

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 104th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Lithuania, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, 20 and 22 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/LTU/CO/9-10), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 9th and 10th periodic reports, at its 98th session, held in April-May 2019.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined 11th to 13th periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document, by 9 January 2023.

Paragraph 12 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee notes the information provided by the State Party on research carried out on vulnerable communities. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the intensification of public campaigns as recommended in paragraph 12 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee also regrets the lack of information on measures taken to promote the training of journalists on how to avoid the use of hate speech and stereotypes towards communities. The Committee considers the State party's response to this recommendation unsatisfactory and requests that it provide, in its next periodic report, information on steps taken to effectively implement the recommendation.

Paragraph 20 of the Concluding Observations

While welcoming the information that national minorities are consulted in the course of the drafting process of a Draft Law on National Minorities through the establishment of a working group, the Committee requests the State party to provide information on concrete steps taken to accelerate the drafting and adoption of the law on national minorities.

H.E. Mr. Mr. Andrius Krivas
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The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory and requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on steps taken to fully implement the recommendation, including details on the composition of the working group of minority representatives.

Paragraph 22 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on measures taken to expand the capacity of reception centres and the development of community-based accommodation for asylum seekers. While noting the information provided on the rights and procedures related to asylum seekers, the Committee requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on concrete measures taken to ensure that these rights and procedures are respected in practice, as well as on investigations conducted into alleged cases of denials of entry into the territory and denial of access to asylum procedures at the hands of border guards, with respect to persons seeking international protection in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The Committee considers the State party's response to this recommendation partially satisfactory.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Lithuania, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Yanduan Li
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination