

The following appendix does not form part of ECRI's analysis and proposals concerning the situation in Hungary.

APPENDIX

ECRI wishes to point out that the analysis contained in its second report on Hungary, is dated 18 June 1999, and that any subsequent development is not taken into account.

In accordance with ECRI's country-by-country procedure, a national liaison officer was nominated by the authorities of Hungary to engage in a process of confidential dialogue with ECRI on its draft text on Hungary and a number of his comments were taken into account by ECRI, and integrated into the report.

However, following this dialogue, the national liaison officer expressly requested that the following observations on the part of the authorities of Hungary be reproduced as an appendix to ECRI's report.

OBSERVATIONS PROVIDED BY THE AUTHORITIES OF HUNGARY CONCERNING ECRI'S REPORT ON HUNGARY

1. paragraph 30, third sentence

Despite the fact that rules regulating entry to such institutions have been tightened on several occasions, Roma/Gypsy children still constitute around half the total amount of pupils attending these types of institutions, which offer much less opportunity for further study or employment.

Explanation

Schools for mildly mentally retarded children offer opportunities for further study or employment.

2. paragraph 30, last sentence

ECRI feels that the system of channelling children into special schools for the mentally-retarded should be overhauled, to ensure that it does not make discrimination possible and that the true abilities of each child are properly evaluated.

Explanation

The whole system does not need to be overhauled, only certain parts of it. The full correction of the whole system was carried out about half a year ago, and so far there has not been any valid experience regarding its operation. The system itself is not discriminative, but opportunities for discrimination present themselves in the course of its application.

3. paragraph 31, second sentence should be replaced by the sentence below:

In Hungary - although equal access to education is legally ensured - a number of factors prevent the enforcement of the law.

Explanation

The original sentence does not correspond to the facts. Parents do not only have the right but they are legally obliged to send every 5-year-old child - Roma/Gypsy children included of course - to kindergarten.

4. paragraph 31, third sentence

A part of children from the Roma/Gypsy minority do not participate in kindergarten education...

Explanation

The expression "a high percentage" is not correct because a considerable part of Roma/Gypsy children go to kindergarten. The point is that there are no reliable data on this and at present it is impossible to have or get access to such data.

5. paragraph 32, third sentence

As mentioned above, the examination of Roma/Gypsy children is not always fair, and careful enough, and as a result in many cases they are sent to "remedial" schools even if it is unjustified.

Explanation

It is no more possible to remove a pupil automatically from a "normal" school.

6. Page 15, Point 44

Such persons do not enjoy similar rights to Hungarian citizens, although they may receive free health care if necessary, accommodation and board is provided them and ...