



Dear Members of the Committee,

This letter and attached Written Comments intend to supplement the Third Periodic Report of the Government of the Slovak Republic in compliance with its obligations under the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is scheduled to be reviewed by the Committee during its 55th session.

The Center for Civil and Human Rights and the European Roma Rights Centre, both independent non-governmental organisations, hope to further the work of the Committee by providing independent information concerning the rights protected by the Convention with regard to their focus and expertise. We believe that the State parties' commitment to comply with the Convention should receive serious attention.

We would like the Committee to consider addressing the following questions to the Slovak Government during the constructive dialogue held during the 55th session:

1. What concrete efforts have been made to investigate thoroughly the full extent of the practice of coerced and forced sterilizations in the communist and post-communist period in Slovakia?
2. What concrete efforts have been made to establish a mechanism of to access an adequate remedy and compensation for all Romani women who underwent this procedure?
3. Are concrete efforts being made to monitor the implementation of the current health care legislation on obtaining informed consent in practice?
4. What measures have been taken to prevent cases of police violence against Roma? was the impact of those measures evaluated and what was their impact on decreasing such cases in Slovak society? What are the measures planned for the future in this relation?
5. Why is the information on region-wide police actions such as the Code-Action 100 not recorded within the police? What are the measures of prevention against racial profiling in such cases?
6. What efforts have been made to enhance the effectiveness of investigations into cases of police ill-treatment including investigations with a possible racial motive? Has any tangible progress been achieved?
7. Are there any plans to establish a fully independent autonomous institution, built outside the structures of the Ministry of Interior that will be responsible for the investigations of complaint into alleged cases of police mistreatment? If not, why?