RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES FROM SLOVAKIA
INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN SLOVAKIA

COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- provides assistance to persons with disabilities with wide variety of issues in the field of employment, family affairs, healthcare and social insurance, education and removal of barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

SLOVAK NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
- provides assistance to persons with disabilities in respect to discrimination, conducts research, raises awareness/educates on issues related to rights of persons with disabilities, contributes to adoption of legislation and national policies in the field of rights of persons with disabilities and contributes to removal of barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

PUBLIC DEFENDER OF RIGHTS
- provides assistance to persons with disabilities in respect to maladministration and engages in removal of barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN
- provides assistance to children with disabilities and their parents with wide variety of issues, mostly in the field of education, health care and social care.
WORKING WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
STRATEGIC LITIGATION

Bringing strategic cases to the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic to initiate the nationwide changes aiming at improvement of applicability of rights of persons with disabilities.

Caroline's Story

Currently, the Centre assists Caroline who has a health handicap. Caroline worked in the hospital when her mobility started to decrease due to the work she carried out.

When her health handicap fully developed, she asked the employer to adopt measures to prevent more damages to her health. For four years, the employer refused to take any action.

Later, she was dismissed.
Elena's Story

Elena was a pupil who could not wait to start her secondary school studies. So she applied to her favourite school.

However, she was rejected due to her disability. Elena was a wheel chair user.

The school argued that it has no capacity to assist Elena during her studies so she can fully participate in all her classes.
AWARENESS RAISING

Awareness raising campaigns, art competitions and human rights education for general public.

Elementary and secondary schools

We provide human rights education to thousands of pupils and young students. The most requested topics are extremism/radicalisation and bullying/cyber-bulling.

We also organize educational activities at special schools – schools dedicated to children and young people with mental disabilities.

Therefore, we have lecturers, didactic tools and activities adapted to the special needs of children with mental disabilities.
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Promoting inclusion and fighting segregation in provision of elementary and secondary education.

Segregation of children with disabilities

Together with State School Inspection, the Centre monitors the observance of children’s’ rights. We predominantly focus on education of children with special needs or children coming from socially disadvantaged environment.

The Centre has been closely monitoring cases of segregation. In many cases, special schools providing education for children with disabilities or health handicaps segregate those children who are coming from the marginalised Roma communities.

There are also cases, when the special schools are attended by children without disabilities or health handicaps based solely on their ethnicity what prevents the children with actual disabilities to get a placement in the special school.
WORKING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
The Centre is a member of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. The Council has several committees. Each committee is dealing with a specific issue.

As a member of the Council, the Centre has also a representative in the Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

Thanks to our membership in the Committee, we actively participates on policy and legislation making in the field of rights of persons with disabilities.
REMOVING BARRIERS

Monitoring providers of essentials services and goods – such as hospitals, post offices, local public authorities to ensure proper access for persons with disabilities.

Police Departments and Postal Offices

We are contributing to removal barriers by directly engaging with relevant stakeholders as well as by individual providers of essential goods and services and local authorities.

Recently, we have been focused predominantly on police corps and their premises as well as postal offices aiming at improving the access of persons with disabilities to the services in question.
National Focal Point for Business and Human Rights

We recently established the National Focal Point for Business and Human Rights. The aim of the focal point is to prevent and mitigate negative impacts of businesses and their activities on the enjoyment of human rights.

One of the first activities of the focal point is to help employers operating in Slovakia to build a diverse workplace, including employing people with disabilities and provide them with opportunities for development.
Business breakfast with employers.

In cooperation with American Chamber of Commerce.
goodbye..?
oh no, please. Can't
we go back to page one
and do it all over
again?

-Winnie The Pooh