



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirty-sixth session
4–15 May 2020

Compilation on Croatia

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies^{1, 2}

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged the State to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.³ The Committee called upon Croatia to use the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in its efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and called for the integration of a gender perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴

3. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the limited number of cases in which the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been invoked by domestic courts. It was also concerned about the insufficient awareness of the provisions of the Covenant among the judiciary and the legal community, and the insufficient accessibility of such information for civil society, minorities and persons with disabilities. The Committee recommended that the State take appropriate measures to raise awareness of the Covenant among judges, lawyers and prosecutors to ensure that its provisions were taken into account by the domestic courts; and take effective measures to widely disseminate the Covenant in the State, and have it translated and made accessible to all.⁵

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicated that as a State party to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural



Heritage (2003) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), Croatia was encouraged to fully implement the relevant provisions that promoted access to and participation in cultural heritage and creative expressions and, as such, were conducive to implementing the right to take part in cultural life as defined in article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.⁶

III. National human rights framework⁷

5. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern, despite the recent increase in funding, about the limited human and financial resources allocated to the Office of the Ombudsman.⁸ The Committee recommended that Croatia provide the Office of the Ombudsman with the financial and human resources necessary to ensure that it could effectively and independently implement its mandate in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).⁹ It also recommended that the State continue its efforts to guarantee coordination between the different ombudsmen offices so as to avoid duplication of tasks, and step up its efforts in responding diligently and promptly to the Ombudsman's recommendations.¹⁰

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination¹¹

6. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the prevalence of stereotypes and prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, particularly about reports of acts of violence against such persons and about the lack of effective investigation and prosecution. It recommended that the State step up its efforts to combat stereotypes and prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, including by launching an awareness-raising campaign aimed at the general public and providing appropriate training to public officials with a view to putting an end to the social stigmatization of such persons. It also recommended that the State ensure that all reports of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons were effectively investigated and that the perpetrators of violence based on sexual grounds were prosecuted and sanctioned.¹²

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person¹³

7. The Committee expressed concern regarding the persistence of poor conditions in detention facilities, including overcrowding in some detention centres and inadequate access to health services. It recommended that the State strengthen measures to address overcrowding in detention centres and prisons, and ensure that new facilities met international standards by allocating sufficient resources for their construction and operation.¹⁴

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law¹⁵

8. The Committee expressed concern about the numerous cases of impunity for serious human rights violations committed during the armed conflict. It noted with regret the slow pace of investigations into such crimes and noted with concern that few investigations had led to prosecutions resulting in the punishment of those responsible. It was also concerned about the difficulties faced by individuals trying to obtain compensation from the State for human rights violations during the conflict, in particular for war crimes. The Committee

recommended that Croatia expedite the prosecution of cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity and ensure that all such cases were prosecuted in a non-discriminatory manner, regardless of the perpetrator's ethnicity. The State should also ensure that all victims and their families received adequate reparation for such violations.¹⁶

9. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances stated that there was an urgent need for everyone involved in the process of searching for missing persons to set as an immediate priority the establishment of the truth, particularly the determination of the fate and whereabouts of all the disappeared. The issue of disappearances should be considered as a humanitarian as well as a human rights issue on the agenda of political processes.¹⁷

10. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Croatia take immediate and effective steps to investigate all unresolved cases of missing persons and bring the perpetrators to justice, and ensure that the relatives of disappeared persons had access to information about the fate of the victims.¹⁸ The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances recommended that the State establish enforced disappearance as a separate offence and ensure that all victims of enforced disappearance received equal treatment and obtained full reparation.¹⁹

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life²⁰

11. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the absence of sufficient investigations into all acts of intimidation against, and attacks on, journalists; and about the criminalization of defamation, which discouraged the media from publishing critical information on matters of public interest, and which was a threat to freedom of expression and access to information of all kinds.²¹ The Committee recommended that Croatia guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of the press, consider decriminalizing defamation, restrict the application of criminal law to the most serious cases, and investigate incidents of attacks on journalists and the media and bring those responsible to justice.²² UNESCO made similar recommendations.²³

12. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that 45 per cent of the Members of the European Parliament for Croatia were women, but expressed concern that the use of the preferential vote system could have the effect of nullifying the quotas for female candidates, and that women remained underrepresented in management and leadership positions in State-owned and private enterprises.²⁴ It recommended that the State promote the full and equal participation of women in political and public life and in the civil service, especially at the senior and decision-making levels.²⁵

13. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that measures be taken to make the electoral process fully accessible to all persons with disabilities and to facilitate their participation in representative and executive bodies.²⁶

14. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern at the persistence of stereotypes with respect to the position of women in society, including women in rural areas and women with disabilities. It recommended that the State step up its efforts to increase the participation of women in the public and private sectors, if necessary through appropriate temporary special measures to give effect to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and that it take the practical steps necessary to eradicate stereotypes regarding the position of women in society in general and regarding women in rural areas and women with disabilities in particular.²⁷

4. Right to family life²⁸

15. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon the State to amend legislation concerning child custody in divorce cases to ensure that violence by one parent against the other was identified and taken into account when deciding upon child custody and that refusal to allow visitation and contact on account of alleged violence was not held against the parent who had made the allegation; to exclude mandatory mediation in cases of domestic violence and train all community and social workers to refrain from pressuring women to agree to mediation in such cases; and to take appropriate legal measures to include intangible property, such as pension funds, severance payments and insurance,

accumulated during the relationship within the joint property to be equally divided upon dissolution of the relationship.²⁹

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work³⁰

16. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the persistent horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and overrepresentation of women in low-paid and part-time jobs; the lack of implementation in the labour market of equality legislation; the lack of implementation of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and the persistent gender wage gap; and the prevalence of employment discrimination against women on the ground of pregnancy or maternity.³¹

17. The Committee therefore recommended that the State introduce regulatory measures to ensure gender mainstreaming in the labour market and strengthen efforts to eliminate occupational segregation, both horizontal and vertical; take measures to implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value; implement existing legislation and practices to ensure that women have access to effective mechanisms to complain about employment discrimination on the ground of pregnancy or maternity and the enforcement of timely and commensurate sanctions for employers engaging in discriminatory practices; encourage the use of paternity leave for fathers and ensure that employers fulfil the legal obligation to make such leave available by introducing compulsory paternity leave; increase access to formal employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women, including Roma women and women belonging to other disadvantaged groups; and improve the possibilities to combine working life with family responsibilities, including by expanding the number of childcare facilities.³²

18. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that the State develop and implement, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, a plan of action to increase the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market; complement the quota system with other incentives for employers to hire persons with disabilities; and regulate and monitor the accessibility of the workplace.³³

2. Right to social security³⁴

19. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern that low levels of social benefits and very strict eligibility criteria resulted in a situation in which many women living in poverty, in particular older women and those without previous employment, were excluded from social protection. It recommended that the State undertake a study of the socioeconomic situation of women living in poverty, in particular older women and those without previous employment, and use the results to inform the formulation of policies to ensure that social protection measures and employment legislation address the lower average years of contribution of women, the impact of women's lower retirement age and more frequent non-contributory periods and women's lower average salaries.³⁵

20. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Croatia continue its efforts to raise awareness of and combat trafficking in persons, including at the regional level and in cooperation with neighbouring countries; train its police officers, border control personnel, judges, lawyers and other relevant personnel in order to raise awareness of the matter and of the rights of victims; ensure that all individuals responsible for trafficking in persons were prosecuted and punished commensurately with the crimes committed, and that victims of trafficking were compensated and rehabilitated; and step up its efforts to identify victims of trafficking and ensure the systematic collection of data on trafficking, which should be disaggregated by age, sex and ethnic origin and should also be focused on trafficking flows from, to and through its territory.³⁶ CEDAW made similar recommendations.³⁷

3. Right to an adequate standard of living³⁸

21. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) affirmed that Croatia had adopted the new Act on Housing Care in the Assisted Areas on 1 January 2019. It welcomed the decrease in the number of pending housing care requests by former tenancy rights holders from 1,167 in December 2017 to 310 in December 2018. However, UNHCR encouraged the continuation of effective implementation of the Regional Housing Programme and the timely and efficient implementation of the national housing care programme, given that by the end of 2018 there were 6,981 pending applications for housing care in Croatia, of which one fifth was estimated to be by Serb minority returnees.³⁹

22. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that poverty reduction programmes be strengthened.⁴⁰ The Human Rights Committee recommended that Croatia increase its efforts to ensure non-discriminatory access to adequate housing, social benefits and services for all victims of past conflicts under its jurisdiction, including the Roma;⁴¹ and expedite efforts towards the resettlement and return of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.⁴²

