

Country: Bulgaria

Commission: Court of Justice UE

Subject: Addressing Violence and Discrimination in Bulgaria within the Framework of EU 2030 Zero Violence Objective

Introduction:

Bulgaria, a member state of the European Union, under the leadership of Prime Minister Rumen Radev, is devoted in its commitment to defending fundamental human rights, combating corruption, strengthening the rule of law, and fostering sustainable economic development. The current discourse within the commission revolves around the EU 2030 Zero Violence Objective, an ambitious initiative aimed at eradicating gender-based violence, homophobia, xenophobia, racism, and antisemitism throughout Europe. This comprehensive approach underscores the urgent need to address societal issues and ensure the protection and well-being of all citizens.

Description of Issues and Problems:

Despite progress in various areas, Bulgaria, like many other European nations, faces multifaceted challenges pertaining to violence and discrimination. Gender-based violence remains a frequent issue, with women and girls disproportionately affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse. Moreover, incidents of homophobia, xenophobia, racism, and antisemitism continue to occur, inducing cycles of prejudice, intolerance, and social exclusion. These injustices not only threaten the principles of equality and dignity but also pose significant barriers to social cohesion and sustainable development.

Bulgaria's Position:

In alignment with its commitment to human rights and European values, Bulgaria completely supports the objectives outlined in the EU 2030 Zero Violence Objective. The government recognizes the necessity of collective action to address the root causes of violence and discrimination, promote inclusive societies, and foster respect for diversity. By ratifying international conventions such as the Istanbul Convention, Bulgaria reaffirms its dedication to preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and domestic violence. Moreover, Bulgaria actively engages in regional and international fora to advance dialogue, share best practices, and strengthen cooperation in the fight against discrimination and hate crimes.

Implemented Solutions and Proposals:

Building upon existing legislative frameworks, Bulgaria has implemented a range of measures to address violence and discrimination. This includes the building of anti-discrimination laws, the establishment of support services for victims, and the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns to promote tolerance and diversity. However, recognizing the evolving nature of these challenges, Bulgaria advocates for an important approach that englobes prevention, protection, and prosecution. This makes necessary the integration of gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate strategies into policy frameworks, as well as the allocation of adequate resources to support victims and survivors. Furthermore, Bulgaria emphasizes the importance of education and youth empowerment in fostering inclusive societies and fighting against extremist ideologies.

In proposing concrete solutions, Bulgaria advocates for the expansion of comprehensive support services, including legal aid, counseling, and shelters for victims of violence and discrimination. Additionally, Bulgaria calls for the implementation of bystander intervention programs to empower individuals to mediate safely and effectively in situations of abuse or harassment. Furthermore, Bulgaria underscores the importance of data collection and research to inform evidence-based policies and monitor progress towards the eradication of violence and discrimination.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Bulgaria reaffirms its firm commitment to the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and respect for human dignity. By actively participating in initiatives such as the EU 2030 Zero Violence Objective, Bulgaria demonstrates its dedication to building a society free from violence,

prejudice, and intolerance. Embracing the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, Bulgaria remains steadfast in its pursuit of a more just, inclusive, and peaceful future for all citizens. Through sustained efforts and collective action at the national, European, and global levels, we aspire to create a world where every individual can live with dignity, freedom, and security.