

**Replies provided by Albanian institutions related with the Questionnaire of Human Rights Council Resolution 24/16 on “The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights”.**

***1. a. Please describe legislative, juridical, administrative and other measures aimed at prevention of human rights violations and abuses in place at the domestic level, both with regard to direct prevention (aiming to prevent violations from occurring by reducing the risk factors that cause violations) and indirect prevention aimed at ensuring non-recurrence through investigation and addressing causes of violations as well as accountability).***

In 1998, the Government of Albania adopted the new **Constitution** of Albania. The Constitution advances the principles of equality and nondiscrimination, as well as the protection and respect for human dignity, rights, and freedoms.

The Albanian government, is committed for the respectation of human rights and prevention of their violation. In this regard, the Albanian government is continuously focused on promoting the rights of women, as a priority for the development of the country. For achieving the above, and aiming the improvement of women’s social status and gender equality, concrete improvement of the legal framework, development of new policies, programs and administrative measures are in process.

**A legislative measure** aiming the prevention of human rights violations and abuses, is the adoption of the Law “*On Protection from Discrimination*”, which entered into force on 13 March, 2010. This Law, is a concrete step forward, on the protection of human rights in the Albanian legislation, taking into account the spirit of the international documents, and at the same time, a concrete step for meeting the European standards. Article 1, of the Law “*On Protection from Discrimination*” (LPD), regulates the implementation and respect of the principle of equality related with age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or marital condition, civil status, health status, genetic predispositions, restricted ability, economic, education or social situation such as pregnancy, parentage, parental responsibility, as well as, race, ethnicity, residence, color of a person, language, political, religious or philosophical beliefs, affiliation with a particular group or for any other grounds.

To ensure a more effective protection from discrimination, this Law provides the establishment of the **Office of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination** (CPD) as a public institution, independent in the exercise of its duty. Indeed, this institution is considered to be the only authority responsible for “*providing effective protection from discrimination and any other form of conduct that encourages discrimination*” (Article 21, Paragraph 1). The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination exercises his/her jurisdictions, pursuant to the Constitution and other legal acts in force.

**The CPD from 2010-2014, addressed 447 cases of individual complains and initiated *ex-officio* 48 cases of discrimination.**

**During 2013-2014 the CPD ascertained 68 cases of discrimination (in 46 cases has given discrimination decision and in 19 cases has avoid the discriminatory**

**situation during the proceedings), meanwhile, has given 18 recommendations for the improvement of the situation of discrimination.**

**In addition,** the Commissioner has provided strategic decisions based on the decisions of the *Strasbourg Court* or in respect of the principles established by the Court of Justice of the *European Union*.

In addition, Albania has ratified various international agreements, on gender equality such as: 1-Convention “For the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women” and 2-Convention of Istanbul, ratified in 2012.

During the years, the Albanian state has combated gender discrimination and undertaken different initiatives for the promotion and implementation of these actions, including:

- The continuous harmonization of the national legislation with international standards through the drafting of the Law nr. 9970, dated in 24.07.2008 “For gender equality in society”, the Law nr. 9690, dated in 18.12.2006 “For the measures Against Violence in Family Affairs” (amended), the Law nr. 10221, dated in 04.02.2010 “For the Protection Against Discrimination”, and various other laws and regulations.
- The drafting and implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality, the Reduction of Violence, Gender Oriented and Violence in Family, 2011-2015 (revised) and the Plan of Action for its implementation, and other programs and national policies regarding gender equality and reduction of violence, gender oriented, and domestic violence.
- The establishment and empowering of the national mechanism on the protection of gender equality, against the violence towards women and domestic violence. Some of the most important structures which should be outlined are: **a)** National Council of Gender Equality, a consultative body, consisted by members of ministries and representatives of civil society, **b)** The Institution of the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination, Ombudsman, **c)** The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, which covers issues of gender equality and domestic violence, and is the competent authority for the implementation of the laws and state programs regarding the issues of gender equality and domestic violence. The Directory of Social Inclusion and Gender Equality, is the state structure in the Ministry, which covers these issues, **d)** at central level (ministerial) and local (municipalities), a network of gender employees is established and further strengthened.

