



**International Convention on  
the Elimination of All Forms  
of Racial Discrimination**

Distr.: General  
21 December 2023  
English  
Original: French  
English, French and Spanish only

---

**Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**Information received from France on follow-up to the  
concluding observations on its combined twenty-second and  
twenty-third periodic reports\***

[Date received: 19 December 2023]

---

\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) considered the report submitted by France (report constituting the combined twenty-second and twenty-third periodic reports) on 15 and 16 November 2022, during its 108th session held in Geneva. France received the Committee's concluding observations on 2 December 2022.
2. As part of its constructive collaboration with the Committee, France wishes to respond to the Committee's request to provide, within one year of the adoption of the concluding observations, information on the follow-up given to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (a), (c) and (d) (situation of Roma and Traveller communities), 20 (b) and (c) (situation of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons) and 28 (protection of human rights defenders).
3. France wishes to inform the Committee of the following.

## II. Additional information

### A. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 14 (a) of the concluding observations (CERD/C/FRA/CO/22-23)

4. Implementation of the national strategy on Roma equality, inclusion and participation for the period 2020–2030 is monitored by the consultative bodies corresponding to the strategy's priorities, namely the National Advisory Commission on Travellers and the National Commission for Monitoring Slum Clearance. These commissions are facilitated by an interministerial body, the Interministerial Task Force for Accommodation and Access to Housing (Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement – DIHAL), in close collaboration with the Interministerial Task Force for Combating Racism, Antisemitism and Hatred towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons with regard to the component on combating anti-Gypsyism. To organize this follow-up, as well as regular monitoring of the national strategy for the European Commission (latest report to date: June 2023), a specific post for evaluation and resource mobilization was created at DIHAL in June 2023.
5. With regard to the participation of Travellers, the National Advisory Commission on Travellers ensures that they are represented and involved in the public policies that affect them. This body is responsible for studying issues related to the mobile lifestyle and making proposals to ensure that Travellers have access to all their rights. In addition, a project evaluation committee, including representatives of associations, was set up in 2022 as part of calls for national projects to be set up for the award of State subsidies targeted at facilities for the reception and housing of Travellers. The consultation of Travellers in the selection of projects to develop special facilities for them is therefore assured.
6. So far as slum clearance is concerned, the annual national budget had doubled by 2020 to €8 million and has since been maintained at this level. A digital platform, *Résorption-Bidonvilles*, is used to identify shanty towns and monitor action in the field (support for health, employment and housing; improved living conditions on site, including access to water, etc.) and the number of people affected.
7. Lastly, with regard to combating anti-Gypsyism, progress has been made since France appeared before the Committee in 2022. This objective has been included in the National Plan to Combat Racism, Antisemitism and Origin-Related Discrimination 2023–2026. As part of this plan, a memorial project involving the creation of an interpretation trail and permanent exhibition space on the site of the former internment camp for "nomads" at Montreuil-Bellay should be rolled out by spring 2026. One of the plan's flagship measures involves raising awareness and training national education staff in all forms of racism, with a specific focus on anti-Gypsyism (three days of training for all staff). A national training plan will be drawn up by the General Directorate for School Education in February 2024 for implementation in the course of the year.

## **B. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 14 (c) of the concluding observations (CERD/C/FRA/CO/22-23)**

8. On 31 October 2023, almost 11,300 people were living in 239 camps or shanty towns (sites or buildings) inhabited by nationals of European Union countries in mainland France, representing a drop of around 18 per cent over four years (data from the *Résorption-Bidonvilles* digital platform).

9. A national funding envelope, which has doubled in 2020 to €8 million, is dedicated to supporting local clearance actions. In the departments of France affected by shanty towns, there has been an evolution in terms of awareness of the phenomenon, the implementation of a steering system and the structuring of actions (coordination of stakeholders, vision and direction asserted by State services). In 2022, 63 associations or services in charge of support were co-financed for 126 actions carried out.

10. As a result of these actions, around 1,300 people living in shanty towns gain access to a long-term solution for accommodation or housing every year in France. Other initiatives targeted on employment, health and education for children and young people are also funded, to help break the cycle of poverty. In 2022, nearly 5,500 people benefited from health-care support.

11. It should be recalled that French law establishes the principle of unconditional access to emergency accommodation. While France has an ambitious Housing First policy (the second five-year Housing First plan was launched in June 2023), it is continuing to make a major effort on the accommodation budget, maintaining the very high number of more than 200,000 places per day nationwide.

## **C. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 14 (d) of the concluding observations (CERD/C/FRA/CO/22-23)**

12. A school mediation scheme has been set up to bring children living in shanty towns into school, and also to boost school attendance thanks to a special link with local education stakeholders. Launched in 2020 with 25 school mediators, the scheme has been extended and strengthened every year since, reaching 30 mediators in 2021–2022, 40 in 2022–2023 and now more than 45 mediators, and is backed by national funding of €2 million. It has provided support and led to the enrolment in school of almost 2,800 children in 2020–2021, 3,200 children in 2021–2022 and over 3,500 children in 2022–2023. The number of minors living in camps and shanty towns who are attending school therefore more than doubled between 2019 and 2023, rising from 1,430 to over 3,500. This system will be further strengthened in the coming years, with a target of 100 per cent school enrolment in all the departments of France concerned.

