

Report on the visit to Latvia

from 05 to 09 September 2016

Women's rights and gender equality

-  » on-going work to develop long-term policies
-  » laws prohibiting discrimination based on gender in various fields
-  » regulations on temporary protection and rehabilitation services for victims of violence
-  » 2016 signature of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)
-  » high rate of violence against women and domestic violence
-  » limited capacity to investigate, prosecute and punish all instances of violence against women
-  » insufficient assistance provided to victims of violence
-  » neither signed nor ratified the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
-  » persisting gender pay gap
-  » public debates about the Istanbul Convention downplay the seriousness of the problem of domestic violence

Human rights of children

-  » legal and institutional framework largely in line with international human rights obligations
-  » guidelines for the development of social services for 2014-2020
-  » Action Plan for deinstitutionalisation for 2015-2020
-  » children born to “non-citizen” parents do not receive citizenship automatically
-  » considerable number of children residing in institutions
-  » children with disabilities educated in segregated settings

Human Rights of LGBTI persons

-  » improved conditions for freedom of assembly and expression of LGBTI persons
-  » inadequate response to homophobic and transphobic crime and hate speech
-  » lack of legal recognition to cohabiting different-sex and same-sex couples
-  » persistence of homophobic and transphobic stereotypes in society