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**National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of  
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**Slovenia**

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## I. Introduction

1. In June 2017, the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter Slovenia) submitted to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the Implementation of the Recommendations Accepted during the Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. Both the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Human Rights and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been regularly informed about the implementation.
2. Slovenia's preparations for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) were launched in autumn 2018. The Third National Report was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and prepared in cooperation with the competent ministries and government offices. The draft Report was endorsed by the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Human Rights, and the Report was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter "the Government") on 20 June 2019.
3. During the drafting of the Report, NGOs, the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Advocate of the Principle of Equality were consulted, and they were informed about the UPR Review Process and Slovenia's preparations for the national review.

## II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles

4. This section presents information on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government, which are numbered as in paragraph 115 of the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Slovenia (document No. A/HRC/28/15).

### A. International obligations

#### **Recommendations 1–5, 14–16, 18, 43, 133**

5. After the second cycle, Slovenia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (19 December 2014) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (20 March 2018).

6. The analysis and evaluation of the possible effects of the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance are being conducted by the competent ministry (i.e. the Ministry of Justice). Preliminary analysis shows that amendments to the substantive and procedural provisions of Slovenian criminal legislation would probably be necessary for the ratification of the Convention.

7. The protective provisions of ILO Convention No. 189 Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers have been implemented in national legislation. Domestic workers are treated equally as other workers. The relevant constitutional provisions, the labour law (the Employment Relationships Act), the legislation on safety and health at work, social security, the Minimum Wage Act, and other regulations apply to all workers.

8. The ratification process for the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the amendments to Article 8 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination is under way.

9. Slovenia strives to regularly meet its reporting obligations to treaty bodies. Slovenia submitted its Third Periodic Report to the UN Human Rights Committee on 6 July 2014, and presented it on 15 and 16 March 2016, thus implementing recommendation 43.

## B. Institutional framework of human rights protection

### Recommendations 22, 31–39

10. Slovenia fulfilled its obligation of establishing a **national human rights institution under Group A** of the Paris Principles at the legislative level. The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Act Amending the Human Rights Ombudsman Act, which entered into force on 14 October 2017, providing a legal basis for broadening the powers of the institute of the Human Rights Ombudsman so as to enable the Ombudsman to implement all international principles and to obtain status A in accordance with the 1993 Paris Principles relating to the status of national human rights institutions. The Human Rights Ombudsman has already applied for status A.

11. The Act Amending the Human Rights Ombudsman Act stipulates additional systemic tasks of the Ombudsman and provides funding for their implementation. Additional seven people are planned to be employed in the Office of the Ombudsman by 2020. Furthermore, the Council of Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights was established. Since 2018, the Office of the Ombudsman also has children's rights advocates.<sup>1</sup>

12. In October 2016, the **Advocate of the Principle of Equality**, i.e. the national body for equality, was established under the Protection against Discrimination Act.<sup>2</sup> The Advocate addresses discrimination against persons based on their personal circumstances in all spheres of social life. The Advocate implements its tasks and powers under the Protection against Discrimination Act both at the systemic and individual levels.<sup>3</sup> In 2019 the Advocate received sufficient funds to enable its capacity-building for the implementation of the wide range of its statutory tasks and powers.

## C. Non-discrimination

### Recommendations 44–58, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 69, 74, 76, 78–81, 85, 90, 92, 93, 98

13. In Slovenia **protection against discrimination** is enshrined in the Constitution and the Protection against Discrimination Act.<sup>4</sup> The Government strives to carry out measures to eliminate discrimination and to raise awareness.

14. By establishing the Advocate of the Principle of Equality as the national body for equality, and by fulfilling the basic conditions for its work, Slovenia has made important steps towards protection against discrimination and the promotion of equality. In the 2017 and 2018 annual reports, the Advocate drew attention to the key challenges concerning non-discrimination. In 2017, the Advocate conducted the first comprehensive research on the perception of discrimination by the Slovenian public. Since 2019, the Advocate has visited the Slovenian regions to talk to the relevant stakeholders, thus indirectly raising public awareness of non-discrimination nationwide. In 2018, the Advocate addressed 223 cases (130 cases from past years and 93 new ones), with 149 cases concluded and 74 cases deferred to 2019. In 2018, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities published a public call for proposals for **awareness-raising and NGO training** concerning the importance of and strengthening equality, the understanding and prevention of discrimination, and options for protection against discrimination for the most exposed groups in Slovenia. Since February 2019, Slovenia has been implementing a project of raising awareness of discrimination and a project concerning discrimination against people with disabilities.

15. Hate speech is criminalised in Slovenia in the framework of Article 297 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia.<sup>5</sup> Slovenia dedicates special attention to public awareness-raising and responding to intolerance.<sup>6</sup> The Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia guarantees freedom of expression. The Government strives for zero tolerance of hate speech and demands from the national authorities to strictly respect the Constitution and the law.

16. In 2016, Slovenia adopted the **Civil Union Act**, granting equal status as marriage to the civil union of heterosexual couples and of same-sex couples, except in the part relating to medically assisted procreation and the joint adoption of children.

17. Measures to eliminate discrimination against members of certain groups are presented in sections II.F–II.K.

## D. Political and civil rights

### Recommendations 64, 73, 97, 103, 128–130, 134, 149

18. Political and civil rights are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and further governed by the relevant legislation. Slovenia strives to implement the political and civil rights of the people living in Slovenia through legislation and other measures.

19. Slovenia ensures **protection against any interference with the work, establishment and leadership of trade unions**, and punishes any such interference. Slovenia's regulation is based on relevant treaties' provisions governing trade unions and protected by the Constitution.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the establishment and work of trade unions is regulated under the Representativeness of Trade Unions Act. The concrete powers of trade unions and the work and protection of trade union representatives are defined in the Employment Relationships Act. The two acts also provide for judicial protection. Collective labour disputes concerning trade union powers with regard to employment relationships fall within the jurisdiction of the Labour Court. The Labour Court also has jurisdiction over interference with trade union autonomy, with workers' right to join trade unions and with the powers of trade unions regarding their members. Violation of trade union rights is a criminal offence against employment and social security in accordance with Article 200 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia.

20. Slovenia ensures freedom of religion in accordance with treaties, the Constitution, and the Freedom of Religion Act.<sup>8</sup> In 2015, Slovenia established the Council for Dialogue on Freedom of Religion, operating within the Ministry of Culture's Office for Religious Communities. The Council enables open and transparent dialogue at the institutional level between the highest executive authority and religious communities concerning freedom of religion.

