



PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
HUNGARY

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT PURSUANT
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 65/182
BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS OF HUNGARY**

The situation of the rights of older persons in the Republic of Hungary

Answer for Question 1:

The number of older persons in Hungary is around 3 millions nowadays. There is a tendency for the decrease number of population in the country, like in whole Europe. As the age discrimination is rife in the world, the existing human rights mechanism should be revised to protect older people.

In Hungary, the situation of human rights of older people, its challenges and threats are similar to other countries. The older persons have to face with feminization- gender discrimination; isolation and loneliness; discrimination of aging people living with disabilities; ghettoisation in declined settlements; migration; moreover, economic, cultural and social lack of capital have greater negative impacts on the old population's life.

Answer for Question 2:

Although general regulations promoting human rights exist and function in Hungary, there is no exact rule or legislation specifically dedicated to the older people. The **Parliamentary Resolution 81/2009 (X.2.) on National Aging Strategy** has established an **Action Plan** to implement an aging policy for the period 2010-2012. This policy includes references to the protection of human rights and dignity of senior citizens.

Answer for Question 3:

According to the **Hungarian Constitution's Article 70/A**; *"the Republic of Hungary shall respect the human rights and civil rights of all persons in the country without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origins, financial situation, birth or on any other grounds whatsoever. The law shall provide for strict punishment of discrimination on the basis above. Furthermore, the Republic of Hungary shall endeavor to implement equal rights for everyone through measures that create fair opportunities for all."*

Specific measures addressing multiple discrimination are not separately defined from other actions and programs.



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Answer for Question 4:

The Ombudsman report has drawn the attention to the importance of protection of victims as it is not the only task of the state, but it is a public duty of the society. The State has created an appropriate institutional system for accomplishing this duty, but social solidarity and further programs are also needed.

The Ministry for Internal Affairs has launched a **Program of Social Cohesion for Crime-prevention and Victim's Reintegration** for the period of 2010 and 2012. By this program the following objectives will be implemented:

- Establishment of a 24-hours operating telephone dispatcher service with free (green) telephone number.
- Creation of a volunteer-network for aiding victims, their defense and protection.
- Formation of an aiding system consists of psychiatric and psychological experts who help the reintegration of the crime victims and assist to tackle their trauma.
- Education and training of the relevant experts and workers in victim protection and crime prevention fields.
- Development of legal aid system for the victims.

Answer for Question 5:

The relevant rules are referring to every human being in Hungary, and these general regulations do not refer specifically to the older population. That was one of the reasons why the Ombudsman dedicated the year of 2010 to examine the situation of older people in Hungary and drawn the society's attention to these people's needs and circumstances. Therefore, the **Ombudsman** launched the **project of "Aging with Dignity"**.

Answer for Question 6:

Concerning the social security provided for older persons, in Hungary there is no separate financial contribution provided for them; only pension is given to the senior people. This pension makes the pensioners to be entitled to free health care, as well. Furthermore, as there is a financial support for pharmaceutical products, this can be considered as a social benefit for older persons.

The cities' and villages' self-governments have their own social care system, which also include homecare and aid for older people.

Answer for Question 7:

Programmes or policies that systematically collect, update and analyze information disaggregated by age are only done by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (Központi Statisztikai Hivatal- KSH), and not by the Ombudsman of Hungary.

The Institute of Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Science (HAS) also analyzes and does special research on the older population.



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Answer for Question 8:

In Hungary there is no special rule existing concerning the issue. By the **Parliamentary Resolution 81/2009 (X.2.) on National Aging Strategy** that has established an **Action Plan** to implement the aging policy for the period 2010-2012, the better inclusion of older population to the Hungarian society is considered as a norm generally accepted, but with special reference in the strategy. Enhancing participation and the active engagement of older men and women in the community is part of the political programs, and a social consultation on the issue is under process. Furthermore, the EU has strategy to develop the inclusion of older population into the society and introduced directives such as one on “life-long-learning.”

Answer for Question 9:

There is no special regulation focusing distinctively on the old people’s access to justice and judicial remedies. The Constitution of Hungary provides this fundamental right for every person in Hungary.

According to the **Article 57 of the Hungarian Constitution:**

“(1) In the Republic of Hungary everyone is equal before the law and has the right to have the accusations brought against him, as well as his rights and duties in legal proceedings, judged in a just, public trial by an independent and impartial court established by law.

(5) In the Republic of Hungary everyone may seek legal remedy, in accordance with the provisions of the law, to judicial, administrative or other official decisions, which infringe on his rights or justified interests.”