mainstream schools across the country. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) noted that Roma women and girls remain in vulnerable and marginalized situations and are victims of multiple discrimination. In 2004, also the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) expressed concern about allegations of discriminatory behaviour by the police towards members of minority groups, in particular Roma, including acts of ill-treatment and violence.

- Could the Government of Slovakia elaborate on the measures it is taking to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by the Romani minority; what steps is the Government taking to combat discrimination and violence against the Romani minority?

- CEDAW was, in its conclusions from its latest consideration in 2008 about Slovakia, concerned at the high rate of violence against women and girls, including homicides resulting from domestic violence. The Committee expressed its concern that the current legislation on violence may not be fully comprehensive and specific to address all forms of violence against women adequately. CEDAW expresses further concern about the fact that corporal punishment in the home is lawful and constitutes a form of violence against children, including the girl child.

- Could the Government of Slovakia elaborate on the measures it is taking to combat violence against women?

THE NETHERLANDS

- Slovakia has shown an interest in and special attention to the issues concerning the large Roma minority in the country. However, it seems that responsibilities for these issues is now dispersed over several different authorities. How does Slovakia try to ensure an integrated implementation of its policy towards integrating the Roma in their society?
- Although Slovak national law is conform EU-standards, and does not discriminate against citizens depending on their sexual preferences, attitudes in society are not yet up to the standard of Slovak law. Does the government foresee to create a policy plan or any other kind of action to address attitude in society and thus help protect the civil rights of the groups concerned?
- With respect to the position of minorities on the labour market, does the Slovak government foresee a special policy to avoid that the economic crisis disproportionately affects minority groups?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in Slovakia in the preparation of your national report for this process?
- Could you tell us what Slovakia is doing to address problems facing the development of the Roma community within civil society and the labour market?
- We would be grateful for further information about the steps Slovakia is taking to improve cooperation between the police and Roma communities, especially in light of the recent events in Kosice concerning the excessive use of force by the authorities against Roma children?
- Concern has been raised by Stakeholders about the limited scope of existing legislation in Slovakia to address discrimination against women. How does the Slovak Government plan to rectify this?