

Fifth report on Liechtenstein [\[en\]](#) - [\[fr\]](#) - [\[de\]](#)

Press Release – 15 May 2018

[German version](#)

Liechtenstein should develop a new integration strategy and help migrant children to improve their German skills and to get enrolled in upper-tier secondary schools, says Council of Europe Anti-racism body

Strasbourg, 15.05.2018 - In a [report](#) published today, the Council of Europe Anti-racism Commission (ECRI) calls on the Liechtenstein authorities to adopt a new integration strategy with a special focus on education, and to better prevent and combat hate speech and abolish any discriminatory practice with regard to religious communities. At the same time, the report welcomes the establishment of an Equality Body, the Liechtenstein Association for Human Rights.

ECRI also positively emphasized that this Equality Body has the mandate to examine complaints on discrimination and to participate in judicial proceedings. Furthermore, politicians and the press almost never use hate speech and only one violent racist incident was reported over the last five years. The authorities have reinforced their activities to improve the German language skills of migrant children, and foreigners are allowed to participate in certain state and local committees. Attitudes towards LGBT people have significantly improved and registered same-sex and married heterosexual couples have equal rights.

ECRI, however, regrets that there is no comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, that the Equality Body does not have the right to bring discrimination cases before the courts in its own name and that this body's funding and staffing is tight. Hate speech against migrants, Muslims, foreigners and LGBT is present in Internet fora and published in readers' letters.

As of 2014, there is no integration plan. Many children with migration backgrounds are enrolled in lower-tier secondary schools (Oberschule) and their school results are significantly lower than those of other pupils. Access to citizenship is considerably restricted, foreigners do not have any voting rights and there are significant differences in the treatment of religious groups with regard to their legal status and funding. Some face persistent difficulties in finding adequate places of worship.

"It is important that Liechtenstein develops a new integration strategy and implements a coherent set of integration measures for the different groups of migrants," said ECRI Chairperson Jean-Paul Lehnert. "A study on the problems faced by them would help to prepare this strategy and to tailor it to the real needs of people with migration background," he added. "Also, there is no recent data on the situation of LGBT people. Another study in this field would lay the groundwork for implementing measures to prevent and combat discrimination against them."

The report makes 12 recommendations to the Liechtenstein authorities. Within two years ECRI will assess compliance with two of them that it considers to be priority recommendations:

- The authorities should develop a new strategy and action plan for the integration of the different groups of migrants, based on a study about the problems they face;

- To understand and remedy the problems LGBT people face, the authorities should commission a study on their living conditions and the discrimination they may be exposed to.

The report was prepared following [ECRI's visit to Liechtenstein](#) in September 2017 and covers the period up to 6 December 2017, except where expressly indicated.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors problems of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination on grounds such as "race", national/ethnic origin, colour, citizenship, religion and language (racial discrimination); it prepares reports and issues recommendations to member States. ECRI monitors the situation in member states in five year cycles.

[Additional information on ECRI](#)

Contact: [Estelle Steiner](#), Spokesperson/Media officer, tel. +33 88 41 33 35