4. Right to health⁴³

23. The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health affirmed that Croatia had made significant advances towards the progressive realization of the right to health.⁴⁴ Moreover, the Special Rapporteur encouraged Croatia to advance further by developing policies guided by a human rights-based approach, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), avoiding retrogressive measures and paying particular attention to groups in the most vulnerable situations, including women, children, people on the move, national minorities, persons with intellectual, cognitive and psychosocial disabilities and older persons.⁴⁵

24. Further, the Special Rapporteur on health recommended that the State strengthen primary-level capacity for early intervention services for children; give priority to women's and children's rights in the area of sexual and reproductive health rights; ensure a modern rights-compliant approach to the mental health-care system throughout the country; and urgently develop measures to vaccinate all children without relevant health records.⁴⁶

25. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern that the right to abortion was being denied by hospitals on the ground of conscientious objection, even though only individual doctors were recognized as having that "right" and hospitals were legally required to ensure the provision of abortions; the lack of inclusion of abortion and modern contraception in the Croatian Health Insurance Fund, thus discriminating against women because such services were required by them; the low use, availability and accessibility of modern forms of contraception and reproductive services; the lack of oversight procedures and mechanisms for ensuring adequate standards of care and the protection of women's rights during deliveries; and the lack of options for giving birth outside hospitals.⁴⁷

26. Information concerning hundreds of cases of violence and abuse against women during the performance of medical procedures related to their reproductive health without anaesthesia was raised in a joint allegation letter by a group of special procedure mandate holders. Allegations also included physical abuse, humiliation and verbal abuse, compulsory medical procedures or other procedures carried out without full and informed consent, the refusal to give painkilling medication or anaesthesia, and violations of privacy.⁴⁸

5. Right to education⁴⁹

27. UNESCO observed that the Constitution did not enshrine the right to education. However, the act on primary and secondary education (2012) provided in its article 12 (1) that primary education from the age of 6 years to the age of 15 years was compulsory, and article 66 provided that compulsory education was free. The act on preschool education and training (1997, as amended to 2013) provided that preschool education was compulsory one year before primary education (article 23a (1)) and that it was free (article 48 (4)).⁵⁰

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern at the prevalence of traditional and patriarchal values in school curricula and lack of gender equality education, the inadequacy of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education in schools, and the continuation of sex-based differences in enrolment in secondary education.⁵¹ It recommended that the State revise school curricula and materials to remove discriminatory gender stereotypes and include mandatory modules on gender education; increase the hours and quality of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education in schools; intensify its efforts aimed at diversifying academic and vocational choices for women and men and girls and boys and take further measures to encourage women and men to choose non-traditional fields of education and career paths; and apply measures, including temporary special measures, to increase the representation of women in academic institutions, especially in leadership positions.⁵²

29. UNESCO stated that there was a high enrolment rate of girls and women in secondary and tertiary education.⁵³ It recommended that the State intensify its efforts aimed at diversifying academic and vocational choices for women and men and girls and boys; and take further measures to encourage women and men to choose non-traditional fields of education and career paths.⁵⁴

30. UNHCR stated that the majority of asylum-seeking and refugee unaccompanied and separated children were aged between 15 and 17 years and had incomplete elementary education, and experienced difficulties in accessing the education system. Children above 15 years of age were unable to be enrolled in regular elementary schools and needed to attend classes for adults. Access to Croatian language classes for the purpose of continuation of education was a lengthy process.⁵⁵

31. In that regard, UNHCR recommended that the State improve access to education for unaccompanied and separated children by reducing delays in obtaining and facilitating authorization to attend Croatian language courses as a prerequisite for enrolment in adult education.⁵⁶

32. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about continued reports of de facto segregation of Roma children in the education sector and about the lack of opportunities to receive instruction in their languages. It recommended that Croatia step up efforts to ensure that Roma children were able to receive an education, in their mother tongue, that was of the same quality and content as that of other students; and take immediate steps to eradicate the segregation of Roma children in its education system by ensuring that placement in schools was carried out on an individual basis.⁵⁷

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women⁵⁸

33. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Croatia to take measures, including legislation, to put in place adequate safeguards to prevent sociocultural attitudes, including those of a religious origin, from constituting hindrances to the full realization of women's rights.⁵⁹ It recommended that the State further strengthen legal education and capacity-building programmes for judges, prosecutors and lawyers on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; raise awareness among women about their rights under the Convention and the procedures under the Optional Protocol thereto; encourage women to report cases of discrimination based on sex and gender to the police and judicial and quasi-judicial bodies; and translate and disseminate the Committee's general recommendations.⁶⁰

34. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that measures be taken to strengthen the development and empowerment of women with disabilities in fields such as education and employment, and that immediate action be taken to protect women and girls with disabilities from violence, including sexual violence.⁶¹

35. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee welcomed the adoption of a law on protection against domestic violence and of a national strategy for protection against family violence. However, the Committee on

the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the practice of dual arrests in cases of domestic violence.⁶² The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports that cases were not investigated, that suspects were not prosecuted and that perpetrators received lenient sentences. The Committee was also concerned about the small number of women benefiting from the free legal aid system, the small number of protection measures issued and the lack of follow-up to protection orders, rendering them largely ineffective. Furthermore, the Committee was concerned about the insufficient number of shelters for victims of domestic violence, and noted with regret the absence of statistical data on acts of domestic violence.⁶³

36. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the State adopt a comprehensive approach to preventing and addressing violence against women in all its forms; step up its awareness-raising measures among the police, judiciary, prosecutors, community representatives, women and men on the magnitude of domestic violence and its detrimental impact on the lives of victims; ensure that cases of domestic violence were thoroughly investigated by the police, that the perpetrators were prosecuted, and if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and that victims were adequately compensated; eliminate the practice of arresting and convicting both the perpetrator and the victim in cases of domestic violence; ensure the issuance of effective protective orders to guarantee the safety of victims and ensure that measures were in place to follow up on protection orders; ensure the availability of a sufficient number of shelters with adequate resources; and collect data on incidents of domestic violence against women and, on the basis of such data, continue to develop sustainable strategies to combat that human rights violation.⁶⁴ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made similar recommendations.⁶⁵

2. Children⁶⁶

37. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that the State ensure that children with disabilities were protected on an equal basis with others in all legislation, policies and measures aimed at children, and that it strengthen its policy on the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities. It also recommended that the State implement a moratorium on new admissions to institutions and strengthen its efforts to provide psychological, financial and social service support measures to families.⁶⁷

3. Persons with disabilities⁶⁸

38. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of excessive and prolonged use of involuntary hospitalization for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. It recommended that the State ensure that deprivation of liberty was applied only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time and that it was accompanied by adequate procedural and substantive safeguards established by law; establish an independent monitoring and reporting system, and ensure that abuses were effectively investigated and prosecuted and that redress was provided to the victims and their families; promote psychiatric care aimed at preserving the dignity of patients, both adults and minors; and develop a plan for deinstitutionalization, including appropriate outpatient and community-based care programmes.⁶⁹ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities made similar recommendations.⁷⁰

39. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Croatia regulate the concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design beyond the context of the Anti-discrimination Act in areas such as education, health, transportation and building; make disability-based services and benefits available to all persons with disabilities, irrespective of the cause of their impairment; provide training to all public authorities and public or private professionals working with persons with disabilities on the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; assess accessibility with respect to buildings, facilities and transportation as well as accessibility to information and communication services; ensure that all persons with disabilities had access to inclusive quality primary, secondary and tertiary education and that reasonable accommodation was provided in mainstream education; and enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, such as by establishing disability art festivals.⁷¹

40. The Committee also recommended that the State introduce legislation to provide a wide range of measures that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, including their rights to give and withdraw their individual informed consent for medical treatment, to access justice, to vote, to marry, to full parental rights and to work.⁷²

4. Minorities⁷³

41. UNESCO reported that Croatia had developed the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013–2020, in which education was considered as a priority policy. The strategy's goal was to bring the level of inclusion of Roma children in education up to the average nationwide rate and to raise the quality and efficiency of education of members of the Roma minority while ensuring the acquisition of the requisite knowledge and skills.⁷⁴

42. UNHCR noted that an atmosphere of intolerance towards the Serbian national minority had been observed, and that incidents of hate speech, including in the social and local media, and the public use of Nazi era symbols and slogans had contributed to the rise of intolerance.⁷⁵ The Human Rights Committee expressed concern that persons belonging to national minorities faced problems in enjoying the right, in community with other members of their group, to use their own languages.⁷⁶

43. UNHCR recommended that the Government initiate a national campaign to promote inclusive societies and the rights of national minorities, and raise awareness among the media and public.⁷⁷ The Human Rights Committee recommended that the State fully implement the right to equal usage of minority languages and scripts in accordance with its constitutional and legal framework.⁷⁸

44. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the continued reports of racist attacks against members of ethnic minority groups, particularly Roma and Serbians; and about the lack of adequate investigation and prosecution and of adequate compensation for the victims. The Committee recommended that the State strengthen its efforts to combat racist attacks committed by law enforcement personnel, particularly against the Roma and Serbians, by providing special training to law enforcement personnel aimed at promoting respect for human rights and tolerance for diversity. The State should also strengthen its efforts to ensure that the alleged perpetrators were thoroughly investigated and prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and that the victims were adequately compensated.⁷⁹

45. The Committee expressed concern about the practice of ethnic profiling by law enforcement officials targeting certain ethnic minorities, particularly Roma, who appeared to be disproportionately affected by frequent identity checks and interrogations in the absence of any suspicion of wrongdoing. It recommended that the State take all measures necessary to effectively combat and eliminate ethnic profiling by law enforcement officers, by, inter alia, clearly defining and prohibiting ethnic profiling by law and providing mandatory training on cultural awareness and the inadmissibility of ethnic profiling to law enforcement personnel. The State should also investigate misconduct on the basis of ethnic discrimination, and sanction perpetrators adequately.⁸⁰

5. Refugees and asylum seekers⁸¹

46. UNHCR stated that the State's national legal framework related to asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons consisted of the International and Temporary Protection Act, the Foreigners Act and the Croatian Citizenship Act. Between 16 September 2015 and 5 March 2016, a total of 658,068 refugees and migrants had transited Croatia. The number of asylum seekers had reached its peak in 2016 (2,234) and steadily decreased in 2017 (1,889) and 2018 (1,070). Currently, Croatia hosted 1,067 asylum seekers and 824 refugees.⁸²

47. UNHCR stated that it has been receiving allegations of denial of access to territory and procedures, and incidents of police violence. UNHCR recommended that the Government ensure effective access of persons in need of international protection to the territory and to a fair and efficient asylum procedure; and continue to follow up on reported incidents of mistreatment and excessive use of force at the borders, including through effective and independent monitoring and investigation, and, as required, take firm action to prevent such incidents.⁸³

48. Similar concerns regarding the actions of Croatian border police were raised by a group of special procedure mandate holders in a joint urgent appeal, regarding allegations that Croatia was denying refugees international protection and breaching the principles of non-discrimination, non-penalization and non-refoulement.⁸⁴

49. UNHCR recommended that the Government make efforts to provide for Croatian language, history and culture courses immediately, after the recognition of international protection status, and foster access to employment and inclusion in society.⁸⁵

50. UNHCR observed that asylum-seeking and refugee unaccompanied and separated children continued to be accommodated in facilities for children with behavioural disorders or homes for juveniles. Those facilities were meant for short stays by children without parents or perpetrators of minor offences, and were not conducive to the well-being of children who had been exposed to traumatic events during displacement or who were victims of abuse, exploitation or neglect.⁸⁶ It recommended that the Government improve reception conditions for unaccompanied and separated children, by establishing a facility for their initial reception where all necessary services would be available until final decisions on appropriate care and reception arrangements were taken.⁸⁷ The Human Rights Committee also recommended that the State should develop a procedure to address the specific needs of unaccompanied non-citizen children and to ensure that their best interests were upheld in the course of any immigration, expulsion or related proceedings.⁸⁸

6. Stateless persons⁸⁹

51. UNHCR stated that Croatia currently hosted 2,886 persons who were stateless or at risk of statelessness.⁹⁰ The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the number of stateless persons, mainly Roma, under the State party's jurisdiction who faced difficulties in meeting the requirements for obtaining Croatian citizenship because they often lacked personal identity documents.⁹¹ It recommended that the State establish and implement effective measures to address statelessness and regularize the status of the Roma, including by facilitating access to identification documentation; and take all the measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment of the Covenant rights by all residents, including stateless persons.⁹²

