

# National Centre for Human Rights – Slovakia



## Brief profile

### Contact details

- **Postal address:** Kýčerského 5, 811 05 Bratislava, Slovakia
- **Website:** [www.snslp.sk](http://www.snslp.sk)
- **General email address:** [info@snslp.sk](mailto:info@snslp.sk)
- **Helpline and telephone number:**
  - +421 2 208 50111
  - +421 2 208 50114
  - +421 2 208 50123
- **Person of contact for media enquiries:** Barbara Ostoverchá ([ostovercha@snslp.sk](mailto:ostovercha@snslp.sk))

### Overview

The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (SNSLP) fulfils its role in the field of fundamental rights and freedoms, including the rights of children. Therefore the centre:

- Monitors and assesses the adherence to fundamental rights and to the principle of equal treatment according to the law;
- Collects and (on request) provides information about racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the Slovak Republic;
- Performs surveys and research in order to provide data in the field of human rights, collects and publicizes information in the field of human rights;
- Prepares educational activities and takes part in information campaigns with the objective of raising the awareness of tolerance in the society;
- Provides legal counsel/help to victims of discrimination and intolerance;
- On request of natural persons or legal persons or from its own initiative issues professional statements concerning the adherence to the principle of equal treatment ;
- Performs independent investigations concerning discrimination;
- Prepares and publishes reports and recommendations concerning questions related to discrimination;
- Provides library services;
- Provides service in the field of human rights.

The Centre can request courts, prosecutors, other government bodies, territorial self-governments, bodies of interest group self-governments, and other institutions to provide the Centre with information regarding the observance of human rights within a prescribed period.

The Centre may also request information on the observance of human rights from non-governmental organisations operating in the field of human rights, and make agreement with them on the way and scope of providing such information.

## Powers

The *Slovak National Centre for Human Rights* is predominantly a promotion-type and legal support 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	◆	◆

## Detailed profile

### Brief history

The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (Slovenské národné stredisko pre ľudské práva: SNSLP) was established based on the initiative of the Government of the Slovak Republic n° 430/1993, thereby confirming the realisation of the “Project to establish the SNSLP”.

Based on this initiative the National Council of the Slovak Republic passed the Act n° 308/1993 with which the SNSLP was established, formally entering into force on 1 January 1994. SNSLP covers the entire area of the Slovak Republic.

On 9 March 1994 the Government of the Slovak Republic and the United Nations Organisation signed an agreement declaring the establishment of the SNSLP in Geneva, based on the Project OSN (SLO/94/AH/2). The agreement entered into force on 9 June 1994.

According to the Act 308/1993 the SNSLP is an independent, legal entity not registered in the Commercial register. The SNSLP is a non-profit organisation.

As an independent legal entity the SNSLP has an irreplaceable role in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of children and the principle of equal treatment in the Slovak Republic.

<sup>1</sup> According to a [European Commission study on Equality Bodies](#), predominantly promotion-type equality bodies “spend the bulk of their time and resources on a broader mix of activities that include supporting good practice in organisations, raising awareness of rights, developing a knowledge base on equality and non-discrimination, and providing legal advice and assistance to individual victims of discrimination” (page 44).

The activity of the SNSLP is closely linked with the application of anti-discrimination legislation in the Slovak Republic. The tasks of the SNSLP have been broadened by legislative Acts in 2003 and 2004 (Act n° 365/2004: Anti-discrimination Law). The Anti-discrimination Law established the SNSLP as the only institution assessing the principle of equality in the Slovak Republic.

## Mandate

- **Powers:** the *Slovak National Centre for Human Rights* is a predominantly promotion-type and legal support body;
- **Litigation powers:**
  - Representing in front of courts;
  - Bringing proceedings in its own name;
  - Intervening before the court;
  - Formally deciding on complaints (decision or recommendation) - *not legally binding*.

Grounds and fields of discrimination covered					
Grounds	Fields				
	Employment	Education	Housing	Social protection	Goods and Services
Gender	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Race and ethnic origin	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Age	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Disability	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Sexual orientation	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Religion and belief	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

## 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: **2335** (in 2011)

## Structure

### 1. Management structure

- Type: combined single and collegiate headed equality body (led by an Executive Director and an Administrative Board);
- Details: the Administrative Board of the SNSLP consists of nine members, selected on the basis of their confidence and authority in the field of human rights.

## 2. Institutional structure

- Type: the equality body is part of a national human rights institution.

## 3. Nomination of senior staff and board:

The members of the Administrative board are appointed for a three year term, renewable once. The term of a member of the Administrative board ends at the end of his/her tenure or:

- Through resignation by the member,
- Through the withdrawal of the member by the person who nominated him/her for the position, or
- Through the death of the member.

Members of the Administrative Board are nominated as follows:

- One member nominated by the President of the Slovak Republic;
- One member nominated by the Chair(wo)man of the National Council of the Slovak Republic;
- One member nominated by the Public Defender of Rights (Ombudsman);
- One member nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava ;
- One member nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice;
- One member nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica;
- One member nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Trnava University in Trnava;
- One member nominated by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, this nomination is based on the suggestion of non-governmental organizations; the procedure for submitting such a proposal is determined by the Chair(wo)man of the Government of the Slovak Republic;
- One member nominated by the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

A member of the Administrative Board is withdrawn by the same person that has nominated him/her for the position.

## 4. Number of staff: 5 (members of working groups)

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

643.081 € in 2011 and 528.464 € in 2012

### Accountability (reporting to)

According to Act 308/1993 on the establishment of the Slovak national centre for human rights, the SNSLP is an independent legal entity, not registered in the Commercial register, with clearly given

tasks in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of children and the principles of equal treatment.

Therefore the SNSLP is not subjected in its activities to any government or non-government body, the activities of the centre are managed and overseen by the Executive director, who is elected and removed by the Administrative board.

The agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the United Nations also includes the commitment of the Government of the Slovak Republic to ensure financial, legal and operating sustainability and independence.

As the SNSLP is funded by the state's budget, it is subject to the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic, which is entitled by the Act 39/1993 of the National Council of the Slovak Republic to inspect the management of the resources assigned from the state's budget.

The Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic is a public authority, which is independent in its control work, and only bound by the law.

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

**Address:**

Kýčerského 5  
811 05 Bratislava  
Slovakia

**Main contact person:**

Barbara Ostoverchá  
Tel.: +42 1918479091 *or* +42 120850123  
Email: [ostovercha@snslp.sk](mailto:ostovercha@snslp.sk)

**Website:** [www.snslp.sk](http://www.snslp.sk)