



Montenegro

A DECADE  
OF INDEPENDENCE  
A MILLENNIUM  
OF STATEHOOD  
MONTENEGRO  
2016



May Montenegro live forever

No 610/OHCHR

*The Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, and has the honour to convey the Written Replies on the Questionnaire on the elimination of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members.*

*The Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, the assurances of its highest consideration.* TB



Geneva, 2 August 2016

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Human Rights Council Advisory Committee  
Geneva**

Leprosy has not been regarded as significant public health issue in Montenegro. Please note that leprosy hasn't been diagnosed nor registered in Montenegro for decades. Since the end of the Second World War total of 11 patients were registered with diagnose of leprosy. Maximal annual number of newly registered cases occurred in 1955 and was three.

- 1) Institute for Public Health is not aware of the specific Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against leprosy. In performing daily duties Institute complies with various Montenegrin Laws stipulating antidiscrimination means and measures. These Laws are based on Universal Declaration of Human Rights, different international human rights instruments, declarations, regulations, resolutions and other documents. Cornerstone of national antidiscrimination legislative is Law against discrimination where it is stipulated in the Article 12 that any kind of behavior leading to unequal treatment of persons on the basis of health status is considered as discrimination. This article regards any health condition including Leprosy.
- 2) The Institute for Public Health has no information on the activities regarding the dissemination of the Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against leprosy from 2010.
- 3) Same as under no. 2.
- 4) Freedom to choose place of living, as one of the principal human rights, is guaranteed by National Constitution and set of antidiscrimination laws. Forced segregation of diseased has been completely abolished including leprosy patients. Institutional isolation is required as medical indication only for confirmed cases during the treatment phase.
- 5) As previously stated – there have been no registered leprosy patients for long time. Community involvement and active participation of persons affected by certain disease, as well as their families, is common practice in Montenegro regarding to defining and amending public policies and decision making related to disease.
- 6) In case that case is confirmed persons affected by leprosy are granted every human right as any other patient. These rights include citizenship rights, obtaining IDs, right to vote, right to stand elections, right to serve the public and other.
- 7) Other set of rights is also secured, including right for work, education, establishing a family, access to public places (including religious, cultural and educational institutions) and all forms of public transport.
- 8) As leprosy has been eradicated there are no specific actions being undertaken aiming at promotion and protection of human rights that might be affected with leprosy. All human rights of sick and ill are strongly protected by set of antidiscrimination laws.
- 9) Same as under no. 2.
- 10) No specific obstacles regarding elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy were faced. Comprehensive protection of human rights is achieved through Law against discrimination, other Laws and "soft" legislation.
- 11) Regular independent monitoring and reporting from the regions and countries with endemic leprosy in which leprosy and discrimination of people with leprosy represent significant health and public issue.

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12) Strengthen surveillance systems in order to recognize, diagnose and treat disease in early stages. Elimination and consequential eradication of leprosy itself will lead towards elimination of the discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members.

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