

**Commission:** Court of Justice

**Issue:** How to eradicate gender, homophobic, xenophobic, racist and anti-Semitic conflicts on a European scale?

**Author:** Slovakia

A Central Europe state, Slovakia is bordered by Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic. Today it has around five million inhabitants who speak Slovak. Slovakia's landscape is diverse, featuring mountains, rivers, and plains. It covers forty nine thousand square kilometers, it could be qualified as a small country. Despite its size, according to OECD, Slovakia's economy has been relatively resilient against the energy crisis in Europe but its growth has slowed up. Slovakia operates as a parliamentary republic with a multi-party system. The organs representing both executive and legislative are situated in the capital, Bratislava. Zuzana Strupáková still is the actual president of the country. She ran in the election for Progressive Slovakia, a liberal, social and pro European party established in 2017. Nowadays Slovakia forms part of the European Union and is integrated in the eurozone. Even though today Slovakia keeps a conservative background, it is engaging in legislative reforms and societal initiatives to eradicate gender, homophobic, xenophobic, racist, and anti-Semitic conflicts.

After the Austro-Hungarian Empire's dissolution, at the end of World War I, Slovakia formed the new state of Czechoslovakia, which was a democratic republic. The rise of authoritarian and pro-Nazi sentiment was due to tensions between Slovak and Czech populations in Slovakia during the late 1930s. In 1939, Slovakia declared independence, becoming a satellite state of Nazi Germany. After World War II, Czechoslovakia was established as a sovereign state again, Slovakia remaining one of its constituent republics. The Velvet Revolution of 1989, a peaceful overthrow of the communist regime, introduced a new era of democracy and political freedom in Czechoslovakia. The country underwent a split called the Velvet Divorce which separated the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. Slovakia emerged as an independent state, adopting a democratic political system.

As a consequence of its Nazi past, anti-Semitism is still rooted in the Slovak population. For example, according to [Times of Israel](#) on October 13th 2022 a bar shooter "called for murder of all Jews in Bratislava" as an authored antisemitic manifesto. Slovak Foreign Minister Rastislav Káčer answered against the dangers of antisemitism and racism, saying that they "pose a constant and serious challenge to human rights and the dignity of every person," during the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council. The government promotes Holocaust education and commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. In 2018, antisemitism was regulated with a new law which further defined anti-Semitism. In theory the fight against the far-right was rendered easier as it is possible to persecute legally for denying the Holocaust and hate speech. Slovakia promises vigilance to address anti-Semitic attitudes and ensure the safety Jewish communities.

Slovakia possesses comprehensive anti-discrimination laws covering sexual orientation and gender identity. It is the case for areas such as employment, goods and services, education and health services. Slovakia has established a legal framework aimed at combating various forms of discrimination and violence. The Slovak Penal Code criminalizes hate speech, incitement to violence, and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Amendments to existing legislation have strengthened protections for marginalized groups and enhanced penalties for hate crimes. The section 140e of the Criminal Code, special

motives include sexual orientation. The Slovak system benefits from a high degree of specialization in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. In addition specialized hate crime victim support is provided as part of the general victim support system in Slovakia. However Slovakia does not guarantee full equality to the LGBT community as the constitution of Slovakia banned same-sex marriage in 2014.

May 9th 2023 the Director of Amnesty International Slovakia affirmed “the Slovak parliament missed a crucial chance today to adopt measures that end the unlawful segregation of Roma children”. Racism remains a concern in Slovakia, particularly against ethnic minorities. [Historical Development](#) shows how the Government of the Slovak Republic chooses a strategy of an inclusive approach in education in the field of Equal Opportunities to eradicate racism. It was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 8, 2021. It focuses on an education without stigmatization which educates children in order for them to respect diversity. The government in Slovakia believes education is the best kind of prevention, the one which instructs new generations, being able to change attitudes and improve coexistence.

According to [The Slovak Spectator](#) , women face “an increasing number of obstacles when exercising their rights in Slovakia”. The Amnesty International (AI) Slovakia non-governmental organization pointed out that insufficient policies, such as restricted access to abortions, gender-based violence and the narrowing space for advocates of girls’ and women’s rights are some of those obstacles. Slovakia has not adopted all the necessary policies and services to moderate the impacts of the epidemics of sexual and domestic violence yet. However Slovakia has added laws and policies in place to combat gender discrimination, such as the Equal Treatment Act, which prevents discrimination and promotes equal treatment in various areas, including employment, education, social protection, and healthcare. It prohibits direct and indirect discrimination, harassment, and sexual harassment. Also Slovakia has developed National Action Plans for Gender Equality, setting up strategies to promote gender equality and combat discrimination. These action plans include initiatives like awareness campaigns, training programs in addition to policy reforms. Despite these efforts, Slovakia needs more efforts to amend gender discrimination.

There is generally collaborative work within the EU to address legal challenges and ensure the effectivity of the EU's legal system, nevertheless Slovakia offers its collaboration with its close partners like Germany. As [Federal Foreign Office of Germany](#) affirms it “Germany and Slovakia are close partners in the European Union and NATO, which Slovakia joined in 2004”. Overall, in matters of racism, anti semitism, gender or racism, Slovakia would be allied with all EU member states in the European Court of Justice (ECJ).