

QUICK GUIDE TO ADDRESSING SEXUAL RIGHTS ISSUES DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON SLOVAKIA¹

These Guides include:

- A list of issues mentioned in the National Report, the Compilation of official UN Documents and the Summary of Other Stakeholders Submissions, with references to the particular paragraphs in which they can be found.
- The full text of those paragraphs
- Suggested questions and recommendations.

References in the two working languages of the Council (English and French) have been kept in their original language.

Issues are highlighted. References in the National Report are *in Italics*.

All sexual rights issues that do not relate specifically to women are referred to in this Guide. Sexual rights' issues referring specifically to women -as well as other women's issues- are referred to in the Guide on Women's Issues

OP-CRC-SC (Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography) ratified.

| ISSUE | N Report | Compilation | Summary |
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| Gender identity/ Transsexual persons | | | Need for legislation on gender-reassignment procedures, eliminating forced sterilization (4) |
| HIV/AIDS | | Need for measures to decrease overall rate (39) | Need for legislation to guarantee non-discrimination on people living with HIV. Need for comprehensive campaigns on HIV/AIDS and STDs in high educational centres (33) |
| Persons with Disability and Older Persons | | | Silence around sexual rights of persons w/disabilities; need for studies and plan of action/ Elderly couples (34) |
| Sexual orientation and gender identity | | | Plan of action to change society's negative attitudes towards lesbians and gays, requested. Need for legislation protecting civil rights of same-sex couples (13) |
| Trafficking/sexual exploitation /violence against | Trafficking, ill treatment, pornography | Sexual exploitation not penalized by law. Prostitution in Roma | |

¹ These Guides were produced by the Sexual Rights Initiative, a coalition of organizations based in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and North America whose mandate is to advance women's issues broadly and sexual rights issues in the Human Rights Council. For questions, comments, suggestions please contact Alejandra Sardá-Chandiramani at alejandra@mulabi.org

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| children | criminalized by Penal Code (35). Sexual exploitation involves minors (82) | settlements. Need for effective measures (20). Need for mandatory reporting of sexual abuse /adequate protecting measures. (17). | |
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Gender identity/Transsexual persons

(See Recommendations)

HIV/AIDS

SRI pointed out the very low incidence rate of HIV/AIDS and looked over the policy and programmes established in the country. (Para 33, Summary)

Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons

Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) noted that sexual behaviour and sexual problems of mentally and physically handicapped persons (and older persons) are rarely mentioned in public (Para 34, Summary)

Sexual orientation and gender identity

(See Recommendations)

Trafficking/sexual exploitation/violence against children

The Penal Code addresses a number of serious criminal offences, including trafficking in children, production and distribution of child pornography, and indecent behaviour (Para 35, NR) Trafficking in human beings is not too prominent, yet it represents a serious problem. Trafficking for sexual purposes often involves minors (Para 82, NR).

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was concerned at the high level of rape of children between the ages of 7 and 18, even in protective environments such as families and schools. (Para 20, Compilation). CRC was concerned at the fact that the Slovak legislation and practice did not explicitly penalize sexual exploitation of children. CRC was further concerned that despite its legal prohibition, child prostitution remains a problem in Roma settlements with the worst living conditions. (Para 20, Compilation).

Suggested questions and recommendations:

Committee on the Rights of the Child:

- To introduce mandatory reporting of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children and that it take the necessary measures to ensure that child victims of abuse and other forms of violence are not victimized once again during legal proceedings (Para 17, Compilation)
- To take adequate legislative measures to ensure the explicit prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse of children under criminal law; ensure that child victims are not criminalized or penalized; implement appropriate policies and programmes for the prevention, recovery and social reintegration of child victims; carry out gender awareness-raising campaigns to combat sexual exploitation (Para 20, Compilation)
- To take measures to decrease the overall rate of HIV/AIDS infection in its territory (Para 39, Compilation)

Sexual Rights Initiative:

- To adopt a comprehensive law regulating the **gender-reassignment procedures** by eliminating all requirements that infringe upon individual rights, such as forced sterilization (Para 4, Summary)
- To develop and implement a plan of action aimed at lowering society's negative attitudes towards **lesbian and gays**, and to promulgate legislation to protect the civil rights of same-sex couples (Para 13, Summary)
- To draft and promulgate a comprehensive law to guarantee the rights of HIV positive individuals in terms of non-discrimination at all levels and develop and implement a sensitivity campaign in this regard aimed at the general public in addition to an awareness raising campaign on **HIV/AIDS** and other sexually transmitted infections in high schools, colleges and Universities throughout the country (Para 33, Compilation)
- To make -in collaboration with relevant civil society actors- a survey on Sexual Rights of **Persons with Disabilities** and develop a plan of action in this regard (Para 34, Compilation)
- To reconfigure the "Elderly Houses" in such a way that **elderly couples** can engage in intimate relationships there (Para 34, Compilation)