A case of success at the fight against violence towards women and domestic violence, is considered to be the inclusion of domestic violence as a penal act in the Penal Code and the strong sanctions against the violators, during 2012.

**The Family Code** of Albania also includes several articles relevant to domestic violence against a spouse and child (ren). The Family Code addresses parental obligations and child rights in the family life, as well as child abuse and neglect.

**The priority** given to the protection and promotion of women rights and the fight against violence towards them, is portrayed in parliamentary level as well. Specifically:

- a) **the Commission for Work, Social Issues and Health**, reviews among other things, issues of gender equality and domestic violence, via public hearings. Within this commission, a “Subcommittee for the Issues of the Minors, Gender Equality and Domestic Violence” (led by a woman), is established by a decision from the Parliament with nr. 67/21.12.2013, and its main aim, is the monitoring of governmental policies regarding the support of women and family, and the inclusion of **OSHC** in this process,
- b) **the Alliance of Woman MPs** was established in October, 2013 after the lobbying of female MPs, for initiating another opportunity to prioritize the issues regarding women and achieving gender equality. Since its establishment, this body, has initiated different sensibilizing activities on these topics, such as:
- The rise of awareness of the public opinion, aiming the change of the stereotypes towards gender, via various sensibilizing campaigns; the change of the attitudes towards gender issues via the strengthening of the capacities of the public administration; and the reduction of violence, gender oriented, and the domestic violence, via the establishment of the Mechanism of Reference in 24 municipalities of the state, or the professional training of various actors, responsible for the implementation of the laws regarding domestic violence, etc.

The success of such initiatives is undeniable since the discussion of issues related to gender equality is stronger, and issues such as domestic violence, is being discussed openly in public, at the high level of politics, in societal level, and in electronic and print media.

**Another important issue of concern**, regarding the violation of human rights which the Albanian government is paying special attention, is the rights of LGBT community. During the late years, the Albanian legislation was improved regarding its legal instruments for the protection from discrimination of the human rights of this specific group of people. The approval of the Law Nr. 10221, dated in 04.02.2010 “For the Protection from Discrimination”, brings Albania closer to the highest standards for the protection of human rights and the demands of European Union on this issue.

Albania is among those countries, which are working on fighting the discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Law Nr. 10 221, dated in 04.02.2010 “For the Protection from Discrimination”, mentions among other, the respect of the principle of equality based on gender and sexual orientation. In 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013, the Albanian Parliament, approved with the Law Nr. 144/2013, the revisions of the articles 50, 253, 265, which are related with the protection of this community.

During the last, two years, the Action Plan “For the Protection from Discrimination because of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity 2012-2014” is implemented. In addition, the drafting of a new plan for the period 2016-2020 is under process.

**Albanian legislature also pays special attention to the Persons with Disabilities.** In 2009, the Albanian Government signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and a process of ratification and improvement of domestic legislation is underway.

**The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth**, pays special attention to the protection, promotion and implementation of the rights of the people in need, based on the

principles of the Albanian Constitution, the Convention for the Human Rights, the Convention for the Rights of the Child, etc.

**Last but not least, State Police structures** remain committed to the realization and fulfillment of their duties and responsibilities according the laws, for the respectation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context, particular importance is given to:

- Compilations of some standard administrative procedures and guaranteeing of the rights of persons deprived of their liberties in police premises.
- The General Department of State Police, has adopted a series of measures to prevent violations of human rights such as:
  - a) the adoption of standard operating procedures for Order and Public Safety
  - b) the adoption of “Manual of rules and standard procedures for training and safety of persons detained/arrested in police units”.
- Adoption of some legislative acts pursuant to the statement “ Tip” on the rights of persons detained/arrested which are listed as follows:
  - a) Order Nr. 657, dated in 25.07.11, order Nr. 763, dated in 27.11.2011, order Nr. 258 dated in 08.06.2012, order Nr. 371, dated in 08.08.2012, order Nr. 372 dated in 08.08.2012, order Nr. 972, dated in 02.05.2014, order Nr. 1947, dated in 12.03.2014, order Nr. 679 dated in 07.05.2014, order Nr. 4577/1, dated in 10.09.2014.

