



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Croatia
Title:	Annual Report of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality for 2019
Date:	20 July 2020
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Annual Report of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality for 2019 submitted for approval to the Croatian Parliament
Grounds of discrimination:	Sex, Sexual orientation, Transgender
Field of application:	All fields
Source:	National equality body
Applicable law:	Gender Equality Act (<i>Zakon o ravnopravnosti spolova</i>), Official Gazette <i>Narodne novine</i> Nos. 82/2008, 138/2012 and 69/2017

Content

Policy development: The Ombudsperson for Gender Equality has submitted the Annual Report for 2019 for approval of the Croatian Parliament. The Report was completed this year under extreme hardship caused by the earthquake that struck Zagreb on 22 March 2020, which has partly destroyed the offices of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality. The Parliament, however, given the extraordinary circumstances caused by the earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, has not discussed and voted on the Report prior to its dissolution on 18 May 2020 pending the ordinary parliamentary elections in July 2020.

Key points of analysis: The Ombudsperson for Gender Equality's mandate covers discrimination based on sex, marital and family status, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation and gender identity in the field of employment (including self-employment) and access to employment, social security, family life (including domestic violence), education, political participation, media, sport and access to goods and services. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality has worked on 1 719 cases, out of which 503 were new individual complaints for the protection against discrimination filed in 2019. Other cases mostly concern monitoring of implementation of the Gender Equality Act and are opened at the initiative of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality. A continuous increase of individual complaints can be observed in the last five years (in 2019, the number of individual complaints increased by 9.8 % in comparison with the previous year). The majority of complaints concern discrimination based on sex (85.8 %), followed by sexual orientation (6 %) and gender identity (3 %). In 73.4 % of cases, the victims of discrimination were women. The majority of complaints concern discrimination in the field of social security (29.2 %), work and working conditions (21.1 %) and public administration (14.5 %). One fourth of individual complaints (24.4 %) relates to physical, psychological and other forms of domestic violence and/or partnership violence, as well as violence in the public domain, which is a continuing trend from the previous years.

During the reporting year, the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality issued 293 written recommendations, 160 warnings/admonitions and 131 suggestion for action. Compliance continues to be high, in around 89.3 % cases. The Ombudsperson for Gender Equality has also filed five criminal complaints and one misdemeanour complaint to the competent state attorney's office.

In addition, the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality has implemented two EU-projects in the reporting period: „Equal rights – equal pay – equal pensions. Expanding the scope of gender equality actions and legal standards towards achieving gender equality and combating poverty in Croatia”¹ and “Building more effective protection: transforming the system for combating violence against women”.²

Internet link source:

Ombudsperson for Gender Equality (2020), 2019 Annual Report, available at https://www.prs.hr/attachments/article/2894/IZVJESCE_O_RADU_ZA_2019_Pravobraniteljice_za_ravnopravnost_spolova.pdf.

Government of the Republic of Croatia, Opinion about the 2019 Annual Report of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, available at https://www.sabor.hr/sites/default/files/uploads/sabor/2020-05-15/110701/m_IZVJ_PRAV_RAVNOPRAV_SPOLOVA_2019.pdf.

¹ Project No. REC-RGEN-PENS-AG-2017-820696-GPPG. More information available at <http://gppg.prs.hr>.

² Project No. JUST/2016/RGEN/AG/VAWA/9940. See <http://vawa.prs.hr>. Research results, which include two publications with quantitative results of analysis of decisions in criminal and misdemeanour procedures in the period from 2012 to 2016, as well as two publications concerning analysis of media coverage of violence against women and femicide are available in Croatian at <http://vawa.prs.hr/publikacije/>. In addition, media codex with a guide to professionally sensitive reporting about violence against women and femicide was also published.