21. **Trial without undue delay** is generally respected and is no longer a systemic issue in Slovenia.<sup>9</sup> In 2015, the Judicial Council and the State Prosecutors' Council adopted their respective **codes of ethics** and established ethics and integrity commissions.<sup>10</sup>

22. Measures to ensure respect for, and the exercise of, political and civil rights of members of certain groups are presented in sections II.F–II.K.

## E. Economic, social and cultural rights

### Recommendations 24, 25, 29, 30, 57, 67, 72, 75, 79, 81, 101, 135–143, 149

23. Slovenia endeavours to ensure respect for, and the exercise of, all economic, social and cultural rights nationwide.

24. Since the last UPR cycle in 2014, Slovenia has adopted several measures to **reduce the level of poverty and social exclusion**,<sup>11</sup> and has abolished the austerity measures adopted during the economic crisis. Slovenia also adopted measures to ensure greater social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. Since 2014, Slovenia has recorded an annual decrease in the risk of poverty and social exclusion. The statistical data for 2017 show that the at-risk-of-poverty rate was at 13.3%.<sup>12</sup>

25. In 2018, Slovenia increased the **basic amount of the minimum wage** and the number of people eligible for the two social transfers. The 2018 Act amending the Minimum Wage Act stipulates a gradual increase in the minimum wage as of 1 January 2019. Slovenia expects that this measure will have a positive effect on the reduction of poverty and raise the disposable income.

26. Since 2014, Slovenia has implemented the **Youth Guarantee Scheme**, which includes measures facilitating the labour market integration of young people. Youth unemployment in Slovenia has been gradually decreasing since April 2015.

27. Slovenia also strives to improve the **situation of older persons**, since a high poverty rate is recorded in particular among the elderly living alone. Since 2016, pension indexation has no longer been subject to austerity measures. In 2018, Slovenian pensions were indexed twice, i.e. first regularly in January pursuant to the systemic law and then additionally in April. The systemic law also defines the minimum pension at full retirement age. It is planned that in 2019, the regular pension indexation in February, which resulted in a 2.7% increase in pensions, will be followed by an additional indexation based on the economic growth in 2018. Furthermore, in 2017 and 2018, all retired persons received the annual bonus. In 2019, retired persons will receive the annual bonus in five different amounts, which will be higher than the previous years.

28. As of February 2017, the Act Amending the Social Assistance Benefits Act abolished notices in the land register and the obligation of returning the guaranteed income pension supplement or financial social assistance for cases where the recipient or his/her family member owns an apartment or a house worth up to EUR 120,000. This amendment increased the number of persons eligible for the guaranteed income pension supplement by more than 6,000. The highest increases in the number of eligible persons have been recorded in older age groups, i.e. the age group 66–79 (a 60% increase) and the oldest age group – above 79 (a 77% increase).

29. Slovenia continues to improve **access to health care** for the entire population. In 2018, Slovenia adopted the **Resolution on the National Mental Health Programme 2018–2028**, dedicating special attention to the issue of suicide.<sup>13</sup> Slovenia is also planning to amend the Mental Health Act. On 19 February 2019, after years of work to this end, a secure ward for intensive psychiatric treatment of children and youth was opened within the Ljubljana University Psychiatric Clinic to meet the national needs.

30. In the period after the second UPR cycle, Slovenia has strengthened its **legal protection against eviction** and the loss of housing.<sup>14</sup> In accordance with the 2018 Act Amending the Claim Enforcement and Security Act, in the case of enforcement of low-amount claims on real estate in which the debtor lives, the court notifies the competent social work centre which then provides social security services to address social distress and difficulties. In addition, in these cases the court examines *ex officio* whether the debtor owns other property on which the enforcement could be imposed, thus ensuring more proportional measure to the value of the debt. Pursuant to the amendments, the court may decide *ex officio* or at the proposal of the social work centre to further stay the enforcement if an immediate enforcement would seriously jeopardize debtor's housing situation.

31. Housing tenancy is regulated under the **Housing Act**, which stipulates the at-fault grounds for terminating a housing tenancy agreement. A tenancy agreement may not be terminated by filing a lawsuit if the landlord has not first notified the tenant in writing that he or she is violating the tenancy agreement.

32. Everyone in Slovenia is entitled **access to drinking water under equal conditions**.<sup>15</sup> The constitutional act enshrining the right to drinking water in the Constitution entered into force on 25 November 2016. An inter-ministerial working group, composed of representatives of the competent ministries and government offices, was established to harmonise Slovenian legislation with the **right to drinking water as stipulated in the Constitution**. No later than by 31 December 2019, the working group will examine the grounds for amendments to the legislation regulating matters referred to in the new article 70a of the Constitution, prepare guidelines for draft amendments to regulations, assist ministries in preparing the amendments and monitor their adoption.

33. In the context of the right to education, Slovenia dedicates considerable attention to human rights education and training.<sup>16</sup> Police officers, early childhood educators, primary and secondary school teachers, university staff, and judicial officials participate in regular training programmes to gain teaching competencies and to develop their expertise. The human rights aspect has also been integrated into the traineeship programme, which

includes topics relating to the promotion of democracy among students and respect for diversity and multiculturalism.

34. Slovenia remains active in human rights education and training also at the international level, and continues to implement the Our Rights project. In the 2017–2019 period, this project involved children from Morocco, Kosovo, Egypt, Palestine and Slovenia, and it was also presented in Australia.

35. Measures to ensure respect for, and the exercise of, economic, social and cultural rights of members of particular groups are presented in sections II.F–II.K.

## F. The national communities and the Roma community

### **Recommendations 25, 62, 63, 69, 72–74, 78–91, 102, 139, 150–155, 158–160, 162**

36. Slovenia continues to improve the situation of Roma in the country.<sup>17</sup> The National Programme of Measures for **Roma** for the Period 2017–2021, adopted in May 2017, includes comprehensive measures to prevent discrimination against Roma and to improve their situation and social integration. The two key objectives of the Programme are to improve the situation of Roma community members and to promote their social integration. The Programme includes eight strategic objectives: (1) to improve the educational structure of Roma community members; (2) to reduce Roma unemployment rates; (3) to prevent or to eliminate the exclusion of Roma; (4) to improve healthcare services for Roma; (5) to improve their housing conditions; (6) to promote the maintenance and development of the cultural, informational and publishing activities of the Roma community; (7) to raise awareness among Roma community members and the majority population of the positive effects of social inclusion of Roma in society; (8) and to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the local communities in which Roma live.

