

JUDr. Jana Dubovcová
Public Defender of Rights
Slovakia

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Bratislava, February 8, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

following up on the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its 2132nd meeting held on 3 June 2016 and concerned with the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Slovak Republic¹, the Slovak Public Defender of Rights in accordance with Art. 45 lit. a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and with Rule 74 Section 2 of the Rules of Procedure, applied by analogy, hereby kindly submits a copy of her Special report addressed to the Slovak National Council on January 13, 2017.

The Public Defender of Rights is a constitutional organ mandated with the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in Slovakia. Anybody who is of the opinion that his/her fundamental rights or freedoms were violated by an action, inaction or by a decision of an administrative organ may file an individual complaint with the Public Defender of Rights.

In addition, the Public Defender of Rights is entitled to initiate proceedings on his/her own initiative. This type of procedure has been used by the current Public Defender of Rights, Ms. Jana Dubovcová, to reveal systemic deficiencies in several different areas, inter alia, in the area of the protection of children's rights.


As follows from the enclosed Special report, the Public Defender of Rights has, since 2012, conducted several studies focused on the protection and maintenance of children's rights in judiciary, in education system as well as in places where children are deprived of liberty.

Ms. Dubovcová has devoted a number of studies and conferences to the issue of systematic discrimination of socially disadvantaged children in the education system which predominantly results in the discrimination of Roma children in the field of education.

The Special report deals with two recent cases of allegations of human rights abuses in a drug rehabilitation center and in a private foster home. These cases were used as an illustrative example of a system that does not consider the best interest of a child as its primary concern, lacks any independent monitoring of places where children are deprived of liberty as well as any effective investigation of alleged violations of children's rights by competent organs.

Since the protection of children's rights is an area falling within the mandate of the Public Defender of Rights and the Committee has already encouraged Slovakia to undertake changes in order to tackle the mentioned systemic deficits, the Public Defender of Rights kindly submits her Special Report to the Committee on the Rights of a Child for its consideration.

Yours sincerely,


JUDr. Jana Dubovcová
Public Defender of Rights, Slovakia

¹ CRC/C/SVK/3-5