

Bratislava Declaration

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day

We, the Ombudspersons and Public Defenders of Rights of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Serbia, and Georgia, gathered on December 10, 2025, at the Government Hotel Bôrik in Bratislava,

Recognizing:

- the irreplaceable role of the ombudsperson as a guardian of human dignity, legal certainty, and fundamental freedoms,
- the universal value of human rights and their enshrinement in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international treaties, and the constitutional systems of our countries,
- the importance of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM) in protecting individuals from torture, and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment,

and with full respect for the principles of independence, transparency, and effective oversight,

We declare and reaffirm:

1. Our commitment to protecting human dignity and the fundamental rights and freedoms of every person, regardless of origin, sex, religion, nationality, or social status.
2. Our pledge to strengthen National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM) and ensure their effective functioning and independence in accordance with international human rights standards.

3. Our support for international cooperation and exchange of experience among ombudspersons and national institutions with the aim of increasing the effectiveness and credibility of human rights protection mechanisms.
4. Our support for educational and awareness-raising activities focused on public legal consciousness, thereby strengthening respect for the rights of individuals and society.
5. Our commitment to the prevention of torture, and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment as an integral part of protecting human dignity and the rule of law.

Through this declaration, we reaffirm our commitment to act in accordance with the principles of justice, independent oversight, and the protection of human dignity. We also commit to continuing our cooperation in strengthening the legal framework and practical measures for the protection of human rights in our countries.

Bratislava, December 10, 2025

Róbert DOBROVODSKÝ , Public Defender of Rights

Stanislav KŘEČEK , Public Defender of Rights

Sabina ALIYEVA , Commissioner for Human Rights

Zoran PAŠALIĆ , Protector of Citizens

Levan IOSELIANI , Public Defender
