



Slovak National Centre

for Human Rights

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Establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

Slovak National Centre for Human Rights was established upon initiative of the United Nations based on the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 430 of 15 June 1993, by which the government of the Slovak Republic approved realisation of the "Project to establish Slovak National Centre for Human Rights" with headquarters in Bratislava.

The Centre was established under the Act No. 308/1993 Coll. on the Establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, which entered into force on 1 January 1994, based on the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the United Nations on the Establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, published by the Notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic No. 29/1995 Coll.

National equality bodies are independent organisations providing assistance to victims of discrimination, monitoring discrimination and promoting equality. Equality bodies by law promote equality and fight discrimination.

As national equality body the Centre:

- ▶ monitors and assesses fulfilment of the principle of equal treatment in compliance with the Antidiscrimination Act,
- ▶ prepares educational activities and takes part in information campaigns aimed at increasing tolerance in society,
- ▶ provides legal assistance to victims of discrimination and intolerance, issues expert opinions upon request from natural persons or legal persons or from its own initiative, concerning the observance of the principle of equal treatment pursuant to the Antidiscrimination Act,
- ▶ provides legal representation in antidiscrimination proceedings before courts,
- ▶ collects and upon request provides information on racism, xenophobia, and anti-semitism in the Slovak Republic, apart from other competences arising from its status as national human rights institution.

As equality body, the Centre is a member of the EQUINET network, which gathers national equality bodies within Europe.

By adopting the Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and on Protection against Discrimination, amending and supplementing certain acts (the Antidiscrimination Act), the Centre's mandate had extended since 1 July 2004. Since 2004, the Centre became the sole equality body in Slovakia.

Besides its headquarters in Bratislava, the Centre has established regional offices in Banská Bystrica, Košice and Žilina. Through its regional offices, the Centre spreads its activities and services to places, where it would otherwise have a limited reach.

You can contact the Centre:
in writing, in person
via email, by phone

What is discrimination?

Discrimination in general means such conduct, when a person is treated less favourably than other persons, based on his or her gender, religion or faith, race, nationality, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital or family status, colour, language, political or other affiliation, national or social origin, property, sex or other status or on the basis of reporting criminality or other anti-social activities (whistleblowing). The Antidiscrimination Act distinguishes between direct and indirect discrimination and defines harassment, sexual harassment, victimisation, as well as instruction and incitement to discrimination.

Any natural person or legal person that feels discriminated in any of the areas covered by the Antidiscrimination Act based on any ground listed therein can contact the Centre. It is necessary for the applicant to fill in all relevant data and provide all relevant materials when submitting a complaint

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are independent institutions established by law with a broad mandate to protect and promote human rights in the country of establishment.

As national human rights institution:

The Centre conducts complex functions in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In order to fulfil its basic tasks, the Centre:

- ▶ monitors and evaluates the observance of the equal treatment,
- ▶ gathers and upon request provides information on racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism in the Slovak Republic,
- ▶ conducts research and surveys to provide data in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms, gathers and shares information in this area,
- ▶ provides library services,
- ▶ provides services in the area of human rights,
- ▶ prepares educational activities and participates in information campaigns,
- ▶ is entitled to ask courts, prosecutors and other state institutions, bodies of territorial self-government, bodies of interest self-government and other institutions, to provide any information concerning the observance of human rights.

As national human rights institution, the Centre is a member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI).

Which subjects and in which areas are obliged to observe the principle of equal treatment principle?

Areas: employment, social security, health care, education, providing goods and services.

Subjects: the obligation to observe this principle binds state institutions, bodies of territorial self-government, bodies of interest self-government, as well as natural and legal persons active in the areas covered.