37. The implementation of the Programme is monitored by the Government Commission for the Protection of the Roma Community. The Government regularly reports to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia about the implementation of the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act and the Programme. The Government adopted the latest report, i.e. the Fifth Report on the Situation of the Roma Community in Slovenia on 18 July 2018. The Report was examined by the competent working body of the National Assembly on 27 September 2018, and discussed at the National Assembly plenary session on 28 November 2018.

38. The National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017–2021 includes measures to **raise awareness of, and to fight against, discrimination**, i.e. measures to strengthen and empower the Roma community and measures to break prejudice and stereotypes about Roma among the majority population. Special attention is dedicated to training and education programmes for public employees who in their professional capacity deal with members of the Roma community.<sup>18</sup>

39. With a view to **strengthen the active engagement of Roma community organisations** and their cooperation in the implementation of measures in the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017–2021, the Office for National Minorities financially supports the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia, which was established under the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act to represent the interests of the Roma community at the level of national authorities. The Office also provides funding for the activities of other Roma community organisations through public calls for applications.<sup>19</sup>

40. In May 2017, the Government established the Inter-ministerial Working Group for the **Preparation of Amendments to the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act** with a task to draft amendments, which were then harmonised with the Roma community. The amendments were discussed and supported by the Roma Community Council and the Government Commission for the Protection of the Roma Community. In March 2018, the amendments were adopted by the Government and submitted for consideration to the National Assembly. In the legislative term 2014–2018, the National

Assembly did not discuss the amendments. New amendments to the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act will be prepared again.

41. Roma are a priority group for active **employment** policy measures, which include workshops aimed at competence-building and improving employment opportunities. A project of seven multi-purpose Roma centres is under way to offer activities for **improving the socio-economic situation of Roma community members** (knowledge acquisition and competence-building to enable them to be successful in the labour market), increasing their quality of life, promoting and enhancing their integration into the broader community, and establishing trust and cooperation with the majority population.

42. In June 2018, a new **spatial planning** and construction legislation entered into force, this consisting of three acts aimed at improving spatial planning and comprehensive siting of buildings and facilitating the legalisation of buildings constructed without the necessary permits. The solutions provided in the legislation primarily concern two categories of buildings: those existing for a long period (20 years or more) and some illegal buildings where special circumstances (including social) need to be taken into account. This approach will also be used for legalisation of buildings in settlements where vulnerable social groups such as Roma live.

43. The introduction of **Roma assistants** has greatly facilitated the integration of Roma children into the educational system.<sup>20</sup> At present, 28 Roma assistants are available in 33 preschools and primary and secondary schools.

44. With regard to the **Italian and Hungarian national communities**, the Government adopted the 2015, 2016 and 2017 reports on the implementation of the Programme of Measures for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period; these were discussed by the National Assembly Commission for National Communities. The national communities have observed progress with the implementation of the measures.

45. In September 2018, the **Act Amending the Act Regulating Special Rights of Members of the Italian and Hungarian Ethnic Communities in the Field of Education** entered into force: this (1) broadens the right to use national community languages, i.e. to short-cycle higher education and the education of children, minors and younger adults with special needs; (2) broadens the right to free learning of the mother tongue for members of the two national communities; (3) provides for bilingual questions for the pupils and students of bilingual schools at knowledge competitions (except at Slovene and Hungarian language competitions) which receive public funding; (4) amends decision-making by the councils of bilingual educational institutions; (5) stipulates that the self-governing national communities must submit their opinion on the proposals of annual work plans of educational institutions and may also propose above-standard programmes; and (6) amends conditions concerning the knowledge of the learning language and passing of the certified examination.

46. On the basis of the Action Plan for Language Education 2014-2018, the Action Plan on Language Reference Tools 2014-2018 and the **Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy for the 2014–2018 Period**, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of the Language Policy prepares annual reports on the implementation of the Resolution and the action plans, past activities, co-financed projects, programmes, studies, etc. These include activities promoting the use of the Italian and Hungarian languages in the public sector in education, culture, the media (radio and TV programmes), public information activities (e.g. the website *Jezikovna Slovenija*), healthcare, and other public services (formal procedures and form sheets). In this light, Slovenia strives to promote co-existence and cultural exchange, to improve the language competence of all speakers, and to raise awareness of the importance of the use of the Italian and Hungarian languages in the entire Slovenian territory, including outside bilingual areas.<sup>21</sup>

## G. Foreigners

### Recommendations 55, 74

47. In accordance with the Foreigners Act, **third-country nationals** are entitled to participate in programmes facilitating their inclusion in cultural, economic and social life in Slovenia. The manner and scope of programmes are determined in the Decree on the means and scope of providing programmes of support for integrating third-country nationals.

48. The State provides funds for both **Slovene language courses** and mother tongue courses for immigrant students within regular primary and secondary education.

49. The latest amended acts governing secondary education (the Vocational Education Act and the Grammar School Act), which entered into force in 2017, provide for the possibility of learning Slovene for students whose mother tongue is not Slovene or who completed primary education in countries other than Slovenia. Schools enrolling immigrant students in the first and second years of education are granted a certain number of additional hours of professional help for students learning Slovene.

50. Between 2016 and 2018, a special **manual for health professionals** was compiled in order to facilitate communication between migrants and medical personnel in primary health care. In 2017 and 2018, inter-cultural dialogue projects were launched in three Slovenian towns with the aim of activating local communities in order to facilitate the integration of third-country nationals into local communities. The project is to conclude at the end of 2019. In the framework of the programme entitled “Initial Integration of Immigrants”, free-of-charge courses are available throughout Slovenia; these combine Slovene language acquisition with learning about Slovenian history, culture and constitutional arrangements.

## H. Erased persons

### Recommendations 66, 95–97, 99, 100, 149, 161

51. To regulate the status of persons erased from the Register of Permanent Residents (the so-called “erased”), Slovenia adopted a series of measures.<sup>22</sup> In 2010, it adopted the Act Amending the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia. In 2013, to regulate the right to compensation of the “erased”, Slovenia adopted the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (hereinafter: Compensation Act), which provides for the **right to financial compensation and to other forms of just satisfaction** as redress for the damage sustained. Other forms of just satisfaction ensure or facilitate the exercise of rights in various areas, such as payment of contributions for compulsory health insurance; inclusion and priority consideration in social protection programmes; facilitation of exercising the rights from public funds; state scholarships; equality of treatment with Slovenian citizens in resolving housing problems; access to the education system; and priority treatment in the so-called integration programmes.