**1. b. Please describe any good practices in the implementation of these measures, as well as any challenges which have been faced.**

**Regarding the protection of the people** who were subject of discrimination, the Law on Legal Aid entered into force in April 2009 and provides free legal aid in civil and also administrative cases. The **Legal Aid Commission** was established in June 2010 and the members of the Commission have been appointed.

In order to ensure better protection against discrimination, the Commission on Legal Aid and the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination signed an agreement on providing legal aid and assistance to people who were discriminated against.

**Another example of good practice** of implementing measures against the violation of human rights, is the collaboration of the Office of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, with the juridical system. During 2014, it appears to have a significant rise in the participation of the Office of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination in litigation from 2012 until 2014. The Law "**On Protection from Discrimination**" sets CPD in an extensive report with the court, by providing much power in terms of the institution's participation in litigation. Over all, the Law intends to make the principle of non-discrimination, to be treated not only administratively by the CPD, but also through its effective implementation by courts.

	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014
The participation of CPD in Court	3	6	18

The CPD participation in court proceedings is as: a defendant party, third party, issuing of written opinion in court for discrimination cases and request for issuance of orders execution in Court for fines imposed by the CPD due to non-implementation of its decisions from subjects maintained discriminatory behaviour.

**In addition**, the CPD has performed surveys / independent monitoring related to discrimination such as:

- The monitoring of the enrolment of Roma children in the elementary school in Tirana,
- The monitoring of the situation of discrimination in different schools of Albania.
- The monitoring of the principle of non-discrimination in the pre-trial Detention Institution 302 in Tirana.

**Furthermore**, the CPD has published reports and have made recommendations on any issues related to discrimination, to local and central authorities. The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination has the power not only *"to make recommendations for any issue related to discrimination"*, but also *"to impose administrative sanctions under the definition of this law"*. Also, CPD has competence to receive complaints against the public sector and the private sector as well, and individuals.

**Moreover**, the CPD has address legislative recommendations aiming to avoid discriminatory provisions and to adopt the laws in accordance with the Law "On Protection from Discrimination". The CPD has address recommendations for the: The Labor Code; Family Code; The Code of Administrative Procedures; The Penal Code; the Code of Civil Procedures; The Law "On the Registration of Population", The Law Nr. 69/2012 dated in 21.06.2012 "On the Pre-University Education System in Republic of Albania", Broadcasting Code etc. These recommendations, in the most of the cases, are taken into account by the relevant institutions.

**Regarding State Police structures**, police forces are putting into practice different practices for the protection of human rights. The practices that are being applied are the following:

- Perform of checks to the structures/services of local police stations.
- The Department of Public Safety has performed different controls over the entire structure of local police to eliminate the deficiencies and violations in the field of treatment and respecting of human rights of the persons deprived of liberty, and started the process for disciplinary charge for violations.
- In the cases where the disciplinary violations were serious, the materials are directed to the authority of Directorate of Professional Standards which has the power to review the cases and take disciplinary measures for the serious violations.
- During 2014, various disciplinary measures and dismissals from police force are registered, due to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Regarding the creation of the appropriate conditions to the facilities which are holding and handling accompanied persons/ detained and arrested, the following measures are held:

- a) The General Department has conducted regarding the rights of the persons accompanied/detained and arrested, reconstruction/ construction of facilities at the departments of State Police, with accordance to the Convention for the

Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment, and with the assistance of the Mission PAMECA and ICITAP,

- b) The facilities for holding persons accompanied/ detained and arrested are monitored by security cameras for the respectation of human rights,
- c) Some facilities such as security rooms and detention are put out of function, in some police units, because they did not fulfilled the conditions and standards required by the special order of the ASP.

**In addition**, performing controls/monitoring are held by constitutional institutions, state institutions, and independent institutions, which are not part of State Police jurisdiction. For instance:

- a) The Ombudsman as a constitutional body performs audits/monitoring in all structures of the State Police without notice and without special permission to enter and inspect the premises rooms of held/arrested persons, and the level of fulfillment of duties by police officers on respecting and guaranteeing the rights of this category of people.
- b) At the end of the monitoring, Ombudsman sends a respective report to the central structures of the Police and a police unit gathers the findings and recommendations.
- c) In cases where human rights violations of detained/arrested persons was registered, as well when during the escort of e person, physical violence or psychological maltreatment was committed by police personnel, measures for the legal treatment of the case are taken.
- d) Service Affairs and Appeals (SAA), is an organization under the Ministry of Interior, which has the authority and the legal obligation to carry out checks and monitoring of the work and activities of the State Police. In this framework, it performs and controls the implementation of the legal acts and regulations which preserves human rights and freedoms and in particular of persons who are detained/arrested and escorted by State Police.
- e) To ascertain violation cases that do not constitute an offense, it recommends to the General Department Police/ Department of Professional Standards, an administrative review/ for the disciplinary case for the addressement of disciplinary measures to the extend of dismissal from the State Police.
- f) For the cases of violations committed by police officers, and which constitute a criminal offense, procedural actions are initiated for the prosecution of the persons responsible, by making appropriate references to the prosecution.
- g) Full access to carry out monitoring/ inspection of police units without notice and at any time, is given to various civil society organizations for the protection of human rights.

***2. a. What action-oriented policies, practices and strategies to prevent human rights violations and abuses have been put in place at the national level, including the establishment of independent national institutions, national human rights action plans and any early warning mechanisms?***

In February 2010, Albania adopted a Law against Discrimination, which bans discrimination on various grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity. It has been assessed as a comprehensive legislation and it includes strong mechanisms

for its implementation, and the elected **Commissioner for the Protection against Discrimination** has already reviewed a number of complaints.

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

**The raising of the awareness** is one of the basic elements on fighting discrimination. In this regard, the raising of awareness is also one of the main activities of CPD, provided through a range of competencies for the prevention of human rights violations. Some examples of methods, raising the awareness, include: - the promotion of the principle of equality and non-discrimination, especially by informing about these issues, including the provision of information of this Law written in Albanian, in minority languages, as well as in formats usable by persons with disabilities; - Addressing directly to public opinion for issues related to discrimination; - Information on the right for protection from discrimination and the legal means available for this protection; - Conducting of regular dialogue on issues of discrimination with the respective social groups, including non-governmental organizations and the development of awareness via educational activities which assist on the implementation of this Law.

However, CPD concludes that still, is needed to increase further the public awareness for the vulnerable groups, the protection against discrimination and legal remedies.

Taking this into consideration, CPD has:

- Drafted, published and distributed a range of information and awareness materials.
- Organized trainings with members of different communities.
- Organized conferences and seminars with topics such as: protection of human rights, the LGBT rights, minority rights, children rights, rights of people with disabilities.
- Organized open days in the framework of different projects implemented by CPD and NGO's. Open days were organized in many towns and communes of Albania.
- Participated in visual and written media. The Commissioner and CPD staff participated in several television programs addressing social issues, such as equality and non-discrimination, as well special interviews, as guests, in central news editions. The Commissioner has published several articles in the press. In addition, he stressed out in press statements, about the increasing violence against women, the integration in education of children with disabilities, employment discrimination, discrimination through hate speech, minority rights etc.
- Organized open lectures in Universities with topic *'On the role of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination as a guarantor against discriminatory behaviour'*.

**2. c. Please provide information on any lessons learnt regarding prevention of torture that may also apply to prevention of other human rights violations.**

The CPD has paid special attention to the prevention of torture for the prisoners. In this regard, the Commissioner has undertaken the following initiatives:

- Between the CPD and the General State Police, cooperation agreements were signed, to guarantee the implementation of the principle of equality and non-discrimination by the State Police employees.
- The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, in 2012, signed a Cooperation Agreement with the General Directorate of Prisons aiming the cooperation between the two institutions. One of the most important points of this collaboration is to guarantee the right of prisoners to appeal at the Commissioner, setting a mailbox at any institution of serving criminal sentences.

The Commissioner in accordance with its power to conduct administrative investigations on his/her own initiative after receiving credible information, has addressed some cases regarding torture.

**4. What measures have been taken to promote a human right culture among the population and increase the level of human rights awareness in your country including among public officials?**

The Albanian government with the cooperation of different NGO's has initiated various campaigns aiming the rise of awareness for the human rights and establishment of a culture of respecting them in different areas.

**Regarding woman rights**, the campaign "He For She", which the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) initiated in cooperation with UN Women Albania, is a sensibilizing international campaign, organized from UN Women regarding equality, under which, men from all over the world are encouraged to speak loudly about issues related with the lack of equality, which women are facing.

