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**ECRI CONCLUSIONS
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
IN RESPECT OF
SUBJECT TO INTERIM FOLLOW-UP**

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¹ Unless otherwise indicated, this analysis does not take into account any developments that occurred after , the date on which the response of the authorities of to ECRI's request for information on measures taken to implement the recommendations chosen for interim follow-up was received.

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FOREWORD

As part of its sixth round of monitoring work, ECRI has renewed its process of interim follow-up with respect to two specific recommendations made in each of its country reports.

In line with the Information Document on ECRI's sixth monitoring cycle brought to the attention of the Ministers' Deputies on 9 May 2018¹, not later than two years following the publication of each report, ECRI addresses a communication to the Government concerned asking what has been done in respect of the specific recommendations for which priority follow-up was requested.

At the same time, ECRI gathers relevant information itself. On the basis of this information and the response from the Government, ECRI draws up its conclusions on the way in which its recommendations have been followed up.

It should be noted that these conclusions concern only the specific interim follow-up recommendations and do not aim at providing a comprehensive analysis of all developments in the fight against racism and intolerance in the State concerned.

¹ [CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1316/4.1](#); [CM\(2018\)62-add10](#).

1. *In its report on Iceland (sixth monitoring cycle) published on 21 September 2023, ECRI recommended that the authorities set up a comprehensive data collection system offering an integrated and consistent view of cases of racist and LGBTI-phobic hate speech and hate crime, with fully disaggregated data by category of offence, type of hate motivation, target group, as well as judicial follow-up and outcome and that this data is made available to the public.*

The authorities informed ECRI that the central database of the Icelandic police allowed for indicating the suspicion of a hate-motivated offence, the type of hate motivation and the target group, which according to the authorities constituted a step forward in the development of a comprehensive and consistent data collection system, as recommended by ECRI. They also underlined that, in 2023 and 2024, police officers and prosecutors had received additional trainings,¹ including on the correct identification and recording of hate crimes. As a result, in 2023, the suspicion of hate-motivated offences was flagged in 47 cases and, in 2024, in 58 cases. Cases of hate speech falling within the scope of the General Criminal Code are being registered as offences under the relevant criminal provisions.²

The authorities also indicated that the integration of data across the full justice chain (from police to prosecution and eventually courts) was ongoing. They pointed out that improved data collection was one of the elements of the draft resolution containing an Action Plan on Hate Speech submitted by the government to the parliament in the context of the 2022-2023 legislative session.³ While the resolution failed to be adopted by the parliament, in the opinion of the authorities, its preparation contributed to the development of policy responses to hate speech and hate crime.

ECRI takes positive note of the trainings organised for police officers and prosecutors, and the authorities' reflection on the adequate ways to prevent and combat hate speech that preceded the preparation of the draft Action Plan on Hate Speech. These could be considered as positive developments in the area of countering hate speech and hate crime.

It notes, nonetheless, that when it comes to the creation a comprehensive data collection system offering an integrated and consistent view of cases of racist and LGBTI-phobic hate speech and hate crime, little progress has been achieved. The possibility to record a suspicion of hate crime and type of hate motivation had been put in place already at the time of the adoption of ECRI's report on Iceland in 2023 and was deemed by ECRI as insufficient to give a full overview of the situation regarding investigations, prosecutions and court sentences in the area of racist and LGBTI-phobic hate crime.⁴ As confirmed by the authorities, the process of integrating data on reported offences with those on prosecution and sentencing has been initiated but not yet finalised. Moreover, according to information received by ECRI from civil society organisations, the data on possible hate crimes recorded by the police is not easily accessible to the public and is not being published as a part of general police statistics.

Consequently, in the present state of affairs, ECRI considers that its recommendation has only been partially implemented, and takes note of the initial steps taken.

¹ Those included, among others, refresher courses under the Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) and Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT) programmes developed by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

² Namely Article 233a of [the General Criminal Code](#). See also ECRI's sixth [report](#) on Iceland, § 34.

³ The draft Action Plan is available [here](#).

⁴ ECRI's sixth [report](#) on Iceland, § 36.

2. *In its report on Iceland (sixth monitoring cycle) published on 21 September 2023, ECRI recommended that the authorities take steps to raise awareness amongst the general public about the anti-discrimination legal framework and the remedies made available to victims, including the procedure before the Equality Complaints Committee.*

ECRI was informed by the Icelandic authorities of several actions that they have taken in order to raise awareness of the existence and the content of the anti-discrimination legislation, as well as of the remedies available to victims of discrimination. In 2023-2024, the Directorate of Equality distributed posters concerning the prohibition of discrimination to approximately 250 municipalities, public institutions (including schools) and private companies.⁵ In 2024, it launched a public campaign entitled “Our words”.⁶ While the campaign focused mostly on preventing and combating hate speech and other forms of abuse, it also contained information about remedies available under the anti-discrimination legislation, including the possibility to lodge a complaint to the Equality Complaints Committee. Moreover, in 2025, the authorities launched a new website on action against discrimination (“End Discrimination”), which contains basic information about the nature of discrimination and remedies that can be used by alleged victims, including conditions for lodging a complaint with the Equality Complaints Committee.⁷ The website also offers a possibility to contact the Directorate of Equality in order to seek advice or assistance with lodging such a complaint. Its launch was promoted on social media. The authorities also informed ECRI that they had conducted a number of information sessions and trainings for municipalities, schools and workplaces.

ECRI welcomes the fact that meaningful action has been taken in the light of its recommendation. At the same time, it notes that, according to some civil society actors consulted by ECRI, the awareness-raising campaigns and materials mentioned above could have a broader scope of dissemination (which was allegedly not possible due to financial limitations) and aim at reaching out more groups of persons at risk of discrimination by making the information available in a greater set of languages.⁸ ECRI therefore encourages the authorities to pursue their efforts to disseminate and promote relevant materials on the anti-discrimination legal framework and – where appropriate – to ensure their translation in an appropriate range of languages.

In light of the above, ECRI concludes that, overall, its recommendation has been implemented.

⁵ The poster is available on [the website](#) of the Directorate of Equality.

⁶ In Icelandic “Orðin okkar”. Materials from the campaign are available on [a dedicated website](#).

⁷ Available [here](#).

⁸ The poster on anti-discrimination was distributed in Icelandic, English and Polish, while the social media and awareness-raising campaigns contained materials in Icelandic and English. In addition, the “End discrimination” [website](#), originally prepared in Icelandic and English, integrated a tool for automatic translation of its content into multiple languages.