



**Committee of the Parties
to the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Recommendation CP/Rec(2025)08
on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
by the Slovak Republic**

***adopted at the 36th meeting of the Committee of the Parties
on 20 June 2025***

The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), acting under the terms of Article 38(7) of the Convention;

Having regard to the purposes of the Convention to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, while guaranteeing gender equality, protect the human rights of victims of trafficking, design a comprehensive framework for the protection and assistance of victims and witnesses, ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of the offences related to trafficking in human beings, and promote international co-operation;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 36(1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the implementation of the Convention;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by the Slovak Republic on 27 March 2007;

Having examined the fourth report concerning the implementation of the Convention by the Slovak Republic, adopted by GRETA at its 52nd meeting (18-22 November 2024), as well as the comments of the Slovak Government received on 20 March 2025;

Bearing in mind the focus of the fourth evaluation round of the Convention on vulnerabilities to human trafficking and measures taken to prevent them, detect and support vulnerable victims, and punish the offenders, as well as the additional focus on the use of information and communication technology (ICT);

Considering the conclusions and proposals for action contained in Appendix 2 of GRETA's fourth report on the Slovak Republic related to the thematic focus of the fourth evaluation round and follow-up topics specific to the Slovak Republic;

Welcoming the measures taken and the progress achieved by the Slovak Republic in implementing the Convention, and in particular:

- the further development of the legislative framework relevant to combating trafficking in human beings, including the extension of the scope of the provision of the non-punishment of victims of trafficking in the Criminal Code;

- the adoption of the 6th National Programme for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2024-2028), along with an Action Plan which includes activities related to prevention of human trafficking amongst vulnerable groups and the identification of victims;
- the amendments of the National Referral Mechanism to simplify the procedure for the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking;
- the legislative amendments to the Victims Act related to state compensation and the increase in the number of victims who were awarded state compensation;
- the steps taken to raise awareness and prevent ICT-facilitated trafficking;

A. Recommends that the Government of the Slovak Republic take measures to address the following issues for urgent action¹ identified in GRETA's report:

1. take further measures to prevent trafficking of children, in particular by:
 - implementing immediate safety measures in all re-education centres, relocating any identified child victims of trafficking to specialised centres for vulnerable children, and prohibiting any harmful practices which increase children's vulnerabilities, such as the use of isolation;
 - implementing programmes aimed at supporting the socio-economic integration of children in vulnerable situations, including Roma children, unaccompanied children, refugee children and children living and leaving residential care (paragraph 42);
2. improve the identification of victims of human trafficking, including by:
 - increasing efforts to proactively identify victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation by reinforcing the capacity and training of labour inspectors;
 - ensuring that there is a separation between immigration enforcement functions and labour inspectorate roles, and that labour inspectors prioritise the detection of persons working in irregular situations who are vulnerable to human trafficking;
 - strengthening co-operation between law enforcement officers, labour inspectors, financial police, tax authorities, trade unions and NGOs, with a view to collecting evidence necessary for successfully investigating and prosecuting cases of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (paragraph 113);
3. ensure that human trafficking offences are prosecuted as such, rather than as lesser offences, every time the circumstances of the case allow this, leading to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for those convicted (paragraph 148);
4. facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of trafficking, including by:
 - enabling all victims of trafficking to exercise their right to compensation by ensuring access to legal assistance and free legal aid at the outset of the criminal proceedings;
 - ensuring that the collection of evidence about the harm the victim has suffered, including the financial gain from the exploitation of the victim, is part of the criminal investigations with a view to supporting compensation claims in court;
 - making full use of the legislation on the freezing and forfeiture of assets to secure compensation to victims of THB (paragraph 180);
5. provide in the national legislation for a recovery and reflection period which is in compliance with Article 13 of the Convention, taking into account GRETA's Guidance note on the recovery and reflection period (paragraph 186);

¹ The number of the paragraph setting out GRETA's proposals in the report is indicated in brackets.

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- B. Bearing in mind GRETA's conclusions that some recommendations made repeatedly in preceding evaluation rounds have not been implemented or have been only partially implemented, requests the Slovak authorities to take steps to implement the recommendations in points 3, 4 and 5 as a matter of priority;
- C. Recommends that the Slovak authorities take measures to implement the other proposals for action listed in Appendix 2 of GRETA's fourth evaluation report;
- D. Requests the Slovak Government to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to comply with this recommendation **by 20 June 2027**;
- E. Invites the Slovak Government to continue the dialogue in progress with GRETA and to keep GRETA regularly informed of the measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.