

different groups; address the high rate of unemployment among Roma women and provide further information on assistance programmes in the next report.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Racism and racial discrimination, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/79, paras. 43, 46)

The report refers to discrimination against the Roma, particularly by "skinheads". The Special Rapporteur also noted information indicating that the Ministry of Education distributed copies of a book on the history of Slovakia and the Slovaks, to primary school teachers. The work was said to contain information according to which the Jews did not suffer during the Holocaust, and reportedly glorified the Fascist Government which ruled Slovakia during the Second World War.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/6, paras. 48, 61, 69, 88)

On the question of conscientious objection, the report notes that there is apparently a legal time limit within which conscientious objectors must declare their refusal to perform military service or apply to perform alternative service and further, that the duration of alternative service is such as to be punitive in nature. Information also indicated there were cases in which conscientious objectors were sent to prison.

The government provided a detailed explanation of its legal and procedural machinery for handling cases of conscientious objection to military service, stating: the duration of civilian service is twice that of military service but was not punitive in character; terms of civilian service were decided within the context of a complex procedure for creating job opportunities for persons performing civilian service in which there was a need to ensure a degree of stability within the public and private entities employing conscientious objectors; with regard to the time limit of 30 days following the decision of the conscription office declaring them fit for military service, within which the law requires conscientious objectors to apply for civilian service, the Constitutional Court found that "the constitutional right not to be forced to perform military service or military games is guaranteed to all who have executed it within the legal framework enabling its execution."



SLOVENIA

Date of admission to UN: 22 May 1992.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Slovenia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/Add.35) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data, information on the political structure and an overview of the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The Constitution determines not only individual human rights and freedoms but also the instruments which are available to individuals for the protection of their rights. The primary instruments are judicial protection, right to appeal, the right to payment of damages and the right to constitutional complaint at the Constitutional Court. At the time the report was prepared, the Constitution provided for the establishment of an office of the ombudsman assigned the task of safeguarding human rights and basic freedoms in relation to state bodies, the bodies of local self-government and those holding public authority. The Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman had not yet been adopted by the Parliament and, in the interim, the implementation of human rights was entrusted to the Council of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms which was elected prior to the adoption of the new Constitution.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Succeeded: 6 July 1992.

Slovenia's initial report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Succeeded: 6 July 1992.

Slovenia's second periodic report was due 24 June 1997.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 16 July 1993.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 1 and paragraph 2 (a) of article 5.

Second Optional Protocol: Signed: 14 September 1993; ratified: 10 March 1994.

Racial Discrimination

Succeeded: 6 July 1992.

Slovenia's initial, second and third periodic reports were due 6 July 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Succeeded: 6 July 1992.

Slovenia's second periodic report was due 5 August 1997.

Torture

Acceded: 16 July 1993.

Slovenia's initial and second periodic reports were due 14 August 1994 and 1998 respectively.