



SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION ANALYSIS

GRAZ

1. INTRODUCTION INTO THE LOCAL SITUATION

1.1. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE CITY OF GRAZ WITH REGARD TO ITS HISTORICAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Graz, the capital of the federal state of Styria, is located at the south of Austria, near the border to Slovenia and Hungary and has approximately 267,000 inhabitants (with principal residence status), making it the second largest city in Austria.

Graz was first mentioned in the year 1128 and was appointed as the capital of “Inner Austria” in 1379; it was thus residence of the Habsburgs until 1619.

Concerning discriminatory attitudes, it has to be mentioned that Graz played an inglorious role before and during the NAZI regime, as active centre of the Austrian National Socialists, already before Austria was annexed to NAZI-Germany in 1938.

From the nineteen-eighties policy-makers started to change the image and did great efforts making Graz a world-open city and promote actively an open society. These efforts culminated in the declaration of the first **Human Rights City** in Europe in the year 2000. In 2006 the City of Graz joint the **European Coalition of Cities against Racism**. Today the city is known as a student city with four universities with about 45,000 students.

Furthermore, its “Old Town” is among the best preserved city centres in Central Europe (UNESCO World Cultural Heritage) and was named “**Cultural Capital of Europe**” in 2003 and got the title “**City of Design**” in the year 2011.

Nowadays, Graz is known as the university town with four universities and 45,000 students from about 100 different countries

Moreover, Graz, as the capital of the federal state Styria, is an important business location. Approximately 40 % of the overall Styrian economic output is obtained in Graz and the surrounding area.

1.2. POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CITY

Graz is a statutory city, which means that the organisation of local government is regulated by the city statute of Graz, which is in force in the issue of 1967. The most important decision-making bodies of local government are the City of Graz Council and the City of Graz Senate. The Council, which functions as a communal Parliament, is the highest legislating and monitoring institution of local government, within its own scope of action. Another important function of the Council is the election of the mayor of Graz and the members of the City Senate. The Senate is the city’s government and meets once a week, under the



chairmanship of the mayor of Graz, Siegfried Nagl. It bears responsibility for all matters stipulated by the city statute and for all tasks, for which no other institution is responsible. The **mayor** is responsible for leading the agenda of the magistrate and is additionally the **political referee for human rights, integration of migrants and in respect to all ECCAR-related issues**. Due to Graz's status as a statutory city, the mayor's office is not merely a political institution at the municipal level, but also at the federal and state level.

The magistrate functions as the city's administration. It is sub-sectioned into various departments. Within the fight against racism and discrimination, the department which is of special importance, is the **department for integration**. Its main task is the coordination and implementation of measures promoting integration, meaning political, judicial and social equality of foreigners and persons with migratory background and Austrian and EU citizens. The department for integration constitutes an important bridge between NGOs, local government and the public, as it shall reveal weaknesses and gaps within the existing political system from the perspective of the aggrieved parties.

Moreover, three advisory boards are crucial for the prevention and fight against racism and discrimination: First, the **Foreigners Council**, which represents the interests of foreign citizens. It focuses on political and social discrimination, living circumstances and educational matters and forwards the information and the respective solution proposals to the persons politically responsible. Second, the **Inter-religious Council** aims at promoting the peaceful coexistence of all religions and focuses on preventative measures. Third, the **Human Rights Council**, by developing an annual report on the human rights situation in Graz, suggesting short- and long-term measures for the improvement of shortcomings and by engaging in various projects, provides the local government with crucial information for the fight against racism and discrimination.

1.3. COMPOSITION OF THE LOCAL POPULATION AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

In Graz, altogether people of more than 160 different nations/territories are living together. In January 2012 16,44 % (in terms of absolute numbers 43.894) of the population in Graz are registered as non-Austrian nationals, of which more than the half are non-EU citizens (62,3%). According to the statistics of the City of Graz (Präsidialabteilung, department of statistics) the five largest groups come from (sorted in descended order) Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by Germany, Croatia, Turkey and Romania.

According to the Human Rights Report of the City of Graz 2009 the central human rights problem in the City of Graz is discrimination that mainly occurs for following reasons: racist reasons, xenophobia, religion and gender.

There is a significant difference between "visual" and "non-visual" minorities. "Visual" minorities refer to people who look different than the majority population and are more likely to be discriminated against.