MSWY, which is the main responsible institution for addressing gender equality, violence which is gender oriented and domestic violence, in Albania, was actively involved in this campaign, which was supported by UN Women Albania. A group of interns from the Ministry, were involved at the realization of video-messages with topic: "Boys and Men for Gender Equality", which was posted in a later period, in the page of "One Story" (<https://www.onestory.com/stories?search=Albania>). In total, 52 video-messages were posted by public figures or citizens. The contribution of MSWY in this campaign, was important, within the framework of initiating sensibilizing projects under the spirit of the global campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Violence, Gender Oriented, and actions which support the implementation of the National Strategy of Gender Equality, Reduction of Violence, Gender Oriented and Domestic Violence 2011-2015 and its Action Plan, sensibilizing initiatives under the framework of the National Report for the Implementation of the Platform for Action, Pekin+20, etc.

**An important sensibilizing campaign**, is the organization of the campaign under the framework of 16 days of activism against the violence towards women, 25 November-10 December 2014. MSWY, coordinated the actions and activities of this campaign under the same slogan and common agenda of other state institutions, agents of civil society, international organizations, local authorities, etc. For this year too, the purpose of this campaign was the involvement and activation of as many men

possible, as partners and collaborators in the initiatives against the violence, gender oriented and domestic violence.

The campaign was organized under the slogan: "Boys and Men, part of the solution – Tell that you are against Violence!"

**Moreover, CPD**, has organized different training regarding the protections of human rights. During 2014, 5 trainings were organized with judges of Courts of First Instance, on the Law "*On Protection from Discrimination*". During 2014, 4 trainings were organized with the employees of the local institutions in the framework of the project "**Support for the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptian community**". Furthermore, during 2014, 3 trainings were organized with representatives of NGO's which focused on the protection of human rights.

**CPD, during 2012 and 2013** has organized open days aiming the training of the local government employees in the municipalities and communes of Albania.

**Last, Local Police Departments** in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety, experts of the Council of Europe and the Albanian Helsinki Committee, organized during 2014, a specialized training addressing police employees, for the recognition and enforcement of the laws/regulations regarding human rights, the prevention of torture, maltreatment and abuse.

**5. a. How have partnerships with civil society been strengthened to harness their experience and expertise to promote and protect human rights?**

The cooperation with civil society is considered to be a very important element for CPD, the awareness within the community but also with specific groups in the law "*On Protection from Discrimination*". Collaboration consists in realizing the projects where representatives of Commissioner's office contributed regarding the increase of community's awareness about the Law and the role of CPD in this area, encouraging both these trained groups (as institutions and individual communities) to bring forward as much discrimination cases. The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination has already formed a contact list of non-profit organizations with 80 NGO's operating nationally on the protection of human rights. Cooperation with these NGOs is ongoing and consisted mainly in organizing and participating in joint activities such as trainings, round tables, conferences, seminars etc. The CPD has signed 25 cooperation agreements with NGO's.

**5. b. What role and actions can and do civil society and NGO's take to prevent human rights violation?**

Different civil society's organizations have been active regarding the prevention of violations of the rights, towards LGBT community. For instance, in December 2008, the first National Debate on Human Rights was organized where LGBT rights were openly discussed for the first time in Albania. In February 2009, human rights organizations for the first time jointly organized events for the International Day against Homophobia. There are now three LGBT organizations that are actively working on empowering the LGBT community, with advocacy and promotion of LGBT rights. Two homophobic statements made by politicians in 2011 were publicly opposed

by these organizations and the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination opened investigations.

Indeed, the contribution of Civil Rights Defenders in Albania, to the protection of human rights, is significant. Within the Rule of Law Programme, their focus has been to increase access to justice for vulnerable groups in Albania through free legal assistance, and to advocate for reforms in the legal aid system. Their focus has also been on strengthening the organizations that monitor the work of judiciary and compliance with human rights standards. The Law on Free Legal Aid which entered into force in 2009, has been monitored from them regarding its implementation.