Notes

- ¹ Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Croatia will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/HRIndex.aspx.
- ² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.1–99.13, 99.17–99.19 and 99.21–99.23.
- ³ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 47. See also A/HRC/30/38/Add.3, para. 83.
- ⁴ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, paras. 44–45.
- ⁵ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 6.
- ⁶ UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Croatia, para. 11.
- ⁷ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.36–99.40.
- ⁸ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 5.
- ⁹ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 5. See also CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 13, and CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, para. 53.
- ¹⁰ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 5.
- ¹¹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.29, 99.53, 99.55–99.57, 99.59, 99.67–99.69, 99.71–99.74, 99.76, 99.102, 99.114, 99.138, 99.143–99.145, 99.147 and 99.149.
- ¹² CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 10. See also CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 39.
- ¹³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.18–99.22, 99.25, 99.27–99.30, 99.49–99.52, 99.58, 99.61, 99.69, 99.78–99.80, 99.82, 99.84, 99.86–99.88, 99.93, 99.96 and 99.108–99.109.
- ¹⁴ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 19.
- ¹⁵ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.77, 99.89–99.90, 99.92, 99.94–99.95, 99.97–99.107 and 99.111.
- ¹⁶ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 11. See also CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 41.
- ¹⁷ A/HRC/30/38/Add.3, para. 69.
- ¹⁸ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 12.
- ¹⁹ A/HRC/30/38/Add.3, paras. 84, 87 and 88.
- ²⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.33–99.34, 99.56, 99.70, 99.141 and 99.152.
- ²¹ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 23.
- ²² *Ibid.* See also CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3/Add.1.
- ²³ UNESCO submission, para. 10.
- ²⁴ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 22.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 23.
- ²⁶ CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, para. 46.
- ²⁷ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 14. See also CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 17.
- ²⁸ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.51, 99.82 and 99.137.
- ²⁹ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 43.
- ³⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.32, 99.60, 99.70–99.71, 99.73–99.74, 99.112–99.116 and 99.136.
- ³¹ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, paras. 28.
- ³² *Ibid.*, para. 29.
- ³³ CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, para. 42.
- ³⁴ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.32, 99.54, 99.62, 99.119 and 99.164.
- ³⁵ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, paras. 32–33.
- ³⁶ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 17.
- ³⁷ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 21.
- ³⁸ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.62, 99.76, 99.117–99.120, 99.153, 99.163–99.164 and 99.167.
- ³⁹ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Croatia, p. 2.
- ⁴⁰ CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, para. 44.
- ⁴¹ CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 8.
- ⁴² *Ibid.* para. 13.
- ⁴³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.92, 99.96, 99.121–99.123, 99.132 and 99.136.
- ⁴⁴ A/HRC/35/21/Add.2, para. 114.
- ⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 1.
- ⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 118.
- ⁴⁷ CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 30.
- ⁴⁸ Letter dated 18 February 2019 from the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Working Group on the issue of discrimination

- against women in law and in practice addressed to the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24335>.
- 49 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.26, 99.112, 99.119, 99.124–99.130, 99.136, 99.140, 99.149–99.150, 99.155 and 99.165.
- 50 UNESCO submission, paras. 1–2.
- 51 CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 26
- 52 *Ibid.*, para. 27. See also UNESCO submission, para. 9.
- 53 UNESCO submission, para. 8.
- 54 *Ibid.*, para. 9.
- 55 UNHCR submission, p. 3.
- 56 *Ibid.*
- 57 CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 21.
- 58 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.49, 99.58–59, 99.67–99.69, 99.73–99.74, 99.81 and 99.84.
- 59 CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 9.
- 60 *Ibid.*, para. 11.
- 61 CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, para. 10.
- 62 CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 18. See also CCPR/C/HRV/QPR/4, para. 11.
- 63 CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 15.
- 64 *Ibid.*
- 65 CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5, para. 19.
- 66 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.72, 99.78, 99.83, 99.87, 99.121, 99.130, 99.137, 99.140, 99.147 and 99.159.
- 67 CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, para. 12.
- 68 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.32, 99.47, 99.63 and 99.130–99.140.
- 69 CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 16.
- 70 CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, paras. 22, 24, 28 and 30.
- 71 *Ibid.*, paras. 6, 8, 14, 16, 36 and 48.
- 72 CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1, para. 18. See also *ibid.*, para. 34.
- 73 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.73, 99.116, 99.128, 99.141–99.157 and 99.166.
- 74 UNESCO submission, para. 8.
- 75 UNHCR submission, pp. 3–4.
- 76 CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 22.
- 77 UNHCR submission, p. 4.
- 78 CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3 para. 22
- 79 *Ibid.*, para. 9.
- 80 *Ibid.*, para. 7.
- 81 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, paras. 99.17, 99.117, 99.158–99.165 and 99.167.
- 82 UNHCR submission, p. 1.
- 83 *Ibid.*, pp. 4–5. See also CCPR/C/HRV/QPR/4, para. 16.
- 84 Letter dated 4 March 2016 from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment addressed to the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=15414>.
- 85 UNHCR submission, p. 5.
- 86 *Ibid.*, p. 3
- 87 *Ibid.*
- 88 CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 20.
- 89 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/30/14, para. 99.166.
- 90 UNHCR submission, p. 1.
- 91 CCPR/C/HRV/CO/3, para. 8.
- 92 *Ibid.*