Discrimination based on ethnic reasons might be caused from a person's national origin, skin colour or ethnicity. This kind of discrimination becomes visible for instance on the housing market, where migrants are often refused the possibility to settle in certain areas.

As to Eurobarometer, migrants from African, Turkish or Bosnian origin are especially vulnerable to racist discrimination - especially during times of election campaigns. Moreover, Roma are also intensively discriminated against in everyday life. They are frequently displayed as being a damage to society and the economy in the political discourse of political parties.

Discrimination based on gender in combination with ethnic origin can be observed in the labour market, where migrant women have an especially difficult position. There is a high unemployment rate among them and many migrant women often accept jobs, for which they are over-qualified, in order to have the possibility to work at all. Furthermore, dramatic income discrepancies between men and women prevail



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and make migrant women especially vulnerable to discrimination. Therefore, there is an intersectionality between ethnic origin and gender.

As to religious minorities it has to be mentioned that at present, 14 religious communities are officially recognized by Austrian law. However, the religious diversity is higher than this and does also apply for the City of Graz. More than 60 religious communities, “situated” in Graz, were presented in a new publication (“Was Graz glaubt”/“What Graz believes”) in 2010. Thus the biggest part of the population in Graz is catholic (57%), 8% of the population are Muslims, 5% Protestants and 2% orthodox or coptic. People who believe in other faiths or are undenominational constitute 28% of the local population.

Religious discrimination is most of all directed towards Islam, which is often perceived as being fundamentally different or even dangerous. Women or girls wearing a headscarf are especially vulnerable to discrimination.

1.4. NUMBER AND TYPE OF RACIST ACTS DOCUMENTED

Due to a lack of data and statistics, which focus exclusively on Graz and state total numbers, it is difficult to obtain a complete picture of racist incidents. Merely, records of several NGOs and institutions exist, which might be helpful for drawing conclusions on the general situation.

According to the annual report 2011 of Helping Hands Graz (a specialized NGO), the number of documented racist incidents for the city of Graz in 2011 were 433.ⁱ

The majority of discriminatory acts occurred to “foreigners” in everyday situations, such as defamation and assaults in the public space like in supermarkets, clothing stores, playgrounds or in public transport. 67% of those persons, who are affected by discrimination in everyday situations have a dark colour of skin (increase of 19% compared to the last year). The area of everyday situation is followed by racist discrimination on the housing market (28%), by public authorities (in particular the police) (22%) and on the labour market (17 %).

1.5. “ETHNIC” DATA COLLECTION

Data from residents in Austria are gathered at a so-called “central register of residents” (zentrale Melderegister - ZMR). Data such as the name, place of residence, citizenship, birth date and birth place are registered. To declare the statement of the religious confession is not mandatory.

The collection and the use of sensitive data (particularly data worth being protected), such as information about the ethnic origin, political opinion, religious belief or health are not allowed without an approval of the person affected or specific regulations.

1.6. OVERVIEW ABOUT THE ATTITUDE AND POSITION TOWARDS VULNERABLE GROUPS

Under the Eurobarometer surveys Austrians have been asked about their wellbeing in case of having a neighbor with a different ethnical origin. The interpretation of the answers showed that Austria got the last rank within the EU 27 with a number of 6.3 (on a scale of 1 to 10, whereby 10 signifies an absolute wellbeing; EU-average: 8,1).

ⁱ The documented incidents steadily increased over the past years, since 2008 they have been at a constant level with a number of approximately 400 complaints per year and increased again in the previous year.



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Within another long-term survey called “The Austrians – value change from 1990 to 2008” (Die ÖsterreicherInnen – Wertewandel 1990-2008) Austria takes the top spot in refusal of “strangers” like immigrants, ethnic minorities or so-called marginalized groups compared to other Western European countries.

To sum up, it seems that racism has reached a point of social legitimization and normality. It has become somehow accepted by society because of political downplaying and partially through political agitation, which has often been backed, motivated and intensified through media.

2. SITUATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS

The following fields will be presented in a short outline:

- Political and social participation
- Housing/residential segregation
- Education
- Public spaces
- Job market
- Local public administration
- Police and judiciary
- Public health care
- Politics and Media

2.1. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Third-country citizens meet exclusion and restriction in the field of political participation by not being admitted to municipal elections. There is no distinction in access to social participation.