13. The school mediation scheme is monitored by DIHAL, in conjunction with the education authorities in each department. Training days attended by national education staff are organized on a regular basis (three in 2022–2023, four to come in 2023–2024) to provide mediators with better support in their work. A letter on supporting schooling for children living in very precarious conditions and in informal housing (shanty towns, squats, streets, social hostels, etc.) was sent to chief education officers by the Directorate-General for School Education at the end of October 2021, setting out guidelines and courses of action for them to develop operational partnerships with civil society organizations. A day dedicated to the school mediation programme, held on 22 June 2023, brought together all the mediators and more than 40 parents and children from all over France to testify to the actions that had been carried out. The day was opened by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Housing, who reiterated the Government's resolute and ongoing commitment to providing access to education for extremely vulnerable children.

14. On the subject of the children of itinerant and Traveller families, a dedicated national working group, set up in 2019, was relaunched in 2022 within the framework of the National Advisory Commission on Travellers, to reflect on innovative practices and solutions for promoting the schooling of children living in vehicles parked on reception areas or parked illegally, particularly in five target departments. This focused action will continue in 2024.

A school mediation programme for the children of itinerant Travellers is due to be launched shortly, with the aim of deploying 40 mediators across France by 2027.

**D. Follow-up information relating to paragraphs 20 (b) and (c) of the concluding observations (CERD/C/FRA/CO/22-23)**

15. France applies the principle of unconditional accommodation of all migrants, regardless of their status. Since 2017, nearly 36,000 places have accordingly been created for this population group, including 5,900 in 2023.

16. France has strengthened the protection of refugees to meet ever-increasing needs. In 2013, almost 11,400 people were under the protection of the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides – OFPRA), compared with over 33,200 in 2020 and almost 56,300 in 2022 (56,000 in the first 10 months of 2023 alone). This reflects an increase in the rate of protection by OFPRA, which has risen from almost 13 per cent in 2013 to over 29 per cent in 2022. In addition, France has offered a safe admission route, through the resettlement mechanism, to more than 5,000 people since 2020.

17. The border police pay particular attention to the situation of vulnerable people in the migratory context. The French authorities ensure good reception and accommodation conditions and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of people placed in waiting zones at border crossing points. A guide to waiting zones has been drafted by the National Directorate of the Border Police and will shortly be published internally to serve as a reference for the services responsible for these facilities.

18. The French authorities point to the Government’s intention, as expressed in its immigration bill, currently being debated in parliament, to put an end to the detention of 16-year-olds in administrative detention centres. This bill provides an unprecedented guarantee of the best interests of children during deprivation of liberty. In this respect, the Government aimed to translate into national law the substance of judgments by the European Court of Human Rights, which in the past has punished the detention of families on the basis of a combination of three factors: the young age of the children, the length of their detention and the unsuitability of the premises concerned. The Government’s proposal reconciles the best interests of children with the objectives of combating illegal immigration, by presenting a plan that takes account of the age of minors, depending on whether they are over or under 16 years old.

19. In the above-mentioned bill, the government has proposed (in article 19) the creation of local “France Aisle” hubs. These hubs will bring together in one place, in a one-stop-shop approach, the administrative services responsible for determining the jurisdiction of France and issuing residence permits (the prefecture), for ensuring material reception conditions (the French Office for Immigration and Integration) and, most recently, for submitting asylum applications (OFPRA). Distributed across the country, these hubs will speed up the processing of asylum applications by the competent authority (OFPRA) and consideration of appropriate arrangements for the examination of each asylum application, in particular by identifying applicants’ vulnerabilities at an early stage.

**E. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 28 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/FRA/CO/22-23)**

20. France takes into account all the warnings issued by the Committee concerning intimidating and threatening messages. It reiterates its full determination to prevent and respond to all forms of intimidation and reprisals against anyone who considers himself or herself a victim of such acts. In this respect, it is of course attentive to the personal safety of any person who is particularly threatened after expressing himself or herself publicly and freely.

21. In France, the Subdirectorate for Personal Protection in the Protection Department of the National Police of the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories provides close

protection and security escort services for French and foreign nationals. A team is assigned to each protected person. The security officer's mission is to provide close protection for French VIPs and public figures who are under threat. In this respect, the Department has on several occasions been called upon to protect journalists who are under particular threat because of their opinions, or following the production of reports on sensitive subjects.

22. France is fully committed to combating hate speech, particularly on the Internet:

- In addition to the creation of an online hate observatory pursuant to Act No. 2020-766 of 24 June 2020, France has set up a national hub to combat online hate. Created under settled law by a circular dated 24 November 2020, the national hub to combat online hate is primarily designed to centralize the processing of investigations into cyberbullying. The Paris Public Prosecutor's Office has become the most important point of contact with the Platform for Harmonization, Analysis, Cross-checking and Orientation of Notifications for the issuance of submissions. This Platform is essential for detecting such behaviour and identifying the perpetrators.
- Act No. 2021-1109 of 24 August 2021 on Bolstering Respect for the Principles of the Republic strengthens the legislative arsenal for combating hate speech and illegal content. It has accordingly created an offence of endangerment through the dissemination of personal information. The new article 223-1-1 of the Penal Code criminalizes individual behaviour aimed at causing serious harm to a person or his or her family or property by revealing personal information about them. This particularly concerns messages on social networks containing elements that can be used to identify a person.

23. With regard more specifically to the situation of Ms. Assa Traoré, France recalls the observations that it sent to the Chair of the Committee on 12 January 2023. It also points out that, in view of the constitutional principles of the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary, it is not for the Government to give any instructions whatsoever in individual cases, nor to interfere in judicial proceedings. Nor is its role to formulate assessments of decisions rendered. With this in mind, it can be confirmed that an investigation has been launched, under the guidance of the national online hate hub at the Paris Public Prosecutor's Office, following a notification issued by the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights on the basis of article 40 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, concerning public insults on grounds of origin, ethnicity, nation, race or religion in the context of Assa Traoré's statement to the Committee.

---