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POSTIHNUTÍM

We support, promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

**The position and tasks of the
Commissioner for Persons with
Disabilities**

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Commissioner for Persons with
Disabilities**



UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) entered into force for the Slovak Republic on June 25, 2010.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Commissioner for persons with disabilities and Her office was established by Act No. 176/2015 Coll. on the Commissioner for Children and the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and on amendments to certain acts, which came into effect on September 1, 2015.

The office of the commissioner for persons with disabilities began operating on March 1, 2016.



THE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Commissioner is an independent body that exercises its powers separately from other bodies whose competences in the field of human rights protection are established by special regulations.

The structure of human rights bodies in Slovakia consists of the Public Defender of Rights (ombudsman), the Commissioner for Children (CRC), the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (NHRI, Equality body).

The Commissioner is elected and appointed by members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (Parliament).

The term of office of the Commissioner is six years.



COMPETENCES OF THE COMMISSIONER

- assesses, on the basis of a complaint or based on her own initiative, compliance with the rights of persons with disabilities,
- monitors compliance with the human rights of persons with disabilities, in particular by conducting independent investigations into the fulfilment of obligations arising from international treaties to which the Slovak Republic is bound,
- conducts research and surveys to monitor the status and development in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities,
- supports the interests of persons with disabilities,
- promotes the interests of persons with disabilities in society,



COMPETENCES OF THE COMMISSIONER

- since May 2023, performs the tasks of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) together with Public Defender of Rights and Commissioner for Children, under CAT.

Commissioner conducts systematic visits to

- a) facilities where protective treatment is provided (psychiatric hospitals),
- b) places where persons with disabilities are or may be confined by public authorities or as a result of their dependence on care, in particular health care facilities, social service facilities and other facilities providing similar care, including facilities not registered under a special regulation.



THE COMMISSIONER'S COMPETENCE APPLIES TO:

- a) public administration bodies (state administration bodies, local government bodies, legal entities and natural persons which, under a special regulation, interfere with the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in the field of public administration);
- b) legal entities and natural persons – entrepreneurs not listed in point a).

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO:

request information and data; propose remedies and request measures to be taken; issue opinions; submit notifications; participate in court proceedings from the position of "supervisor" – as the protector of the rights of persons with disabilities; talk to persons with disabilities without the presence of third parties, in places where detention, imprisonment, custody, protective treatment, institutional care, educational measures, or preliminary measures are carried out.



15 YEARS of the CRPD – 10 YEARS of the COMMISSIONER:

- 2010–2025: 2025 marked 15 years since Slovakia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) .
- 2016–2026: 2026 marks 10 years since the establishment of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as an independent mechanism for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- These anniversaries provide an opportunity to reflect on both the progress achieved and the challenges that remain in implementing the Convention in practice.



1 YEARS IN NUMBERS:

- More than 6,500 individual complaints assessed.
- Thousands of persons with disabilities and family members assisted.
- 146 monitoring visits to social care institutions.
- 22 psychiatric facilities monitored.
- More than 1,400 remedial measures recommended following monitoring visits.
- 125 court proceedings with the participation of the Commissioner. Continuous involvement in legislative and policy reforms.
- Since 2023, performance of the National Preventive Mechanism under OPCAT.



HOW the COMMISSIONER SUPPORTS CRPD IMPLEMENTATION:

Key areas of work:

- Monitoring compliance with the CRPD and national disability legislation.
- Investigating complaints submitted by persons with disabilities and their families.
- Conducting visits to different types of facilities.
- Promoting accessibility and reasonable accommodation.
- Raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Cooperating with public authorities, NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities.
- Identifying systemic shortcomings and proposing legislative and policy changes.

Main objective:

To ensure that the rights guaranteed by the CRPD are effectively exercised in everyday life, not only formally recognized in legislation.



LESSON LEARNED:

- Legislation is necessary, but not sufficient.
- Independent monitoring mechanisms are essential.
- Persons with disabilities must be involved in decisions affecting them.
- Implementation of the CRPD requires continuous cooperation among public authorities, civil society and disability organizations.

"After 15 years of the CRPD and 10 years of independent monitoring, our main lesson is that implementation is an ongoing process. Measuring progress article by article helps us understand not only what has been achieved, but also what still needs to change."



BEYOND COMPLAINTS and MONITORING:

- **15 Years with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** - the publication analyses every article of the Convention and evaluates:
 - the commitments undertaken by Slovakia,
 - progress achieved during the past 15 years,
 - remaining gaps and challenges in implementation.

The aim was not only to celebrate achievements, but also to identify areas requiring further action and to provide a practical roadmap for the continued implementation of the Convention.

- **International Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** – the publication analyses ECtHR case law in the context of the CRPD.
- Accompanied by an art exhibition created by persons with disabilities.
- Connecting legal expertise with lived experience to promote disability rights, awareness and participation.

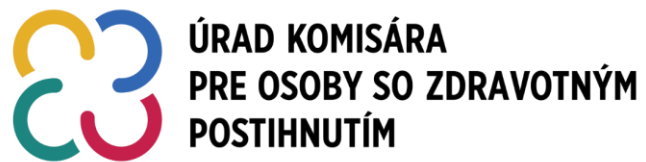


NEW CRPD-BASED APPROACH:

Annual Report 2025: Measuring Implementation Through the CRPD

- Report structured article-by-article according to the CRPD.
- Assessment of progress, challenges and implementation gaps.
- Based on complaints, monitoring findings and policy recommendations.
- Combining legal analysis with the lived experiences of persons with disabilities.





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