52. The purpose of the Compensation Act is to ensure that eligible claimants obtain just satisfaction in an expedited and efficient way. The Compensation Act stipulates that eligible claimants may request financial compensation in an administrative procedure and also provides for other forms of just satisfaction. Claimants deeming that they have sustained greater damage may seek financial compensation in judicial proceedings. It is up to each claimant to decide whether they will exercise their right to financial compensation in administrative or judicial proceedings.

53. In 2018, the Constitutional Court<sup>23</sup> ruled as unconstitutional Article 12 of the Compensation Act, which limited the amount of financial compensation that could be awarded to a claimant in judicial proceedings. To implement the Constitutional Court decision, the Act Amending the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (hereinafter: Amending Act) was adopted; it entered into force on 30 December 2018. The Amending Act abolishes the

limitation of the financial compensation in judicial proceedings and provides for interest on arrears to be awarded to claimants in judicial proceedings.

54. The amended regulation applies to injured parties who filed their compensation claims after the date of application of the Compensation Act (after 18 June 2014) or prior to the date of application of the Compensation Act (before 18 June 2014) whose claims would be subject to the statute of limitation according to the previous arrangement. With regard to injured parties who had filed compensation claims prior to the date of application of the Compensation Act and whose claims, when filed, were not subject to the statute of limitations, the Constitutional Court Decision of 15 March 2018 repealed Article 12 of the Compensation Act with immediate effect. The Constitutional Court ruled that limiting the amount of financial compensation in judicial proceedings was unconstitutional and that claimants were entitled to full compensation regarding damage to property and to just financial compensation for non-property damage sustained.

## I. Persons with disabilities

### Recommendations 145–148

55. Slovenia remains committed to respect and implement the human rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>24</sup> A major step forward was the adoption of the Personal Assistance Act, enabling the employment of personal assistants. An act that will provide for an institution for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities is in the process of harmonisation.

56. As part of the cohesion policy for the 2018–2022 period, a call for proposals has been issued inviting NGOs to participate in the project related to **equal opportunities for and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities**. In order to make legislation related to people with disabilities more easily accessible, it is being translated into easily readable forms. The project also involves training courses delivered by experts specialising in accessibility of the built environment and information and communications technology (ICT).

57. Slovenia has in place an active policy of **employing persons with disabilities**, and invites projects that provide employers with access to training for employing persons with disabilities. The project entitled “Transition of Youth” is under way; the project – through a comprehensive approach and systematically designed content – aims to promote **social inclusion of young people with special needs** and thus help create a unified support environment to facilitate the transition from school to the labour market.

58. Slovenia continues its efforts to further improve **accessibility of the built environment and infrastructure**. In the framework of development social assistance programmes, Slovenia co-funds the development programme entitled “Transport of Students with Disabilities”.

59. A new Building Act has been adopted, stipulating mandatory compliance with regulations governing the universal design of all buildings in public use. The Act provides the basis for the Rules on the universal design and usability of the built environment, which provides accessibility and usability of the built environment and consider other standards (SIST ISO 21542:2012).

60. 2017 saw the entry into force of the amended National Assembly Elections Act, stipulating that **polling stations must be accessible to people with disabilities**. The amended act was applied during the elections to the National Assembly and local elections in 2018 and during the European elections in 2019.

61. Special measures are in place to address **discrimination against children with special needs**. Slovenia encourages NGOs to employ people willing to cooperate with educational institutions in working with children with special needs. Educational institutions continue to employ assistants to work with children with special needs. Other related activities include projects promoting social integration of children and youth with special needs into local environments, building a network of specialised institutions to

support children with special needs and their families, and a comprehensive programme for institutionalised children with emotional and behavioural disorders.

## J. Gender equality

### Recommendations 21, 23, 25, 59–61, 104–108, 110, 111

62. Slovenia is committed to women's empowerment and gender equality both at the national and international levels. Slovenia's national policy priorities are set in the **Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015–2020**.<sup>25</sup> Measures for the protection of women's rights are more specifically determined in periodic plans. In 2018, the Government adopted the Report on the Implementation of the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015–2020 for 2016 and 2017 and the Periodic Plan for 2018 and 2019.

63. Through regular annual calls for proposals, Slovenia co-funds projects of NGOs related to equality between women and men, with the main focus on **awareness raising, prevention of gender-based discrimination and elimination of gender stereotypes**, whereby special attention is devoted to vulnerable groups. In 2019, public calls are being issued for the implementation of social security programmes covering the active integration of Roma women and other vulnerable groups of women with the aim of strengthening their integration in the local environment and their prospects on the labour market in order to reduce the risk of poverty. Since 2017, to prevent gender-based discrimination, gender perspective has been included in newly published school textbooks. Where necessary, updates of primary- and secondary-school curricula include changes with regard to gender equality.

64. Slovenia promotes a balanced **representation of both genders in leadership positions** by carrying out regular activities focused on awareness-raising, provision of information and competence-building. Special attention is devoted to leadership positions in politics (particularly at the local level) and in business. Following the 2018 elections, women's representation in the National Assembly dropped slightly, as only 24.4% of the elected deputies were female. The 2018 local elections saw an increase in female mayors (up to 10%) and female municipal councillors (up to 33%). Amendments to the Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act are in preparation; these will legally introduce the principle of a minimum 40% representation of both genders in certain government bodies, self-governing local communities, and public law entities whose representatives are appointed by the Government or self-governing local communities.

65. In Slovenia, the **gender gap in average pay** is among the lowest in Europe. It has been observed that the elements contributing to lower wages and pensions of women include different behavioural patterns throughout life. In 2019, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities launched the project "My work, my pension", co-funded by the European Union. The purpose of the project is to develop awareness-raising tools in order to enable women and men to take better-informed decisions concerning their employment and vocation throughout their lives.

66. Efforts for **preventing violence against women** continue.<sup>26</sup> A resolution on a national plan for the prevention of family violence and violence against women is in preparation. The resolution will include guidelines for working with sexually abused children. In 2019, Slovenia is preparing the first report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

67. In 2017, as part of the efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, Slovenia launched the project "Click-off! Stop cyber violence against women and girls", which is co-funded by the European Commission. The project will end in December 2019. It focuses mainly on women and girls aged between 12 and 30, and its aim is to prevent and eliminate gender stereotypes and increase sensitivity and awareness. Part of the project is a targeted media campaign to reach potential victims of cyber violence and harassment, particularly girls and boys aged 12 to 19 and their parents. By raising public

awareness of cyber violence against and harassment of women and girls, the campaign enhances sensitivity towards gender stereotypes and sexism and promotes a different attitude towards preventing cyber violence.

## K. Children

### Recommendations 20, 21, 23, 25, 39, 40, 42, 68, 91, 93, 104, 105, 109–118, 130, 131

68. The legislative framework for the protection of the rights of the child is ensured by the Family Code, adopted in 2017, which provides for the highest level of protective measures.<sup>27</sup> Between 2006 and 2016, concrete measures for the **protection and development of children and youth** were specified in the Programme for Children and Youth (2006–2016). A new programme for children for the 2019–2024 period is in preparation; this will put special emphasis on preventing violence against and protection of children, their participation in procedures that concern them, security in digital environment, children-friendly justice, and equal opportunities for all children. The document will be based on the recommendations contained in the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016–2021 and will take into account the needs and quality of the lives of children in Slovenia. A separate programme document was adopted for youth, i.e. the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth for 2013–2022. The amended Family Violence Prevention Act adopted in 2016 enacted the explicit prohibition of corporal punishment and degrading treatment of children.<sup>28</sup>

69. In the 2018–2020 period, Slovenia is co-funding 11 family centres which provide training and practical workshops on positive parenting aimed at **strengthening parenting competences** as one of mandatory courses. The purpose of the training is to foster positive changes in family upbringing patterns.

70. Slovenia also co-funds 15 **psychosocial assistance** programmes for children, youth and families aiming to teach effective communication, improve relations and positive attachment in the family, improve the social competences of children and youth, improve emotion management, help build a positive self-image, boost preventive problem-solving, including behavioural and emotional problems, provide homework and study help, reduce emotional distress, etc.

71. In addition, Slovenia funds 15 multi-generational centres equally distributed over the territory of Slovenia, which implement five-year preventive programmes focusing on the social inclusion of vulnerable social groups and prevention of social exclusion. The centres also provide training and workshops for the development of parenting competences.

72. In order to **protect children from violence**, the Organisation and Financing of Education Act was amended to more clearly define safe and stimulating learning environment where corporal punishment of children as well as any other form of violence against and among children and unequal treatment based on their personal circumstances are prohibited.

73. Activities are also under way to prevent **peer violence<sup>29</sup> among young people and violence against teachers**. In 2017, regional consultations on violence were organised, and violence against teachers was included in the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS). In September 2018, the Police and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport launched a two-year project entitled “Peer Violence: Reducing Violence among Youth” to help reduce peer violence and violence against teachers. Another important objective of the project is to support Slovenian institutions in the implementation of the national strategic plan for the prevention of violence against children, violence among minors and violence against teachers in the education process, in the family and in society at large. The legislation on secondary-school education was revised in the second half of 2017, extending the list of the gravest violations that might provide grounds for expulsion of secondary-school students to include endangering their or other people’s life or health that could result in serious bodily or mental harm.

74. As regards **safe use of modern information and communication technologies**, Slovenia adopted strategic orientations in 2016, striving to ensure education in a safe, open,

creative and sustainable learning environment supported by innovative uses of ICT. This will enable effective and quality acquisition of knowledge and skills needed for successful integration into society as well as contributing to improved skills and competences of pupils and students. In 2017, the European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens issued by the European Commission was translated into Slovene.

75. Since 2009, digital literacy has been part of the primary- and secondary-school curricula. Teachers, principals and other teaching professionals in educational institutions are provided with regular training in digital competences. Since 2016, groundwork has been in preparation to include IT basics into pre-school curricula and more advanced IT topics in primary- and secondary-school curricula. The content includes safe Internet use and preserving health with the help of ICT.

76. The primary goal of **safe mobility in educational institutions** is the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed for safe mobility through a combination of activities ranging from health promotion and exercise to ecological and environmental perspectives and social elements, all together resulting in sustainable mobility.

77. A survey conducted by the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia has demonstrated that child labour or forced child labour is not a systemic issue in Slovenia. Furthermore, forced labour for survival is practically non-existent, and is noticeable only in the form of excessive care for siblings and domestic overwork, particularly in rural settings, which is most frequently identified by school staff.

78. Criminal legislation in force already contains special provisions for juveniles which are in accordance with international standards. The purpose of a special act on criminal liability of juvenile offenders is to ensure a comprehensive legal basis for dealing with juvenile offenders in criminal proceedings. A special **juvenile criminal code** is in preparation; The Government is planning to submit the draft act to the National Assembly in 2019. The act will regulate content on juvenile offenders presently regulated by the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Act and the Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions Act. In addition, the act will transpose Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings. The act will be based on generally established and internationally recognised principles for juvenile offenders: the principle of non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; the right to be heard; and respecting dignity. In its basic provisions, the draft act explicitly acknowledges that the principle of the best interests of the child and juvenile (depending on the age definition of offenders in the draft act) must be observed, that proportionality must be applied in all proceedings involving juveniles and that deterring procedures take precedence over criminal prosecution.

## L. Trafficking in human beings

### Recommendations 119–127

79. In 2018, Slovenia strengthened its **institutional structure** for combating trafficking in human beings.<sup>30</sup> On 26 November 2018, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia established a department for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, which also includes the National Coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings.

80. In December 2015, the Government adopted a decision on the extension of the Working Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to include representatives of the Financial Administration, the Office for National Minorities and the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia. In 2017, the Working Group was further extended with representatives of the Government Office for Support and Integration of Migrants.

81. Furthermore, in accordance with the adopted action plans, line ministries and governmental services are allocating **more funds** to the activities aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

82. Slovenia has also intensified its efforts in dealing with the **issue of early and forced marriages** in the Roma community. Since 2015, forcing someone into marriage or a similar union has been treated as a criminal offence. The 2017–2021 National Programme of Measures for Roma imposes an obligation to prepare a protocol to be followed when dealing with cases of non-marital cohabitation involving minors or elopement of minors into harmful environments (early marriages). The task to prepare a protocol and address the issue of forced marriages in the Roma community was entrusted to an ad hoc inter-ministerial working group. In November 2018, the Office for National Minorities organised national consultations on early and forced marriages, and in April 2019, two sets of regional consultations were held, one on forced and one on early marriages. The conclusions reached at the three events will serve as a basis for drafting a manual outlining in more detail the two phenomena and presenting guidelines for action to be taken by the competent institutions. In 2018, on the basis of arrangements with the Judicial Training Centre, five lectures for judges and judicial professionals were given on this topic. The lectures are continuing in 2019. The 2017–2018 Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings provided the basis for preventive awareness-raising activities targeting potential human trafficking victims in Roma communities. The 2018 public call for proposals for co-funding ICT and education projects of NGOs and humanitarian organisations also included contents related to raising the awareness of dangers inherent in forced and arranged marriages; some of those projects were implemented in Roma communities.

83. For the 2019–2020 period, the necessary funds have been allocated for the implementation of the project “(Re)integration of Human Trafficking Victims”.<sup>31</sup> The project is intended both for Slovenian nationals who have been identified as victims of human trafficking abroad and for EU and third-country citizens legally residing in Slovenia who have been identified as human trafficking victims in pre-trial investigation or criminal proceedings in Slovenia.

84. Assistance to **minor victims of trafficking in human beings** is currently provided under crisis and safe accommodation programmes intended for victims of human trafficking, which impose the obligation to assist and protect child victims of human trafficking. In accordance with the Action Plan for the 2019–2020 Period, the Interdepartmental Working Group on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings is seeking solutions for ensuring comprehensive and sustainable assistance to children with experience in human trafficking, including the provision of appropriate accommodation.

85. Regular education and training on trafficking in human beings is provided for police officers, judges and consular staff.<sup>32</sup> In 2017 and 2018, the Police carried out basic training courses for border police candidates aimed at raising the awareness and identifying red-flag indicators of human trafficking. The Police provide continuous training for criminal investigators and police officers at the local level, focusing on recognising various forms of human trafficking, identifying potential victims and perpetrators, and learning about further procedures in dealing with victims and conducting pre-trial investigations. In 2017 and 2018, training courses were provided for criminal investigators from regional criminal police directorates who investigate human trafficking related criminal offences with a special focus on the identification of and conducting procedures involving human trafficking victims.

86. In 2018, three training courses were organised for judges and investigating judges, two in the framework of the Criminal Law School for Judges (“Trafficking in human beings: Identifying the phenomenon in modern society”), and one at the seminar for investigating judges (“Forms of trafficking in human beings”).

87. Awareness-raising and training for consular staff on various forms of human trafficking continues in the framework of regular annual consultations, regional consultations and preparations for performing consular duties in diplomatic missions and consular posts. This topic is also part of the training of diplomats for consular duties prior to posting abroad.

88. Slovenia continues its efforts to strengthen international cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings.<sup>33</sup> Special attention is devoted to the regions of South-Eastern

Europe and the Western Balkans in particular. In March 2018, Slovenia held an informal meeting of ministers of the interior of the Brdo-Brijuni Process. The meeting aimed at enhancing cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings was also attended by representatives of the informal network of national anti-trafficking coordinators from South-Eastern Europe established on Slovenia's initiative. The ministers reaffirmed continued support for the successful work of the informal network in combating trafficking in human beings. Together with national coordinators, the ministers adopted a joint declaration on strengthening regional cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings in South-Eastern Europe.

89. In June 2018, a twinning project targeting fight against organised crime in Serbia was successfully concluded; within the project, the component which Slovenia focused on was combating trafficking in human beings. Since September 2018, Slovenia has participated in another two-year twinning project in Serbia entitled "Support for strengthening the fight against trafficking in human beings".

### **III. Challenges in the field of human rights since the last review**

#### **A. Migration**

90. In all activities related to refugees and migrants, Slovenia underlines the respect for human rights and their universality. Slovenia signed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, and is committed to observing both in its national policies. The two compacts represent an important milestone in designing, developing and strengthening policies related to international migration and safeguarding persons in need of international protection. The Government has established excellent cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organisations operating in the field of migration. During the period of a marked increase in arrivals of migrants and applicants for international protection in 2015 and 2016, Slovenia devoted special attention to providing those persons with the necessary care and protection. Upon admittance to reception centres, they were given brochures providing information on how to apply for international protection in a language they understood. Health care was provided for all, while members of vulnerable groups (children, women, the elderly and the disabled) were accorded special attention and priority treatment. Separate accommodation was provided for women, and nursing corners established.

91. Slovenia's humanitarian aid funds are allocated in order to improve the situation of refugees and address the root causes of migration. Additional activities in Slovenia related to refugees include bilateral projects dealing with mine-awareness education, psychosocial and economic empowerment, and ensuring better food and water security in refugee camps.

92. The establishment of the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants was a major step forward towards more effective action related to migration. The Office has been operational since 1 June 2017 and is responsible for providing basic support to applicants for international protection and for ensuring the rights of and implementing the integration measures concerning persons who have been granted international protection.

93. In November 2018, the Government set up an inter-ministerial working group to draft and monitor the implementation of a government strategy on migration and to coordinate migration-related activities. Other tasks of the inter-ministerial working group include coordination in the field of migration and coordination of operative activities in circumstances of increased migration. The strategy will define the goals, orientations and measures for effective migration management in the Republic of Slovenia.

94. In July 2018, to adapt to the current situation and needs related to international protection, the Government adopted an updated Contingency Plan to provide housing and care in the event of an increase in the number of applicants for international protection and to implement international protection procedures.

## **B. Hate speech**

95. Slovenia, as many other contemporary societies, has recently seen an increase in freedom of speech violations in the form of hate speech.

96. The Police have been actively involved in the identification, prevention and prosecution of various manifestations of hate speech. For this purpose, additional training has been provided for police officers working in multicultural communities. Significant emphasis is put on awareness-raising and integrating the activities of national and local authorities in multicultural environments.

97. Competent state bodies will examine the need for possible additional awareness-raising measures related to hate speech and analyse the appropriateness of the regulatory framework on hate speech in the broadest sense. Competent state bodies, assisted by experts on hate speech, are already studying the possibility of introducing new media legislation to facilitate the detection of, prompt response to and deletion of contents containing hate speech and provide for possible sanctions.

# **IV. Achievements in the sphere of human rights**

## **A. Integration of migrant children into the education system**

98. Over the past few years, Slovenia has had to deal with an increasing number of migrants and applicants for international protection, including children who require special protection. Important issues in this regard are education and inclusion in education.

99. From the 2018/2019 academic year onwards, the Decree on the methods and conditions for ensuring rights of persons with international protection has provided for people who cannot demonstrate their formal education to sit for examinations in mathematics and English at the National Examination Centre: if they pass the examinations, they can enrol in study programmes at higher-education institutions. The 2018/2019 academic year saw improved conditions for successful integration of secondary-school students whose mother tongue is not Slovene or who completed primary education in countries other than Slovenia. Students attend an intensive Slovene course in the first year of secondary education in Slovenia.

100. The study entitled “Evaluation of Slovene Learning Models (2018-2019)” is under way, and curricula are being prepared for beginners’ Slovene courses at the pre-school and primary-school levels.

101. In 2017, considerable attention was devoted to education and training in intercultural competences for teaching professionals, and a special website was launched for school managements, teachers, parents and the interested public. A public call for proposals has been issued entitled “Strengthening social and civic competences of teaching professionals (2016–2021)” aimed at empowering teaching professionals to be better able to facilitate the integration of immigrant children, pupils and students into society.

102. In 2016, in order to provide adequate accommodation for unaccompanied minors as a vulnerable group requiring all-day care and professional assistance, the Government, in the framework of a pilot project, ensured safe accommodation on the premises of student dormitories in Postojna and Nova Gorica. After the evaluation, the project was recognised as an example of good practice. A systemic arrangement for resolving the issue of accommodation of unaccompanied minors is foreseen for the end of 2019 to enable sustainable integration into society.

103. A number of documents have been prepared, including the “Implementation instructions for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors in student dormitories”, “Forms and contents of expert work with unaccompanied minors in student dormitories” and “Protocol and procedures for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors in student dormitories”.

## B. Rights of older persons

104. As a result of the demographic transition<sup>34</sup> in the country, Slovenia pays particular attention to the situation and rights of older persons. Slovenia started to respond to the transition as early as 1997 by adopting the first strategy on the social security of the elderly. In 2017, the Government adopted a long-term Active Ageing Strategy setting the following strategic goals: (1) Wellbeing for all generations and safe living in the home environment, (2) Participation of all generations in intergenerational practice, and (3) Physical and mental health of people of all ages. The four pillars underpinning the Strategy are employment (Labour market and education), independent, healthy and safe living for all generations, inclusion in society, and creation of an environment conducive to active ageing. In February 2018, the Government established the **Council for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Cooperation**. Action plans for the implementation of the strategy are in preparation; these are foreseen to be approved by the Government in the autumn of 2019.

105. A separate act on long-term care is in preparation to reinforce the right of older persons needing assistance in daily activities to a decent life, care and safety. The aim of systemic regulation of long-term care is to ensure people entitled to long-term care to enjoy comparable rights for comparable needs. Slovenia believes that the planned solutions will make a significant contribution to the overall care for the elderly, both in old people's homes and in community care.

106. To address discrimination on the basis of age, NGOs have been invited to engage in awareness-raising activities. A number of projects are under way in various parts of Slovenia.

107. Slovenia advocates the protection of the rights of older persons also at the international level, and is a staunch supporter of a new international legal instrument regulating the rights of older persons.

## C. Women, peace and security

108. In November 2018, the Government adopted the 2nd Action Plan of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security in the 2018–2020 Period. The Action Plan was the result of inter-ministerial efforts, and the line ministries consulted with the civil society on its content. The document was prepared on the basis of the findings of the Implementation Review of the Action Plan of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security in the 2010–2015 Period, adopted by the Government in July 2017. The purpose of the Action Plan is to contribute to international activities aimed at achieving gender equality in the field of peace and security and related areas (humanitarian aid and development cooperation, human rights and the rule of law).

## D. Business and human rights

109. In November 2018, the Government adopted the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. The Action Plan was drafted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with line ministries, the academic community, business representatives, trade unions and NGOs. By adopting the National Action Plan, Slovenia intends to strengthen the activities aimed at ensuring respect for human rights in business activities along the entire value chain and to further develop the cooperation between the state, businesses, NGOs and other stakeholders. Attached to the National Action Plan are the Guidelines on Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence, which are designed to assist businesses in the identification, prevention and mitigation of negative impacts of their operation and practices on human rights and in reporting on their findings. Slovenia is the 22nd state in the world to have adopted such a National Action Plan. On the State's initiative, 10 businesses have committed to implement corporate human rights due diligence.

## **E. Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights**

110. A tangible measure of respect for human rights is also the implementation of international courts judgments. With regard to the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), Slovenia has made noticeable progress. By the end of 2015, 309 ECtHR judgments remained to be implemented; by the end of 2017, the number had dropped to 49, and at the end of 2018, only 11 final judgments remained to be implemented, owing to systemic measures at the governmental level and the introduction of an effective project structure at the Ministry of Justice.

## **V. Implementation of voluntary pledges and commitments**

### **A. Voluntary pledges and commitments for membership of the Human Rights Council in the 2016–2018 period**

111. As a candidate State for the UN Human Rights Council membership in 2016–2018, Slovenia committed to (1) strive for progress in the sphere of human rights in appropriate international human rights forums, (2) promote gender equality and protection of vulnerable groups, and (3) mainstream a human rights perspective in the development agenda, environmental protection, business and education.

112. During its second membership of the UNHRC, Slovenia made every effort to implement the above-mentioned commitments. It advocated the mainstreaming of gender perspective in the work of the UNHRC. During its membership, Slovenia was among the proposers of three initiatives – on the environment and human rights, on the rights of members of minorities, and on human rights education.

113. At the national level, Slovenia included a human rights perspective in its Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030. One of its cross-cutting issues is gender equality. Slovenia has adopted the Action Plan of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security in the 2018–2020 Period and the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Slovenia continues to strive for human rights education and training at the national and international levels and for recognising the right to a clean, healthy and safe environment as a human right.

114. In 2018, the former Slovenian Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva held the office of President of the UN Human Rights Council; his priorities were primarily to (1) enhance the Council's efficiency, (2) increase its reputation and visibility and strengthen cooperation with other UN entities, (3) strengthen cooperation with regional organisations (4) improve the constructive atmosphere, foster dialogue and instil trust in the Council's work, (5) allow enough space for the participation of civil society in the Council's work, and (6) promote transparent, impartial and inclusive functioning of the Council. The presidential statement adopted in 2018 is an important contribution to increasing the efficiency of the UN Human Rights Council.

