

Slovakia



Women in decision-making: **0.42/5**

Socio-economic position of women: **1.07/5**

Violence against women: **1.5/5**

Highlights

16%

women in parliament

7%

women senior ministers

13%

women on boards

20%

women presidents of the largest companies

20.7%

gender pay gap

3%

of infants under 3 in formal childcare

0.03

shelter places for women victims of violence per 10,000 inhabitants

TRENDS:



Between July 2010 and April 2012, the post of prime minister of Slovakia was for the first time held by a woman, Iveta Radičová.

Over the last 5 years, the number of women presidents of the largest publicly-listed companies has doubled, and Slovakia now has the highest proportion of women CEOs of any EU country (20%).

In 2009 and 2012 the European Court of Human Rights issued judgments against the Slovak government and in favour of Roma women in Slovakia who had undergone forced sterilisation.



The gender gap in employment is increasing in Slovakia, and women's unemployment has risen above men's in the context of the economic crisis.¹ The crisis has also brought about increased job insecurity and discriminatory abuse, as well as reduced social protection.

In 2010, access to abortion was restricted in Slovakia by the introduction of a 48-hour waiting period. Also, the legal amendment stipulates that personal data such as the identity numbers of women seeking abortions should be recorded. At the same time, access to the morning-after pill is effectively being blocked by conservative religious groups. Contraceptives and abortion are further restricted by high costs and extensive use of "conscientious objection".

UNDERSTANDING SLOVAKIA

There are no legal measures in place in Slovakia for the equal representation of women in political decision-making, and women's representation has not increased in two decades. Currently, women are 16% of members of parliament, 1 minister out of 15 in government, and 13% of corporate board members.

Women in the labour market in Slovakia are confronted with horizontal and vertical segregation, reinforced by gender strong stereotypes in the education system. In areas such as health, social services and education, women constitute about 80% of the workforce; in the government sector 70%. Conversely, in the private sector with usually higher wages, women represent only 41% of all employed.² Slovakia has a large gender pay gap at 20.7%, the effects of which are most evident in the fact that almost triple the number of women as compared to men over 65 are at risk of poverty.

With the exception of the neighbouring Czech Republic, Slovakia has the highest gender employment gap for parents of children under 12. The employment rate drops by 26.7% when women have young children, whereas it increases by 11% for men.

Maternity leave remuneration in Slovakia is the lowest in the EU, at only 55% of former salary, leading many women to quit their jobs. Also, formal childcare for infants under 3 is almost inexistent. 13% of dependent elderly receive formal care.

1 in 5 women experience domestic violence from a current partner, and 27.9% of women have experienced violence at the hands of a former partner.³ However, only 75% of people say domestic violence is unacceptable and should always be punishable by law.⁴

¹ <http://www.gender.gov.sk>

² *Idem.* ³ Bodnárová, B. – Filadelfiová, J. – Holubová, B. *Representative research of appearance and experiences of women's violence against women (VAW) in Slovakia. Institute for Work and Family, 2008.*

⁴ *Special Eurobarometer 344 - 2010*