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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-sixth session**  
29 April–10 May 2024

## **Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Slovakia\***

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a summary of 11 stakeholders' submissions<sup>2</sup> for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Information provided by stakeholders**

##### **A. Scope of international obligations<sup>3</sup> and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

2. Amnesty International highlighted the fact that Slovakia has not ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and recommended to ratify the Istanbul Convention and take further steps to prevent violence against women in Slovakia.<sup>4</sup>

3. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) informed that Slovakia has not yet signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.<sup>5</sup>

4. ICAN regretted that Slovakia has not shown support of the TPNW by consistently voting against an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon states to sign, ratify or accede to the treaty, and regrets that it shows support of the potential use of nuclear weapons.<sup>6</sup>

5. ICAN urged the Government of Slovakia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.<sup>7</sup>

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## **B. National human rights framework**

### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

6. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) reported that the negotiations on the law proposal on financial compensation for Roma women survivors of forced sterilizations were ultimately discontinued in June 2023 and the law proposal was not adopted. In this context, it is concluded that relevant recommendation from the 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR cycle in this regard was not effectively implemented.<sup>8</sup>

7. Amnesty International called upon the Government to amend the Criminal Code to include specific reference to hate crimes based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.<sup>9</sup>

8. On 30 September 2023, the early parliamentary elections were held in Slovakia. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) was concerned that the policy development after the elections may eventually result in slowdown or even discontinuation of the efforts to adopt the compensation law and establish mechanism that would finally ensure justice for survivors of forced sterilisations. JS1 called upon the newly formed Government and Parliament in Slovakia have to recognise serious shortcomings of the negotiated law proposal from the spring 2023 and take decisive action that will introduce effective compensation mechanism as soon as possible.<sup>10</sup>

### **2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures**

9. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) stressed upon the authorities to bring the legislation governing the functioning of the national human rights institution, in full compliance with the Paris Principles within the ongoing review cycle.<sup>11</sup>

## **C. Promotion and protection of human rights**

### **1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### *Equality and non-discrimination*

10. Amnesty International recommended to take measures to effectively implement the prohibition of discrimination as enshrined in the Together on one bench and the Anti-Discrimination Act.<sup>12</sup>

11. Broken Chalk advised to create awareness among Slovak people to diminish discrimination at a societal level.<sup>13</sup>

12. OSCE/ ODIHR recognized Slovakia's recent efforts to understand unreported hate crimes by conducting a victimization survey, as well as to regularly report hate crime data to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observed that law enforcement agencies have not recorded the bias motivations behind hate crimes. In addition, OSCE/ODIHR stressed that Slovakia would benefit from developing its victim support system to ensure effective access to justice, assistance, and protection for hate crime victims.<sup>14</sup>

13. OSCE/ODIHR urged the Government to condemn any form of discrimination and hate crime and abstain from any statement or action that exacerbates vulnerabilities and respond swiftly to hate crimes, including those motivated by gender or sex, to record and investigate them so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice and adequate penalties imposed.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture*

14. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) reported that Slovakia has made two attempts to restrict access to abortion. In both 2020 and 2021, Slovakia's Parliament proposed a bill that would provide more limitations to accessing abortion. The proposed bill aimed to extend the mandatory waiting period from forty-eight to ninety-six hours and to require individuals seeking the procedure to provide a reason for doing so. This would

incentivize women to analyze fully their situation and encourage them not to make a rushed decision powered by emotions. Additionally, the bill would have banned advertising abortion and services linked to it.<sup>16</sup>

15. On 12 June 2023, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights published her letter to the Slovak Parliament in relation to a bill that would establish a compensation mechanism for victims of forced sterilization. She welcomed efforts to deliver justice to victims.<sup>17</sup>

16. She noted, however, that any mechanism should effectively meet victims' needs. To this end, the Commissioner set out a number of observations to assist in the strengthening of the proposal. She noted, for example, that the proposed amount of compensation fell significantly short of that awarded to victims by the European Court of Human Rights and Slovak courts in relevant cases.<sup>18</sup>

17. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights She also highlighted the need for clear rules on evidence in proceedings for compensation, including avoiding an over-reliance on medical records and preventing the burden of proof being disproportionately borne by the victims. She suggested steps to make the application process more accessible to victims and underscored that the authorities responsible for assessing compensation claims should have sufficient expertise and capacity to carry out this task. The Commissioner also stressed the importance of close engagement with victims during the legislative process, to ensure that the resulting compensation mechanism is strong, accessible, and effective.<sup>19</sup>

18. Eventually, the bill was not passed, as the Parliament ran out of time to do so, in view of early elections.<sup>20</sup>

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

19. Poradna reported that in a rare case of police violence against Roma reaching the court in Slovakia – like a widely reported high profile case of ill-treatment against six Roma boys at a police station in Košice from 2009 – the criminal proceedings in this case lasted for almost 12 years. In February 2023, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that the Slovak authorities failed to ensure effective access to justice for injured claimants. In May 2023, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic – in line with the ECtHR judgment – ruled on violations of constitutional rights of Roma boys. It also quashed the acquittals of the general courts of the accused police officers and remitted the case back to the Košice II District Court for further proceedings. In sum, after 14 years from this striking incident of police brutality against Roma, the Slovak courts in August 2023 resumed the court proceeding against the accused police officers. The further development and the result of these proceedings remain unclear.<sup>21</sup>

20. Amnesty International called on the government of Slovakia to conduct prompt, independent, effective, and thorough investigations into all reports of human rights violations by the police, including torture and other ill-treatment and ensure that all allegations and complaints of racially motivated actions and discrimination by police are thoroughly investigated and appropriate action is taken, and data on all actions taken against police personnel is recorded and publicly available.<sup>22</sup>

21. OSCE/ODIHR urged the government to build law enforcement and justice sector capacities to recognize and effectively investigate hate crimes and to ensure that specialized training, focused on hate crime victims and their needs, is provided for officials and civil society organizations within the victim support structures.<sup>23</sup>

22. Amnesty International recommended to take effective measures to prevent the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force by police, and torture and other ill-treatment by the police, such as through training in the use of de-escalation techniques and other specific training in human rights and non-discrimination.<sup>24</sup>

23. Poradna promoted the establishment of a fully independent autonomous institution, outside of the structures of the Ministry of Interior and Police Forces that will be responsible for investigation of complaints of alleged ill-treatment by the police officers as well as all complaints alleging possible racial motive. It requested to introduce a mechanism for the

external evaluation of the effectiveness of investigations of police ill-treatment with an aim to identify systemic deficiencies in the investigation process of such cases.<sup>25</sup>

24. Poradna advised continuous education of all persons investigating cases of police ill-treatment as well as state prosecutors and judges on standards of effective investigation of torture, cruel and inhuman treatment laid down by the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Istanbul protocol.<sup>26</sup>

25. Poradna requested to enhance the speed and efficiency of court proceedings concerning racial discrimination and address biases and prejudices towards Roma minority among judges by introducing comprehensible lifelong sensitisation education, starting from the sensitisation of students at law faculties.<sup>27</sup>

#### *Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*

26. OSCE/ODIHR recommended to protect media freedom and decriminalize defamation.<sup>28</sup>

27. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) urged Slovakia to adopt legislative measures aimed at increasing safety of journalists and media freedom, including abolishment of the crime of defamation.<sup>29</sup>

28. The Centre encouraged protection of journalists and human rights defenders to prevent and investigate harassment and intimidation, threats, violence, and other restrictions of rights, including from politicians, and guarantee that they can carry out their activities in safe conditions.<sup>30</sup>

29. It advised to adopt sustainable and long-term institutional support, including financial grants for civil society organizations and human rights defenders in Slovakia, including those working on gender equality and LGBTI+ rights.<sup>31</sup>

#### *Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons*

30. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) stated that Slovakia was both a source for victims of human trafficking, as well as a destination country for victims. Sexual exploitation was the most common purpose of human trafficking in Slovakia, targeting almost exclusively female victims. Slovakia claimed to be making progress in its efforts in addressing human trafficking by increasing investigations and punishments. However, Slovakia was still not meeting the minimum standard, which is seen by the decrease in convictions for human traffickers over the past few years.<sup>32</sup>

31. ECLJ added that Slovakia should also continue to enforce its laws on human trafficking by offering support and resources to victims, and prioritizing vigorous investigation, prosecution, and conviction of traffickers. Slovakia should work to proactively identify victims, increase identification training for government officials, and educate individuals on the dangers of human trafficking.<sup>33</sup>

#### *Right to an adequate standard of living*

32. Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFOD) recommended to continue efforts to develop an adequate housing strategy for the country's Roma and incorporate the housing strategy for Roma into Slovakia's national housing strategy with a view to recognising and addressing the housing challenges that ghettoization creates for Roma communities.

33. GFOD encouraged national and local governments, and housing authorities in particular to allocate public and private local, national, and international resources to improve housing for Roma and any other groups who have suffered from inadequate housing due to discrimination and segregation based upon racial or other criteria and immediately ban the construction of walls or fences that physically separate the Roma community from the rest of the population in Slovak municipalities.<sup>34</sup>

*Right to health*

34. Amnesty International encouraged Slovakia to eradicate all legal, bureaucratic, and practical obstacles to access legal gender recognition and gender affirming health care for transgender people.<sup>35</sup>

35. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) advised to refrain from introducing legislative measures restricting access to abortions and diminishing existing rights in the field of sexual and reproductive health and ensure access to safe abortion by removing legislative and non-legislative barriers to access to abortion.<sup>36</sup>

*Right to education*

36. Poradna reported that from 2015 the European Commission has been leading infringement proceedings against Slovakia for violating the EU Racial Directive for persisting segregation of Roma children and in April 2023 it ultimately decided to refer Slovakia to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failing to effectively tackle the issue of segregation of Roma children in education.<sup>37</sup>

37. Poradna informed that the segregation of Roma children in education and ongoing failures of the state authorities to tackle it have been recognised by the Supreme court of the Slovak republic by two landmark judgments, which were delivered as a result of successful strategic *actio popularis* litigation. The Supreme court held the Slovak republic represented by the Ministry of Education republic accountable for segregation of Roma children in an ethnically homogeneous schools in the vicinity of two disadvantaged Roma communities, while emphasizing that the government authorities are responsible also for segregation that arose spontaneously and not with the purposeful intention of separating Roma children from majority children. The state authorities did not fully acknowledge these final judgements and did not translate them into prompt and effective desegregation measures. On the contrary, the government authorities currently consider addressing insufficient capacities of many Roma-only segregated schools by supporting construction additional annexes to these schools, which would only maintain existing school segregation in Slovakia.<sup>38</sup>

38. Amnesty International confirmed that following long-standing noncompliance with EU rules on racial equality, the European Commission (EC) filed a lawsuit against Slovakia at the Court of Justice of the EU for not effectively solving the issue of segregation of Roma children in education. Slovakia introduced legislative reforms and adopted several strategies and action plans. However, the European Commission concluded that the reforms adopted so far were insufficient. Segregation of Roma children in education continues with an increase in the numbers of children educated as such.<sup>39</sup>

39. GFOD highlighted that parliament's failure to adopt an amendment to the School Act which would take steps to address discrimination against Roma children has put Slovakia on a collision course with the European Court of Justice.<sup>40</sup>

40. Amnesty International reported that in its last universal periodic review, Slovakia received 21 recommendations on access to education, elimination of segregation and inclusion of Roma children in the education system. Slovakia supported all the received recommendations. In 2022, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic published guidance on school desegregation, which is yet to be fully implemented. On 9 May 2023, the National Council of the Slovak Republic passed law no. 245/2008 Coll. on education and training (referred to as the Education Act), which regulates several aspects of the education system but does not contain any measures to address discrimination against Roma children in schools.<sup>41</sup>

