

# Commission for the Protection of Equality – Serbia



## Brief profile

### Contact details

- **Postal address:** St. Beogradska 70, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
- **Website:** [www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs](http://www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs)
- **General email address:** [poverenik@ravnopravnost.gov.rs](mailto:poverenik@ravnopravnost.gov.rs)
- **Helpline and telephone number:** +381 11 243 64 64
- **Person of contact for media enquiries:** Antigona Andonov ([antigona.andonov@ravnopravnost.gov.rs](mailto:antigona.andonov@ravnopravnost.gov.rs))

### Overview

The Commission for the Protection of Equality is authorised to conduct complaints proceedings for discrimination, initiate law suits for protection against discrimination, file misdemeanour charges to the court, inform the public about discrimination cases and issue recommendations with the aim of improving equality protection.

### Type of equality body

The *Commission for the Protection of Equality* is a predominantly quasi-judicial body<sup>1</sup>.

## Grounds and fields of discrimination covered

Grounds	Fields	
	Employment	Beyond employment (education, goods & services, housing, etc.)
Gender	◆	◆
Race and ethnic origin	◆	◆
Age	◆	◆
Disability	◆	◆
Sexual orientation	◆	◆
Religion and belief	◆	◆
Other *	◆	◆

\* Skin colour, ancestry, citizenship, language, gender identity, financial position, birth, genetic characteristics, health, marital and family status, previous convictions, appearance, membership in political, trade union and other organization.

<sup>1</sup> According to a [European Commission study on Equality Bodies](#), predominantly quasi-judicial bodies are “impartial institutions which spend the bulk of their time and resources hearing, investigating and deciding on individual instances of discrimination brought before them” (page 43).

## Detailed profile

### Brief history

The Commission for the Protection of Equality was established according to the Law on the Prohibition of discrimination adopted in 2009. The first Commissioner for Protection of Equality was elected on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2010.

### Mandate

- **Powers:** the Serbian Commission for the Protection of Equality is a predominantly quasi-judicial equality body;
- **Litigation powers:**
  - Representing in front of courts;
  - Bringing proceedings in its own name;
  - Formally deciding on complaints (decision or recommendation) – *not legally binding*;

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### Activities

- Promotional activities aimed at duty bearers (by way of trainings, guidance material, etc.);
- Promotional activities aimed at potential victims (trainings, awareness raising, etc.);
- Communication activities;
- Publications and research projects;
- Number of inquiries / complaints lodged and cases handled per year: **410 (in 2011)**

## Structure

### 1. Management structure

- Type: single headed equality body (led by a commissioner);
- Details: the Commissioner has three assistants covering three sectors: General affairs, Complaints; Improvement of the Protection of Equality; and International Cooperation and Projects.

### 2. Institutional structure

- Type: stand alone dedicated national equality body;
- Details: the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia is an independent state organ.

### 3. Nomination of senior staff and board:

- The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality: Nevena Petrusic, PhD (elected in the Parliament by a majority of all MPs);
- Assistants to the Commissioner: Kosana Beker, Milovan Batak, Ljiljana Loncar (appointed after an open and public competition);
- Chief of the Cabinet: Antigona Andonov (appointed by the Commissioner).

### 4. Number of staff: 14

## Operating budget (for the parts of the organization dealing with equality issues)

89.471.000 RSD (approx. 850.000 €)

## Accountability (reporting to)

The National Assembly of Serbia.

## Contact details (address, key contact person, website)

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