

of the most worrying trends in the area of racism and intolerance in Hungary.

“A distinctive feature of this phenomenon is the combination of the strong presence in the Hungarian national parliament of a party which uses extremist rhetoric and the close links between the latter and paramilitary groups carrying out acts of intimidation against Roma,” he said.

He welcomed steps taken to reinforce Hungary’s legislative framework against hate crimes and hate speech and measures to improve its implementation. At the same time he urged the Hungarian authorities to address persisting failures, including by better investigating the possible racial motivation of offences.

He urged the Hungarian authorities “to step up efforts to improve Roma access to education by addressing all forms of school segregation of Roma children. The dire housing situation of many Roma living in substandard and segregated settlements and the discriminatory impact on Roma of some measures taken at local level should also be addressed as a matter of priority.”

Concerning discrimination against persons with disabilities, Muiznieks “strongly urges” the Hungarian authorities to make progress in ensuring compliance with the right of these persons to live independently in the community.

While welcoming progress made in the fight against intolerance and discrimination against LGBTI persons, he called on the authorities to take all necessary measures to address discrimination against LGBTI persons and fight physical violence against them.

Muiznieks expressed worry at measures taken in the last three years to prohibit rough sleeping and the construction of huts and shacks in Budapest and other cities, which have widely been described as criminalising homelessness in practice. Referring to “the obsolete and overcrowded system of emergency shelters in Budapest and elsewhere”, he urged the Hungarian authorities to review the restrictive regulations in light of internationally agreed standards.

Despite improvements in the legal framework introduced in 2013, the report said Muiznieks remains concerned about the infrequent use made of alternatives to detention, and called on the Hungarian authorities to ensure that the detention of asylum seekers is only used as a last resort.

“The Commissioner notes that the detention of asylum seeking families is still provided for by the law, although there have been no cases of such detention recently. In the Commissioner’s view, children should not be subjected to immigration detention, whether with or without their families,” the report said.

Source: <http://mtva.hu/hu/hungary-matters>

SHARE THIS