### **B. Voluntary pledges and commitments in the Universal Periodic Review**

115. During the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, Slovenia made a commitment to submit a voluntary Mid-term report on the implementation of the accepted recommendations. The Voluntary Mid-term Report was approved by the Government on 24 May 2017. In June 2017, the Report was submitted to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and presented at the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

## VI. Conclusion

116. Slovenia remains committed to the Universal Periodic Review, and will continue to strive for constructive action within this mechanism, with regard to both the Slovenian and other countries' periodic reviews, in order to further strengthen the promotion of human rights.

### *Notes*

- <sup>1</sup> Slovenia has noted and implemented recommendation 26 by introducing children's rights advocates.
- <sup>2</sup> More information on the Protection against Discrimination Act is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendations 22, 46, 47, 50, 51).
- <sup>3</sup> The Advocate's activities system-wide involve conducting independent research, monitoring discrimination at the national level, reporting to national authorities and other entities responsible for promoting equality and eliminating and preventing discrimination, and awareness-raising among stakeholders and the wider public of the importance of equality and non-discrimination. The Advocate may also request a constitutional review of discriminatory general legal acts. At the level of individuals, the Advocate conducts procedures to establish instances of discrimination in concrete cases and offers advice to victims of discrimination, who the Advocate may also represent or accompany in administrative and court proceedings concerning discrimination.
- <sup>4</sup> More information on the Protection against Discrimination Act is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendations 22, 46–50, 51, 57, 62, 63, 65).
- <sup>5</sup> Further details on the legislation prohibiting hate speech and acts of hatred are provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendation 45).
- <sup>6</sup> Measures promoting cooperation to address hate speech and acts of hatred and various other forms of intolerance are presented in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendations 48, 49).
- <sup>7</sup> Further information on Slovenia's international legal obligations is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (see response to recommendation 134).
- <sup>8</sup> More information is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendation 64).
- <sup>9</sup> More information is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendation 128).
- <sup>10</sup> More information is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendation 129).
- <sup>11</sup> Information on measures in the period up to 2017 is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (see recommendations 101, 135, 136 in 137).
- <sup>12</sup> Slovenia's at-risk-of-poverty rate is among the lowest in Europe. It is calculated using the Eurostat methodology. The at-risk-of-poverty rate is the percentage of the population living in households where the equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income.
- <sup>13</sup> More information on Slovenia's healthcare system and health insurance is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (see recommendation 142). For information on mental health and suicide prevention, see also recommendation 141.
- <sup>14</sup> Information on Slovenia's applicable legislation is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendation 138).
- <sup>15</sup> Information on Slovenia's legislation regulating access to drinking water and sanitation is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (see recommendation 140).
- <sup>16</sup> Further information on human rights education activities is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendation 24).
- <sup>17</sup> Detailed information on Slovenia's efforts to improve the situation of Roma in the country is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendations 62, 63, 69, 72, 73, 81, 84, 86, 91, 139, 158, 159).
- <sup>18</sup> Three training programmes were organised in 2018 for 68 public employees who in their professional capacity deal with members of the Roma community. Roma assistants, who work in educational institutions, attend regular pedagogical training programmes. Two additional assistants have been trained within the project 'Together for knowledge – The development of a support mechanism of learning for Roma community members', and nine more are being trained. In 2018, the Police organised seven training programmes entitled 'Recognising stereotypes, overcoming prejudice and preventing discrimination in police work in a multicultural society'; these were attended by 142 members of the Police. Furthermore, in 2018, as part of the measure 'Police work in the community', the Police conducted 300 preventive activities in the Roma community.
- <sup>19</sup> These activities include workshops, conferences, consultations, awareness-raising, and educational and activation programmes. Roma community organisations (associations) may perform these activities alone or in tandem with other institutions and organisations. The purpose is to promote the social inclusion and empowerment of Roma, to improve their situation, and to eliminate intolerance

among the majority and minority populations, particularly in local communities. The funding for the Roma umbrella organisation of Slovenia and other Roma organisations and associations also contributes to the capacity-building of the Roma civil society. The inclusion of Roma civil society in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of action plans and measures is provided for by law (the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act) and is implemented in practice when the competent ministries and local self-governing communities address issues relating to members of the Roma community. The Roma community also participated in the preparation of the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017–2021, with its representatives involved in consultations with the competent ministries. When the Programme was open for public debate, both the Roma community and the broader civil society were invited to submit proposals.

- <sup>20</sup> The institute of the Roma assistant is presented in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (recommendations 25 and 84).
- <sup>21</sup> In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 on population and housing censuses, Slovenia has conducted register-based population censuses since 2011. Data on national affiliation are not included in the administrative databases. The Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2018–2022 does not foresee any survey to collect data on the national affiliation of individuals. Slovenia has thus noted and implemented recommendation 157.
- <sup>22</sup> More detailed information on the legislative measures aimed at redress and compensation for the damage sustained by erasure is provided in the Slovenia's latest Voluntary Mid-term Report (recommendation 66).
- <sup>23</sup> Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia No. U-I-80/16-36, U-I-166/16-28, U-I-173/16-33 of 15 March 2018 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 24/18).
- <sup>24</sup> The Government continues the efforts outlined in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (Recommendations 145–148).
- <sup>25</sup> More detailed information on the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men is provided in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (recommendations 23, 59).
- <sup>26</sup> More detailed information on the measures in force was included in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (Recommendation 105).
- <sup>27</sup> The adoption of the Family Code, which was presented in more detail in the Mid-term Report (recommendations 20, 131), contributes to the implementation of recommendations 19 and 27, of which Slovenia took note.
- <sup>28</sup> More detailed information on the Family Violence Prevention Act is included in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (Recommendations 104 and 105). In our view, the adoption and implementation of the Act also implements Recommendation 41, of which Slovenia took note.
- <sup>29</sup> More information on the legal arrangement and certain past projects related to preventing violence in school environment is provided in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (Recommendation 113).
- <sup>30</sup> Further information on Slovenia's past activities is provided in the Voluntary UPR Mid-term Report (Recommendation 125).
- <sup>31</sup> Measures to prevent trafficking in human beings and assist victims are outlined in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (Recommendations 120, 122–124).
- <sup>32</sup> Education and training activities were included in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (Recommendation 119).
- <sup>33</sup> Slovenia's past activities related to international cooperation are outlined in the Voluntary Mid-term Report (Recommendation 121).
- <sup>34</sup> Judging by the current trends, by 2030, over 25% of Slovenia's population will be aged above 65.