



2b) Please describe how national human rights institutions contribute to prevention of human rights violations

Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) is the only NHRI in Slovakia, which was established by the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 308/1993 Coll. on the Establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. The Centre plays an active role in prevention of human rights violations and abuses. The aim of the Centre is to contribute to prevention not only of the occurrence of such violation but also to foster a human rights culture among the wide public and play a vital role in preventing reoccurrences of human rights abuses.

According to the **mandate** of the Centre as articulated in the establishing act the Centre:

- Monitors and reviews the observance of human rights and the observance of the principle of equal treatment under the Act No 365/2004 Call. on Equal Treatment in Some Areas and on Protection against Discrimination
- Collects and provides upon request information on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the Slovak Republic
- Conducts research and surveys necessary for provision of information concerning human rights and acquires and disseminates information in this field
- Provides legal advice for victims of discrimination and manifestation of intolerance and represents a party in judicial proceedings concerning violations of the principle of equal treatment
- Prepares, upon request from natural persons or legal entities or on its own initiative, expert opinions concerning compliance with the principle of equal treatment
- Carries out independent investigations concerning discrimination
- Prepares and publishes reports and recommendations on discrimination matters
- Provides library services and services in the area of human rights

Practical examples of how the Centre exercises its mandate in terms of contributing to prevention of human rights violations

A. Awareness raising, training and educational activities

The Centre believes that the most effective tool for prevention of human rights violations is an effective human rights education for the right holders and with a particular importance for the duty bearers. Hence, the Centre prepares and delivers various training and educational activities for different audience. The Centre welcomes any invitation for cooperation with this aim and also proactively offers its services to targeted groups. Among the various educational activities and trainings, the following sub-groups can be mentioned as **examples** (beyond the mentioned targeted groups the Centre provides its services to various other groups such as imprisoned persons, offices of social affairs and family, labour inspectorates, trade unions etc.) .

- **Educational activities for students**

The Centre offers educational activities for primary schools, high schools and universities aimed on human rights, non-discrimination, gender equality, holocaust, extremism and racism and rights of the child (for further information on the content of each topic please see the website of the Centre: <http://snslp.sk/?locale=en#menu=2174>). During educational activities, the Centre delivers lectures, discussions, use various games and other interactive tools in order to support the most participatory human rights education possible. In 2014, the Centre organised 45 educational activities for students throughout Slovakia with 1135 pupils and students participating. From these, 24 were organised for primary schools and 21 for high schools. Further information and statistics are available at the Centre's website.

- **Trainings for public officials and professionals in whose work potential human rights abuses may occur**

With regards to training activities targeting public officials and professionals in whose work potential abuses of human rights may occur, the Centre particularly highlights its activities for members of the Police Force and students preparing for a career in the Police Force. The aim of these trainings is to foster a human rights education and to contribute to prevention of any human rights violations caused by the members of the Police Force occurred when acting in their duty. The following are **several examples** from the trainings delivered by the Centre in the past.



The Centre has an established cooperation with the **Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava**, within which it provides trainings from students on topics of human rights and anti-discrimination. These trainings are provided annually (in 2014 there were 2 lectures) and they traditionally form part of a course Constitutional Law.

In April 2014, the Centre delivered training on human rights and extremism within a training for lecturers- members of police from the **Department of Criminal Police of Regional Police Headquarters of the Police Force of the Fight against Extremism Division**, which was held at the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava. In February 2015, the Centre provided a human rights training in Bratislava for the **newly hired members of police working in the area of extremism**.

Moreover, in October 2014 the Centre delivered training on human trafficking, asylum and migration policies at the **Secondary vocational school of the Police Force** in Košice.

In the end of 2012 and beginning of 2013, the Centre organized training activities for the **members of the Department of Extremism and Spectator Violence of the Regional Police Headquarters of the Police Force** in Košice and Trnava. The participants of the training were trained concerning the observance of human rights in cases of police intervention.

In 2009-2010, the Centre organized a series of educational activities **for members of police force, border police and foreign police service** within a project „Série aktivít SNSĽP v oblasti predchádzania všetkým formám diskriminácie, rasizmu, xenofóbie, antisemitizmu, ostatným prejavom intolerancie a zvyšovania povedomia o ľudských právach“ (Series of activities of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights in the Area of Preventing All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, Other Forms of Intolerance and Human Rights Awareness-Raising). During three blocks lasting for five days, which took place in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica and Košice, the Centre trained 186 policemen and policewomen. The topics covered non-discrimination, human rights, asylum, rights of the child, elimination of manifestations of xenophobia, communication with problematic clients, code of ethics of a member of police force and xenophobia. All participants of the trainings received a publication prepared by the Centre „Sprievodca ľudskými právami, azylovou problematikou, právami dieťaťa a nediskrimináciou“ (Guide on Human Rights, Asylum Issues, Rights of the Child and Non-discrimination).

