



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 111th session

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted
by States parties under article 9 of the Convention**

List of themes in relation to the combined twenty-third to twenty-fifth periodic reports of Bulgaria

Note by the Country Rapporteur*

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its seventy-sixth session¹ that the Country Rapporteur would send to the State party concerned a short list of themes, with a view to guiding and focusing the dialogue between the State party's delegation and the Committee during the consideration of the State party's report. The present document contains a list of such themes. It is not an exhaustive list; other issues may also be raised in the course of the dialogue. No written replies are required.

Statistics

2. Updated comprehensive statistics on the demographic composition of the population, disaggregated by ethnic origin, including Roma origin, on migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons. Social and economic indicators on various groups living in the territory of the State party, disaggregated by national or ethnic origin, gender and age, taking into account the areas where they live in substantial numbers, as well as data on the ethnic composition of the prison population.²

Convention in domestic law and the institutional and policy framework for its implementation

3. Update on legislative and other measures taken to effectively implement all the provisions of articles 2 and 4 of the Convention, including specific examples of cases in which the Convention's provisions were invoked before, or applied by, domestic courts. Measures to ensure that judges, prosecutors and lawyers have sufficient knowledge of the provisions of the Convention.³

4. Information on the awareness-raising programmes on the respect for diversity and the prevention and prohibition of racial discrimination directed to the population, as well as on the mechanisms available to submit complaints of acts of racial discrimination.⁴

* Agreement was reached to publish the present document after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

¹ A/65/18, para. 85.

² CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 8; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, para. 6.

³ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 6; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, para. 5.

⁴ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, paras. 10 and 14; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 15–38.



Racist hate speech and hate crimes

5. Measures taken to ensure that the definitions of racist hate speech and hate crimes enshrined in the Act on Protection against Discrimination and in the Penal Code are fully in line with article 4 of the Convention and include all grounds of discrimination recognized in article 1 of the Convention.⁵

6. Updated information on other legal, institutional and public policy frameworks to prevent and condemn hate speech, hate crimes and incitement to hatred, including in the media and on other public platforms, such as the Internet, and by public officials and politicians.⁶

7. Information and statistics on progress made regarding measures against racial discrimination, racist hate speech and racist hate crimes, as well as the accountability of those responsible for any acts constituting incitement to racial discrimination or to hatred, including in political discourse, in the media and on the Internet. The number of registered complaints thereof submitted to courts or other national institutions and of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators and information on reparations provided to victims, if any. Information on all instruments that establish civil, labour and administrative liability for acts of racial discrimination and data on administrative procedures and sanctions handed down by the competent bodies.⁷

8. Information on measures taken or envisaged to ensure that law enforcement officials and other government officials do not engage in racial discrimination, including racially motivated violence and practices that amount to racial profiling.

Situation of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups

9. Information on the legislative framework on the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups to ensure their ability to fully enjoy all the rights covered by the Convention, without discrimination, including the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and on the official recognition of such groups. Statistics relating to the political representation of members of ethnic minority groups in public and political life, including on measures taken to ensure that members of ethnic minority groups are adequately represented in the parliament and the civil service.⁸

10. Information on measures to guarantee equal access for members of ethnic minority groups to all basic services, in particularly in the areas of education, the labour market, housing and health care, and measures taken to protect and preserve their cultural heritage.⁹

Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on certain population groups

11. Information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons most vulnerable to discrimination and the various groups protected by the Convention, including ethnic minority groups and non-citizens. Include measures taken to protect them against the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, to protect them against discriminatory acts, to counter hate speech and stigmatization in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on such persons and groups.

Situation of the Roma community

12. Updated information on measures taken to combat prejudices and stereotypes against Roma people, including on awareness-raising campaigns, and to guarantee their adequate representation in political and public life.¹⁰

⁵ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 12; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 42–47.

⁶ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 12; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 48–59.

⁷ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 16; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 36, 37, 39 and 40.

⁸ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 18; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 7, 8 and 9.

⁹ CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 65, 69, 70, 71 and 84–86.

¹⁰ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para.20; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, para. 60.

13. Information on birth registration rates and identity cards issued for members of the Roma community.

14. Information on the measures taken to improve access for Roma people to education, employment,¹¹ housing¹² and health-care services.¹³ An update on the implementation of the national, regional and municipal strategies on Roma people, for improving the situation of Roma people in all spheres and the results of the strategies conducted by the State party.¹⁴

15. Information on the measures taken to prevent and combat de facto educational segregation, on school dropout rates and on racist incidents at schools, as well as on measures taken to improve access to mainstream education, especially at the preschool level.¹⁵

16. Outcome of measures taken, if any, to improve the housing conditions of, and develop social housing programmes for, Roma. Information on measures taken to prevent forced evictions of Roma and ensure their access to alternative housing or adequate compensation, including on the legalization of existing settlements and access to basic services in those settlements.¹⁶

Situation of non-citizens, including migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons

17. Information on the legislative and policy frameworks on asylum-seekers and refugees, including the measures taken to integrate a human rights-based approach and into its migration governance.¹⁷ Information on measures taken to refrain from collective expulsions and pushbacks, to provide access to its territory for persons in need of international protection and to respect the principle of non-refoulement.¹⁸

18. Information on the implementation of the national strategy on migration asylum and integration and its impact on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection and ensuring their ability to enjoy their socioeconomic rights.¹⁹

19. Details on efforts to combat the human trafficking of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees,²⁰ including the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators and the reparations provided to victims, including in cooperation with neighbouring States. Information on the results achieved by the implementation of the national strategy for combating trafficking in human beings for the period 2017–2021 and on the National Referral Mechanism for Support of Trafficked Persons.

20. Measures to end the mandatory detention of undocumented migrants for long periods, information on recourse to alternative measures to detention, including updated information on conditions of detention in reception centres, and measures taken to ensure that all asylum-seekers are not restricted from movement to the administrative region in which the reception centre is located and that they have access to basic services, such as health care and education, and employment.²¹

21. Information on asylum grant rates and the adequacy of funding for the State Agency for Refugees, including on providing adequate monthly payment for all asylum-seekers residing in reception centres.²²

¹¹ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 20; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 100–111.

¹² CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 20; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 64–69.

¹³ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 20; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 84–96.

¹⁴ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 20; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 60–63.

¹⁵ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 20; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 70–83.

¹⁶ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 20; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 66–69.

¹⁷ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 22; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 112–115.

¹⁸ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 22; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 115–117.

¹⁹ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 22; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 127–137.

²⁰ CERD/C/BGR/23-25, para. 114.

²¹ CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 22; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 113, 121–123, 125 and 126.

²² CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22, para. 22; and CERD/C/BGR/23-25, paras. 119 and 120.

22. Measures taken to strengthen the human and financial capacity of municipalities, including staff training to conduct identification and referral procedures in a sensitive manner, and measures taken to guarantee the availability of individual and qualified legal representation to all unaccompanied children.²³

²³ [CERD/C/BGR/CO/20-22](#), para 22; and [CERD/C/BGR/23-25](#), paras. 124, 125, 134 and 135.