Within the **Non-Discrimination Programme**, this organization's focus, has been to improve access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups such as the Roma (through the Tirana Legal Aid Society) and people with disabilities (through the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation). Also, special focus has been attributed to strengthen the LGBT movement in Albania (through Aleanca). In relation to discrimination, their partner, the Albanian Helsinki Committee was actively involved in the drafting and lobbying process of the inclusive **Anti-Discrimination Law in February 2010**.

**Regarding State Police**, in terms of collaboration with civil society organizations for the protection of human rights, are adopted and implemented joint agreements with some NGOs/ NPOs and other state institutions, such as:

- a) Cooperation Agreement between the State Police and the European Institute of Tirana, Nr.1627, dated in 25.03.2013 and Nr. 27, dated in 25.03.2013 "for improving the training and respect for the rights of persons deprived of liberty in the premises of the State Police".
- b) Cooperation Agreement between the State Police and the Albanian Helsinki Committee Nr.1626, dated in 25.03.2013 and Nr.68, dated in 26.03.2013 "for improving the training and respect for the rights of persons deprived of liberty in the premises of the State Police".
- c) Cooperation Agreement between the Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma/Torture and the General Department of State Police Nr, 106, dated in 06.26.2013 and Nr. 3512, dated in 08.07.2013 "For the prevention of torture, maltreatment and increase of the level of respect for freedoms and rights of the persons deprived of their liberty, in the premises of the State Police".
- d) Cooperation Agreement between the General Department of State Police and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination with Nr.469/2, dated in 17.01.2012 and Nr. 23, dated in 16.01.2012.
- e) Aiming the raising of the transparency regarding the work of the State Police, access to the civil society organizations to monitor the police, was given. For 2014, the representatives of civil society organizations with provisional entry licenses were: Albanian Helsinki Committee with 42 licenses, European Institute of Tirana, 12 licenses.

**7. a. What legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures are in place to provide victims of human rights violations by State actors and abuses by non-State actors with an effective remedy?**

Albania, in order to improve the situation of the victims of various violations, has established different mechanisms.

**For instance, regarding domestic violence**, the Albanian government has established the National Centre for the Treatment of the Victims of Domestic Violence, in 2011. The main purpose of this centre is the rehabilitation of the women and child (ren), subjects of domestic violence. Services of sheltering and rehabilitation are offered also by different NGO's, licensed for these purposes.

Furthermore, in local level, the National Mechanism of Reference is established, for addressing the cases of domestic violence in coordination. The enlargement and strengthening of this mechanism is under process.

In addition, the subjects of domestic violence, are beneficiaries of free legal assistance, provided by specialized organizations and less, by state structures (Commission for Free Legal Assistance).

Last but not least, the establishment of a free National Line for Consultation 24/7, for the subjects of violence, gender oriented and of domestic violence, is under process.

**The protection of LGBT community members**, subject of discrimination and violence, is also provided by some initiatives. For instance, lately, the STREHA LGBTI, is established. "STREHA" is the first residential centre in Albania regarding the assistance of LGBTI community regarding shelter, when emergencies occur. This is a common project of the organizations: "The Alliance Against the Discrimination of LGBT" and "ProLGBT" (United In Favor of LGBT Cause). "STREHA", is a concrete transitory service for the young members of LGBTI from 18-25 years of age, who are encountered with the threat of being abandoned from their home to the streets or those, whose life is unbearable because of the intimidations, domestic violence, etc.

#### **8. What contribution do international and regional organizations make to the prevention of human rights violations? What additional role could they play?**

The Commissioner has its own independent budget, which is funded by the state budget and from other donations. CPD is subject of financial support from various organizations within the following projects: "*Preventing and combating discrimination in Albania*", funded by the OSCE presence in Albania; "*Implementation of the Law" On Protection against Discrimination in Education System*", funded by UNICEF; "*Tolerance and diversity, principles that guarantee equality*" funded by Soros Albania; "*Improving the implementation of the Law" On Protection from Discrimination*", the Albanian Helsinki Committee in cooperation with CPD, funded by the Civil Rights Defenders (CRD), "*Application of the principle of gender equality and program on gender-based violence*", funded by UNDP; "*Best Practices for Roma Integration*", supported by the OSCE / ODIHR which has undertaken awareness campaigns; "*To protect and promote the rights of persons discriminated against*," the Albanian Helsinki Committee, funded by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tirana.