41. Broken Chalk recommended launching comprehensive community-wide awareness-raising initiatives and programs emphasizing the critical relevance of education, with a focus on Roma children's enrolment. These efforts should break down any existing stereotypes or impediments to Roma children's access to school by highlighting the transforming influence of education on individual lives and social growth. Community leaders, educators, parents, and other stakeholders should work together to create an environment favourable to learning and supportive of all student's educational endeavours equally, ensuring that minorities have equal access to and benefit from the educational system.<sup>42</sup>

*Development, environment and business and human rights*

42. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) reiterated the need to protect and the right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment, by protecting natural reserves and natural resources and taking action in the area of water management.<sup>43</sup>

43. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) encouraged efforts to adopt national climate act with respect to the right to access information under the Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (the Aarhus Convention).<sup>44</sup>

44. Broken Chalk recommended that more educational funds should be allocated to Eastern Slovakia to support young people's educational and economic expectations to create greater hope and satisfaction from living standards.<sup>45</sup>

45. Broken Chalk stressed that the university students should be given better living standards and trust in government institutions by diminishing corruption.<sup>46</sup>

46. GRECO recommended to further develop and refine the financial disclosure regulations applicable to members of Parliament in order to include the regular notification of financial interests, partnerships, other business arrangements, domestic and foreign travel paid by third persons as well as benefits, hospitality and sponsorship obtained from domestic and foreign entities above a certain threshold.<sup>47</sup>

47. GRECO recommended that the "Principles of Judicial Ethics" be revised and further developed so as to provide more precise guidance to all judges on the expected conduct, judicial integrity and corruption prevention, and the proper application of the "Principles" be ensured (via a supervisory mechanism and sanctions) and accompanied by dedicated training, advice and counselling.<sup>48</sup>

48. Consideration could be given to vesting the authority for campaign finance oversight with an independent institution endowed with adequate capacity and resources, suggested OSCE-ODIHR.<sup>49</sup>

## **2. Rights of specific persons or groups**

*Women*

49. Amnesty International informed that despite the government's official apology for the illegal sterilization of thousands of Roma women between 1966 and 2004, in the review period no effective compensation mechanism for affected women had been adopted. No comprehensive survey of the number of women who have been sterilized without their informed consent has been conducted.<sup>50</sup>

50. Amnesty stated that Slovakia has not adopted a comprehensive program on sexual and reproductive health and rights nor allocate sufficient resources for implementation. A study by *Možnosť voľby* shows that women face a wide range of obstacles accessing reproductive health care and contraception.<sup>51</sup>

51. Despite recommendations made during the previous universal periodic review to support women from marginalized groups to access sexual and reproductive health care, Amnesty International reported that Slovakia did not revise the Healthcare Act to ensure access to safe abortion and remove requirements for mandatory counselling, medically unnecessary waiting periods and third-party authorization. Despite more than 20 legislative initiatives proposed to restrict access to safe and legal abortion care, none of the drafts was adopted.<sup>52</sup>

52. Amnesty International called on the government to establish an independent body to conduct a comprehensive survey of the number of women who have been sterilized without their informed consent and provide sufficient remedy and compensation to women, who have been sterilized without their informed consent.<sup>53</sup>

53. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) reported that half of 50 maternity wards is owned by private companies, but they provide basic healthcare covered by public health insurance. There are regions where basic healthcare is provided by private owned hospitals only. In these

hospitals, the fees for birth companionship and epidural analgesia still present financial barriers and these basic components of childbirth related healthcare are not accessible for many women within these regions.<sup>54</sup>

54. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) recommended to invest into infrastructure, and reconstruction of maternity wards to ensure the privacy and dignity of birthing women and their companions and provide training to current and future obstetricians and midwives on international medical standards and human rights.<sup>55</sup>

55. GFOD encouraged the authorities to engage Romani communities in decision-making processes regarding policies and programs that directly affect them and promote initiatives that empower Romani women economically, socially and politically with the aim of improving their overall well-being and access to resources.<sup>56</sup>

