

10. obletnica ustanovitve institucije Zagovornika načela enakosti.

VELJA GOVORJENA BESEDA

Spoštovana predsednica Republike Slovenije dr. Nataša Pirc Musar,
spoštovana varuhinja človekovih pravic Republike Slovenije dr. Simona Drenik Bavdek,
spoštovani zagovornik načela enakosti g. Miha Lobnik,
cenjene dame in gospodje.

V čast mi je, da vas lahko pozdravim v imenu Evropske komisije ob praznovanju desete obletnice delovanja Zagovornika načela enakosti.

Danes obeležujemo deset let predanega dela, deset let prizadevanj za pravičnost, dostojanstvo in enake možnosti za vse. In na to smo lahko vsi skupaj ponosni.

Nediskriminacija je temeljna vrednota Evropske unije in zato jo varujemo z jasnimi in trdnimi pravnimi okvirom. Kljub temu pa izzivi ostajajo. Številni posamezniki se še vedno srečujejo z diskriminacijo. Zaradi tega, kdo so in od kod prihajajo. Koga ljubijo ali ker živijo z invalidnostjo. Ali le, ker so prestari.

Mnogi primeri diskriminacije pa sploh niso prijavljeni. Ljudje namreč ne vedo, kam se obrniti, ali pa ne verjamejo, da se bo kaj spremenilo. In to je tisto, kar bi nas moralo skrbeti.

Spoštovani zagovornik, spoštovani sodelavci zagovornika,
prav zato ste vi in vaše delo ključnega pomena.

Vi namreč udejanjate zaščito enakopravnosti v praksi. Pomagate uveljavljati zakonodajo, svetujete žrtvam diskriminacije, jim pomagate najti podporo, iskati pravico in biti slišani. Hkrati pa opozarjate na globlje, strukturne probleme v družbi.

Pravni okvir Evropske unije vam pa pri tem pomaga. Dve direktivi o standardih za organe za enakost, sprejeti leta 2024, postavljata jasne minimalne standarde za celotno Evropsko unijo. Standarde, ki zagotavljajo neodvisnost, ustrezne vire, jasna pooblastila in učinkovita orodja za ukrepanje.

Ta zakonodaja krepi položaj organov za enakost. Z njo želimo institucijam omogočiti, da učinkovito pomagajo žrtvam, zbirajo dokaze o diskriminaciji, sodelujejo v sodnih postopkih ter nudijo izvensodne rešitve. Zakonodaja tudi krepi njihovo vlogo pri preprečevanju diskriminacije in spodbujanju enakosti – tudi z javnim poročanjem in priporočili oblastem.

Vendar se postavlja vprašanje: bodo ta pravila dejansko spremenila življenja ljudi? Bodo res organom za enakost omogočila nemoteno delo?

Rok za prenos evropskih pravnih aktov v nacionalni pravni red je namreč že prihodnji mesec, zato zakonodajalce – in s tem tudi prihajajočo slovensko Vlado – čaka zahtevna in odgovorna naloga.

Tudi Slovenija bo namreč morala prilagoditi svojo zakonodajo.

Med drugim bo Slovenija morala zagotoviti, da imajo organi za enakost dovolj finančnih, kadrovskih in tehničnih virov za učinkovito in pravočasno opravljanje svojih nalog, tudi ob morebitnem širjenju pristojnosti. Financiranje mora biti stabilno in dolgoročno načrtovano, delovanje organov pa ne sme biti prepuščeno trenutnim političnim odločitvam.

Močni in neodvisni organi za enakost pomenijo pravičnost za posameznika. Pomagajo tudi graditi Evropo, kjer lahko vsakdo v celoti in brez strahu sodeluje v družbi.

Organe pa lahko umestimo tudi v monetarni jezik. Diskriminacija Evropo namreč vsako leto stane na stotine milijard evrov zaradi izgubljenih talentov, kar posledično pomeni izgubljeno gospodarsko rast. Organi za enakost pomagajo sprostiti ta ekonomski potencial.

Spoštovani,

Naj zaključim z zahvalo. Hvala za vašo predanost, strokovnost in vztrajnost. Vaše delo je temelj bolj pravične družbe in pravne države, v kateri ima vsak posameznik možnost sodelovati – polno, enakopravno in brez strahu.

Iskrene čestitke ob 10. obletnici. Na Evropski komisiji vam bomo še naprej stali ob strani in vam želimo veliko uspeha tudi v prihodnje.

Hvala lepa.

Dr. Jerneja Jug Jerše,

Vodja Predstavništva Evropske komisije v Sloveniji

11.5.2026

10th anniversary of the founding of the Institution of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality.

Dear President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Nataša Pirc Musar,
dear Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Simona Drenik Bavdek,
dear Advocate of the Principle of Equality, Mr Miha Lobnik,
honoured guests.

I have the honour to welcome you, on behalf of the European Commission, to the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality.

Today we commemorate ten years of dedicated work in support for justice, dignity and equal opportunities for all. We can all take pride in this.

Non-discrimination is a fundamental value of the European Union, protected by a clear and robust legal framework. Nevertheless, challenges persist. Many people still face discrimination. Because of who they are and where they come from. Because of whom they love or because they live with a disability. Or simply because they are considered too old.

Many cases of discrimination remain unreported. People do not know where to turn, or they do not believe reporting it will make a difference. And this is what we should be concerned about.

Dear Advocate, dear colleagues of the Advocate,
this is what makes you and your work so important.

You are putting equality protection into practice. You help enforce legislation, advise victims of discrimination, and help them find support, seek justice, and be heard. At the same time, you highlight deeper, structural problems in society.

The European Union's legal framework supports you in these efforts. Two directives on standards for equality bodies adopted in 2024 set clear minimum standards across the European Union. These standards ensure independence, adequate resources, clear powers and effective tools for action.

This legislation strengthens the position of equality bodies. It aims to enable equality bodies to effectively assist victims, collect evidence of discrimination, engage in judicial proceedings and offer non-judicial solutions. At the same time, this legislation strengthens their role in preventing discrimination and promoting equality – including through public reporting and recommendations to authorities.

However, the question arises: will these rules make a real difference in people's lives? Will they truly allow equality bodies to work smoothly?

The deadline for transposing the relevant European legislation into national law is already next month, which will present a significant challenge for legislators – and for the next Slovenian Government.

Slovenia will also have to adapt its legislation.

Among other things, Slovenia will need to ensure that equality bodies have sufficient financial, human and technical resources to carry out their tasks efficiently and in a timely manner, including in the event of a possible extension of their competences. Funding must be stable and planned in the long term, and the functioning of the bodies must not be left to ad hoc political decisions.

Strong and independent equality bodies help ensure fairness for every individual. In addition, they help build a Europe where everyone can participate fully in society, without fear.

We can also speak about equality bodies in monetary terms. Discrimination costs Europe hundreds of billions of euros every year through lost talent and lost growth. Equality bodies help unlock this economic potential.

Honoured guests,

Let me conclude by expressing gratitude. Thank you for your dedication, professionalism and perseverance. Your work helps strengthen a fairer society and the rule of law, in which every individual can participate fully, equally and without fear.

Congratulations on your 10th anniversary. The European Commission will continue to stand by your side, and we wish you every success in the future.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Jerneja Jug Jerše,

Head of European Commission Representation in Slovenia

11.5.2026