

Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action - Slovak Commitments

Evaluation and update (February 2017)

The Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the **National Strategy for Gender Equality for years 2014-2019** and related Action Plan in 2013. Both documents are interconnected and represent a comprehensive conceptual framework for the promotion of gender equality into practice. Concrete commitments in 2014 were:

- 1) reduction of gender pay gap;
- 2) support the reconciliation of family and working life to enable better conditions for the employment of women;
- 3) strengthening of the principle of non-discrimination and equal conditions in social policy focused especially on women from marginalized social groups such as Roma immigrants and handicapped women;
- 4) reduction of gender differences in participation of women in decision-making positions;
- 5) continuing in elimination of all violent and degrading behaviour against women in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.

The main achievements in last years are the reduction of the gender pay gap. Although it has for a long time been above the EU-27 average, it's continuously decreasing; from 26.7% in 2005 to 17.8% in 2015.

Several activities have been launched to support the reconciliation of family and working life and thus to raise the employment of women, such a creation of new child care facilities and support of flexible working arrangements.

In an effort to establish a comprehensive and systematic response to the problem of violence against women, the government adopted the **National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of violence against Women 2014–2019**. The areas of implementation include: strengthening the legal and strategic framework, provisions on assistance and affordable support services, methodology and standards, training for professions providing assistance to survivors, primary prevention, monitoring and research, and violence against women in the workplace. The Plan has been evaluated in June 2016 with a positive result.

In April 2015, the Coordination-methodical Centre for Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence has been launched, with the main goal to coordinate activities aimed at prevention and elimination of gender-based and domestic violence.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of SR established a free 24/7 helpline in order to provide an efficient support to women experiencing violence and seeking support.

Several amendments to most important legal acts as Penal Code, Law on Police force has been made. The amendments prolonged the duration of an expulsion order from 48 hours to 10 days.

There are about 23 counselling centres and 180 family places in shelters around Slovakia which provide a specialised support to victims of domestic violence, most of them are focusing in particular on female victims. A grant scheme supported via Norwegian Financial Mechanism in Slovakia helped to significantly increase the capacity of supporting services.