



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

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Slovenia
Title:	The accessibility of buildings for people with disabilities
Date:	22 April 2015
Expert:	Neža Kogovšek Šalamon
Context	
Issue at stake:	Local labour office of the Employment Service inaccessible for people with disabilities
Ground of discrimination:	Disability
Source:	Ombudsman
Field:	Access to goods and services
Applicable law:	Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities Act

Content

Case:

The Human Rights Ombudsman (an independent state body competent for examining complaints on alleged human rights violations and for issuing non-binding recommendations) received a complaint concerning discrimination on the grounds of disability at the Local labour office. The complainant complained about the fact that the labour office premises were not accessible for people with disabilities. She claimed that she was treated in a degrading and offensive way, as her interview was held in the public and open hallway of the office instead of in a private office where the clients are usually interviewed.

Based on the complaint the Ombudsman addressed a recommendation to the Employment Service to respond. The Ombudsman emphasised Articles 6 and 9 of the Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities Act, which relate to the prohibition of discrimination in proceedings before state authorities and the requirement to ensure the accessibility of public buildings for persons with disabilities. The Ombudsman held that holding an interview in the hallway violates these provisions and recommended the Employment Service to find appropriate premises for reception of people with disabilities in order to avoid potential future violations of the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of disabilities.

The Employment Service took these recommendations into account and arranged the possibility of the use of facilities at the Administrative unit and Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia which are appropriate for receiving people with disabilities.

However, there are still several public buildings, especially older ones, which remain inaccessible to people with disabilities, despite adopted laws and regulations.

Key points of analysis: Several acts and other regulations have been adopted with the aim to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the ground of disability, and to create equal opportunities for people with disabilities in all areas of life. However numerous

(mainly older) buildings remain inaccessible, as evident from this complaint. There is a lack of real commitment to remove accessibility barriers. The case is important because due to the lack of use of legal remedies there is hardly any case law in the field of non-discrimination on the grounds of disability outside employment.

Internet link source: Decision of the Human Rights Ombudsman: <http://www.varuh-rs.si/medijsko-sredisce/aktualni-primeri/novice/detajl/dostopnost-urada-za-delo-za-invalidde/?cHash=f0b9efadb2e70577d02dee3802a3ed59>