#### *Children*

56. End Corporal Punishment (ECP) was concerned that in Slovakia, corporal punishment of children is lawful, despite repeated recommendations to prohibit it by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, other human rights treaty bodies, and during the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle UPR of Slovakia in 2019.<sup>57</sup>

57. ECP explained that the Family Law 2005 does not explicitly prohibit corporal punishment. Rather, it authorises the use of “adequate” childrearing methods, stating in article 30(3) that in exercising their parental rights and duties, parents “may use adequate upbringing measures in such a way that the child’s health, dignity and mental, physical and emotional development are not endangered”.<sup>58</sup>

58. The Government argued in 2016 that this provision necessarily means that corporal punishment is not tolerated – “given the fact that corporal punishment in an ordinary sense may induce threat to health, dignity, mental, physical and emotional development of the child” – but this fails to take account of the near universal acceptance of some degree of physical punishment in childhood and the fact that those who advocate its use do not perceive it as harmful.<sup>59</sup>

59. ECP called for law reform to clearly prohibit corporal punishment in childrearing is essential. Provisions against violence and abuse in the Penal Code 2005, the Civil Code 2002 and the Constitution 1992 are not interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment in childrearing.<sup>60</sup>

#### *Persons with disabilities*

60. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) urged to strengthen without delay further implementation of the deinstitutionalization process and create new community-based social services for all persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and people with complex support needs, so they are fully accessible, cover all regions and are financially available to all.<sup>61</sup>

#### *Minorities*

61. OSCE-ODIHR noted that Slovakia has not taken sufficient measures to address surges in racism and discrimination against Roma. Moreover, some actions related to quarantine and similar limitations were applied disproportionately in relation to Roma communities. Police and security forces displayed differential treatment in respect to Roma that included random and unjustified checks, abusive behaviours including towards children, use of tear gas, and entering private household and physically abusing Roma residents. ODIHR also flagged increased negative portrayal of Roma by mass media and expressed concerns over deteriorating socio-economic situation of this community.<sup>62</sup>

62. Amnesty International was concerned that contrary to supported recommendations from the previous review, the government failed to establish an independent and impartial oversight authority over the police to investigate alleged cases of ill-treatment and bring those responsible to justice, and to properly investigate police violence against Roma people.<sup>63</sup>

63. GFOD informed that Slovakia received a total of 206 recommendations during its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2019. 36 of these recommendations focused on the Roma community, out of which 35 recommendations were supported. While the Government has taken steps to enact legal and policy measures in areas such as the right to health, education, sanitation, discrimination, minority rights and women's rights, including through the recent Roma Integration 2030 Strategy, significant challenges persist at the local level. Conflicting development priorities on behalf of the Government that do not align with international commitments, challenges for the Roma community in accessing basic services, a lack of accountability for violations of human rights, inadequate budgetary allocations and above all continuing discriminatory attitudes and "anti-gypsyism" are some of the issues that remain pervasive and impact the full realization of the rights of the Roma.<sup>64</sup>

*Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons*

64. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) was concerned that there has been an alarming number of legislative attempts to limit legal gender recognition, including proposals to introduce constitutional definition of gender identity as an irreversible concept defined by sex assigned upon birth, prohibit discussing issues related to gender identity in school, exclude the possibility to change the name and surname of a person during or upon transition or condition change of a birth registration number (with gender-specific marker) by submitting results of a genetical test confirming the gender of a person concerned. In relation to legal transition, transgender persons cannot change their certificates on completion of secondary education issued prior transition as compared to university diploma, creating different standards of protection based on the level of education achieved. Additionally, accessibility of complex health care in relation to transition remains problematic due to lack of medical specialists in the area of sexology and psychiatry or the need for training to medical personal to ensure non-discriminatory and non-pathologizing approach to transgender persons in the area of healthcare.<sup>65</sup>

65. Amnesty International reported that in March 2023 parliament passed in the first reading an amendment to the Bill No. 301/1995 – the Birth Number Act – which, if adopted, would require transgender people to prove they have the "correct" set of chromosomes to have their legal gender affirmed. The act regulates "birth numbers", the personal 10-digit identifier given to everyone in Slovakia on the day they are born. As per the amendment, the birth number must be changed to have one's gender legally affirmed. Existing provisions of the law would effectively make this impossible, as most transgender people would not have chromosomes "matching" their gender identity. This legislation would make legal gender recognition impossible.<sup>66</sup>

66. On 25 April 2023, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights called upon members of the Parliament to reject a bill undermining trans people's human rights and to ensure equality for LGBTI people. The Commissioner highlighted that a bill that would effectively prevent trans people from having their gender identity legally recognized, if passed, would put the Slovak Republic in conflict with its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.<sup>67</sup>

67. She also noted that the previous year's deadly attack on the Tepláreň bar in Bratislava should have triggered a process of addressing long-standing concerns about intolerance towards LGBTI people, but that since then the human rights of LGBTI people in the Slovak Republic have only become more at risk. She expressed concern that recent steps to end the practice of requiring sterilization for legal gender recognition, which violates human rights, might be rolled back. The Commissioner also highlighted the lack of a legal framework allowing same-sex couples to be granted adequate recognition and protection of their relationship. She called on parliamentarians to refrain from promoting narratives that mischaracterize the struggle for the equality of LGBTI people as "gender ideology" or "LGBTI ideology", and to ensure that there is no place for hate speech in the Parliament.<sup>68</sup>

68. According to Amnesty International Slovakia supported several recommendations on promotion of equality of LGBTI+ people. Three focused on eradicating hate speech against LGBTI+ people and taking concrete measures to address this issue. Despite serious incidents of violence against LGBTI+ people – such as the murder of two people and injuring of one person in the Tepláreň queer bar in October 2022, classified by government investigators as



a “hate crime” – the government took no measures to limit hate speech against LGBTI+ people or introduce any legislative initiatives to amend the Criminal Code. Political representatives made discriminatory and stigmatizing comments about LGBTI+ people, both before and after the attack.<sup>69</sup>

69. Amnesty International reported that despite recommendations from the previous universal periodic review to ensure equality for same-sex couples by adopting a specific legislative measure to ensure equal legal rights for same-sex partnerships, the parliament did not pass any legislative initiatives in this regard.

*Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers*

70. The Lanzarote Committee recommended that information and advice concerning prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse should be provided to children affected by the refugee crisis in a manner adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand, and which is sensitive to gender and culture.<sup>70</sup>

71. The Committee stressed that the government should put in place effective mechanisms for data collection with a specific focus on children affected by the refugee crisis who are victims or presumed victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and review the possible removal of obstacles to the collection of such data, in particular, where they exist, legal restrictions to do so, with due respect for the requirements of personal data protection.<sup>71</sup>

72. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) advised to create materials that will facilitate overcoming the language barrier when providing healthcare to refugee women at prenatal clinics and during childbirth. For example, questions with guided answers designed to establish basic diagnoses, essential information, and recommendations for patients and proactively assess the needs and experiences of refugees within the healthcare system, at both the national and regional levels.<sup>72</sup>

73. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) recommended to introduce compulsory school attendance for migrant and refugee children and enable their full inclusion in mainstream education. Provide sufficient support to all refugee and migrant children, including provision of language courses.<sup>73</sup>

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> See A/HRC/41/13, A/HRC/41/13/Add.1, and A/HRC/41/2.

<sup>2</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

*Civil society*

*Individual submissions:*

AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, The, Strasbourg (France);
ECP	End Corporal Punishment, Geneva (Switzerland);
GFOD	The Inclusivity Project, Inc., New York (United States of America);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
Poradna	Poradna pre občianske a ľudské práva, Kosice 04001 (Slovakia).

*Joint submission:*

JS1	<b>Joint submission 1 submitted by:</b> Ženské kruhy, Partizánske (Slovakia); Poradna pre občianske a ľudské práva (Acronym: Poradna).
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*National human rights institution:*

SNCHR_SNSLP	Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, Bratislava
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(Slovakia).