- **For vulnerable groups**



In the third quarter of 2014, the Centre has launched a training module "Naučme sa spolu viac" (Let's learn more together), which aims to raise awareness in the areas of the protection from discrimination, labour law and human trafficking- modern slavery of **Roma people** directly in Roma communities. First trainings were delivered in Košice (Lunik IX), Banská Bystrica, Rožňava. In 2015, the Centre continues with the module. In it organised trainings in January Dunajská Streda and in February in Pašková. The participants in the trainings are Roma people from the communities as well as people working in Roma communities such as field social workers, pedagogic workers and assistants of teachers in Roma communities. In terms of prevention of human rights abuses, the training module specifically addresses a topic of human trafficking and modern slavery, since Roma are often victims of this grave violation of human rights. In addressing the issue, the Centre delivers information concerning the protection provided by national legislation, international human rights instruments (e.g. the Palermo Protocol) and the most crucially practical information on how to protect oneself when migrating for work abroad, including the useful steps to do prior signing any contract, prior departure and after departure during the stay abroad as well as information on who to turn to in case any problems occurs. The Centre has designed a useful leaflet with these information and delivers it to participants of the trainings.

Among other awareness raising activities for vulnerable groups the Centre also delivers training for **students with disabilities** who are also more likely to face discrimination and other human rights abuses. For instance, the Centre has been for several years cooperating with the Joint school with organizational units- Secondary vocational school and Practical school (Švabinského street 7, Bratislava), which is attended by children and young people with mental disabilities. The Centre each year provides its educational activities on the following topics: discrimination, human rights and sexual violence (since these people are often victims of sexual violence in the past). Moreover, the Centre also cooperates with the Grammar school for people with hearing impairment in Kremnica. Within its educational activities in this school the Centre usually addresses the issues of human rights and rights of persons with disabilities both in terms of increasing awareness of their rights in order to prevent abuses and of protection in cases any violation occurs.

B. Reports and recommendations

Furthermore, the Centre believes that in terms of prevention of human rights abuses it is particularly important to monitor national legislation in order to assess its compliance with human rights standards since the application of incompliant legislation may amount to serious human rights violations. With this respect, the Centre publishes relevant recommendations. The recommendations



of the Centre in the legislative field are in practice presented by various (even multiple) forms in order to call sufficient attention of expert and laic public, especially of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Slovak Republic. The forms include presentations at conferences, media outputs or written requests to members of the government or MPs, but mainly recommendations presented in the annual report on the observance of human rights including the observance of the principle of equal treatment in the Slovak Republic. The reasoning of recommendation is based on national legislation as well as on international standards in the area of human rights and key international recommendations. The Centre offers the addressees of its recommendations to provide them consultations related to the preparation of the recommended legislative change.

The Centre also issues recommendations in relation to general situation in human rights observance in Slovakia as well as with regards to specific cases it deals with. These are published as a part of the above mentioned annual report and/or in forms of expert opinions and other legal briefs communicated to the parties. The recommendations aim to prevent the re-occurrence of the similar violations in the future.

C. Interaction with media and other PR activities in order to outreach a wide public

In order to outreach the wide public the Centre communicates with media on various occasions. The Centre both reacts to actual topics and current situation in human rights and protection from discrimination in Slovakia as well as answers to queries of media. The Centre also publishes its press-releases, reports, expert opinions, recommendations and other information at its website. By increasing awareness of the current situation and the means of protection against violations the Centre aims to contribute to human rights prevention.

For instance, in 2014 the Centre published 80 outputs on its website in the news site. These included general information on the activities of the Centre, short news concerning international days relating to human rights, statements of the Centre and the distribution of external press releases.

Table 1: Outputs at the website of the Centre (www.snslp.sk)

	News published at the website of the Centre	International and national days	News from abroad in the area of human rights and non-discrimination	News from Slovakia in the area of human rights and non-discrimination	Statements of the Centre	Reports of the Centre
Together	80	21	8	10	14	27

Table 2: Written media statements and reports of the Centre

Written media statements of the Centre	Area	Press releases of the Centre	Distribution of other press-releases
1	Discrimination	-	1
6	Racism	5	1
3	Gender Equality	2	1
2	Extremism	2	-
2	Bullying, mobbing, bossing	2	-
2	LGBTI	2	-
1	Rights of the child	-	1
3	Various	3	-
20	Together	16	4