

Report on the visit to Slovenia

from 20 to 23 March 2017

The Human Rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees



- » Participation in relocation and resettlement schemes
- » Creation of the Office for Migrant Care and Integration
- » Initiatives to improve care of unaccompanied children asylum seekers, notably ensuring that they are accommodated separately from adults
- » Establishment of a Council for integration with monitoring and recommendation powers



- » Amendments to the Aliens Act may violate the right to asylum and the prohibition of non-refoulement
- » Delays in asylum processing may affect prospect of family reunification for children turning 18 during the process
- » Lack of expertise and training of personnel - including guardians - dealing with children asylum seekers
- » Risk of statelessness
- » Lack of pre-integration opportunities (language courses, access to job market) for asylum seekers
- » Cuts to benefits and delays in obtaining them
- » Hostility and discrimination on the part of some in the population

Recommendations

- » Avoid activating the amendments to the Aliens Act
- » Combat hostility towards migrants and refugees in the public sphere
- » Accord priority to asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied minors
- » Improve the legal guardianship system for unaccompanied minor migrants
- » Involve asylum seekers and refugees in development of integration policies and the work of the Office for Care and Integration of migrants
- » Ratify and implement Convention against statelessness

The Human Rights of Roma



» Considerable efforts to improve the situation through legislation, policies and projects in education and employment



» Precarious housing situation due to illegal status of settlements
» Lack of access to essential public utilities like drinking water, sanitation and electricity in some settlements
» Growing phenomenon of child marriage and pregnancies
» High percentage of Roma without elementary school diploma
» Shortage of social assistants in some regions to provide holistic support to Roma families

Recommendations

» Formulate a clear strategy to tackle the disadvantaged situation of Roma
» Collect data on problems and need in a way which respects confidentiality of personal data & helps identify solutions
» Improve the cooperation between the central government and municipalities to solve the situation of irregular Roma settlements

» Apply a holistic strategy to eliminate child marriages and pregnancies
» Train and hire more Roma assistants in preschool, primary and secondary levels

The situation of the “erased”



» Efforts to address the problem, including by implementing the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights
» Public apology by the President of the National Assembly



» Many people erased from the register of permanent residence are still not regularised
» Dissatisfaction with compensation

Recommendations

» Provide a way to regularise the remaining “erased” who wish to reintegrate into Slovenian society, in particular the small number still living in Slovenia without legal status
» Introduce information and analysis about the “erasure” in schools’ educational materials

Poverty and its impact on the enjoyment of Human

- » Overall well-functioning welfare state
 - » National programme to combat poverty and social exclusion
 - » Mobilisation of NGOs and charities to reduce child poverty
- » Increase of percentage of people at risk of poverty or of social exclusion in the past 10 years
 - » Cuts to child benefits as a result of austerity measures threaten right to an adequate standard of living
 - » Risk of intergenerational poverty
 - » Average pension level below poverty line threatens right to adequate standard of living
 - » Poverty jeopardises access to doctors and right to the highest attainable standard of health
 - » Increasing number of precarious work contracts
 - » Low level of wages, including minimum wage

Recommendations

- » Adopt more clearly defined targets and a human rights based approach for poverty reduction policies
- » Honour commitment to lift austerity cuts now that the economic growth target has been reached
- » Pay particular attention to children, especially to their rights to housing, adequate living conditions and quality education
- » Avoid pension reforms that would increase poverty
- » Create opportunities for sustainable and decent work
- » Adjust the level of the minimum wage to render it more effective