*Regional intergovernmental organizations:*

CoE The Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France);  
OSCE-ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw (Poland).

<sup>3</sup> *The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:*

ICERD International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination  
ICESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
OP-ICESCR Optional Protocol to ICESCR  
ICCPR International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights  
ICCPR-OP 1 Optional Protocol to ICCPR  
ICCPR-OP 2 Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty  
CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women  
OP-CEDAW Optional Protocol to CEDAW  
CAT Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment  
OP-CAT Optional Protocol to CAT  
CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child  
OP-CRC-AC Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict  
OP-CRC-SC Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography  
OP-CRC-IC Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure  
ICRMW International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families  
CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
OP-CRPD Optional Protocol to CRPD  
ICPPED International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

<sup>4</sup> Amnesty International submission, page 4.

<sup>5</sup> ICAN submission.

<sup>6</sup> ICAN submission.

<sup>7</sup> ICAN submission.

<sup>8</sup> Joint Submission 1.

<sup>9</sup> Amnesty International submission, page 4.

<sup>10</sup> Joint Submission 1.

<sup>11</sup> SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 1.

<sup>12</sup> Amnesty International submission, page 3.

<sup>13</sup> Broken Chalk submission, para. 55.

<sup>14</sup> OSCE/ODIHR Submission, para. 14.

<sup>15</sup> OSCE/ODIHR Submission, para. 19.

<sup>16</sup> European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) submission, para. 13.

<sup>17</sup> The Council of Europe, page 2.

<sup>18</sup> The Council of Europe, page 2.

<sup>19</sup> The Council of Europe, page 2.

<sup>20</sup> The Council of Europe, page 2.

<sup>21</sup> Poradna submission, page 3.

<sup>22</sup> Amnesty International submission, page 3.

<sup>23</sup> OSCE/ODIHR Submission, para. 19.

<sup>24</sup> Amnesty International submission, page 3.

<sup>25</sup> Poradna submission, page 3.

<sup>26</sup> Poradna submission, page 3.

<sup>27</sup> Poradna submission, page 6.

<sup>28</sup> OSCE/ODIHR submission, para. 12.

<sup>29</sup> SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 6.

<sup>30</sup> SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 6.

<sup>31</sup> SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 6.

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- 32 European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) submission, paras. 19–20.  
33 European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) submission, para. 23.  
34 GFOD submission, pages 7–8.  
35 Amnesty International submission, page 4.  
36 SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 5.  
37 Poradna submission, page 5.  
38 Poradna submission, page 5.  
39 Amnesty International submission, para. 13.  
40 GFOD submission, para. 10.  
41 Amnesty International submission, para. 1.  
42 Broken Chalk submission, para. 52.  
43 SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 7.  
44 SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 7.  
45 Broken Chalk submission, para. 62.  
46 Broken Chalk submission, para. 63.  
47 The Council of Europe, page 8 (GRECO report).  
48 The Council of Europe, page 8 (GRECO report).  
49 OSCE/ODIHR Submission, para. 12.  
50 Amnesty International submission, para. 2.  
51 Amnesty International submission, para. 6.  
52 Amnesty International submission, para. 7.  
53 Amnesty International submission, page 4.  
54 Joint Submission 1.  
55 Joint Submission 1.  
56 GFOD submission, page 10.  
57 End Corporal Punishment submission, page 1.  
58 End Corporal Punishment submission, page 2.  
59 End Corporal Punishment submission, page 2.  
60 End Corporal Punishment submission, page 3.  
61 SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, page 6.  
62 OSCE/ODIHR submission, para. 21.  
63 Amnesty International submission, para. 3.  
64 GFOD submission, page 10.  
65 SNCHR\_SNSLP submission, para. 12.  
66 Amnesty International submission, para. 21.  
67 The Council of Europe, page 2.  
68 The Council of Europe, page 2.  
69 Amnesty International submission, para. 4.  
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72 Joint Submission 1.  
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