The right to vote in municipal elections is granted only for Austrian and EU citizens. The number of naturalizations of third-country citizens in Austria has declined from 45.112 cases in 2003 to 6.190 in 2010 which marks the lowest naturalization rate ever since 1961. This development can also be seen in the Province of Styria and especially in Graz. Two aspects are relevant for this decline: Firstly, the 2006 amendment of the law on citizenship made it more difficult to acquire Austrian citizenship. Secondly, the number of persons migrating to Austria has declined since 1993 and therefore also the number of potentially “new” Austrians during the last seven years because ten years of continuous residence in Austria are a pre-condition for naturalization.

The city of Graz established the first Migrants’ Council in Austria in 1996. The council represents the interests of fellow citizens with a non-EU citizenship. Although it meets its responsibilities by providing advice for municipal administration and politics the council is questionable with regard to its composition and political legitimation. It can certainly not be regarded as an alternative to the right to vote in municipal elections.

2.2. HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION

The Equal Treatment Act (Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, GIBG) was passed in Austria in 1979. Since 2004 the act inter alia regulates the non-discriminatory access to and provision of public goods and services (among others renting and acquisition of a flat) without regards to ethnicity. Since March 2011 discriminatory newspaper ads are forbidden.

Currently, the city of Graz disposes of more than 10.500 community housing facilities. Since June 2006 these are open not only for Austrian and EU citizens and refugees according to the Geneva conventions but



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also for third-country citizen with a permanent or long-term residence permit. However, the housing market is still segregated along social criteria such as colour, ethnicity and/or religion (without regard to the capacity to pay the rent). According to the statistics of the Anti-Racism Hotline 28% of the discriminatory incidents **reported** in Graz in 2011 (total 433) were related to housing.

Territorial and therefore social segregation of certain population groups is immanent in Graz, the main criteria being poverty and migration. This roots not only in the conditions of the free housing market (concentration of affordable but often badly appointed and small flats in certain urban areas, discrimination of migrants etc.) but also in social welfare policies (concentration of community housing in certain - the same - urban areas) which rank among the social hotspots of the city.

Persons concerned mainly belong to so-called “visible minorities”, during the last years there are more and more cases of discrimination based on religion and ethnicity. The groups most affected are persons of colour, persons with Turkish migration history and persons from former Yugoslavia.

2.3. EDUCATION

Discrimination in education is still evident; structural disadvantages are still immanent for children with a migration history. The percentage of children who do not learn German as their first language may serve as indicator: While being overrepresented in non-university track high schools (such as Hauptschule / Neue Mittelschule or Polytechnische Schule) and special education schools they are significantly underrepresented in grammar schools. This counts for Graz as well as for Austria on the whole. The percentage of children who do not learn German as their first language furthermore correlates positively with the allocation of migrants' homes in Graz. Education research has stated for years that education barriers are persistent for children from lower class families. “Low status is a family heritage.” Decisive for their situation is, however, not only their “bad starting position” (growing up in underprivileged conditions) but also structural disadvantages in the education system (reproduction of social inequality) and problematic social resources (stabilisation of traditional career patterns among migrant youth).

There are alarming signs of racism in the education context such as the racist discourse that German should be the only language to be used at school and the demand of certain political parties that children with a migration history should attend segregated classes. Generally, an increasing number of cases of exclusion and discrimination of students with a migration history has to be reported. Another common form of discrimination is discrimination on the basis of religious belief, mainly aiming at girls wearing a headscarf.

2.4. PUBLIC SPACES

According to different reports racist discrimination and assaults in Graz (and in the province of Styria) have especially increased in public spaces. The phenomenon of so-called everyday racism is encouraged and amplified through politicians' belittlement and the media support. It exists “in the middle of society” and happens in Graz rather frequently. Everyday violations of human dignity and human rights range from abuse and bashing in public spaces, buses or trams over the exclusion of “Africans” from cafés or discos to the still existing possibility to order a taxi with “no foreign driver”.

According to the statistics of the Anti-Racism Hotline 33% of the discrimination cases in Graz in 2010 (total 433) occur in public spaces (abuse, defamation, physical assaults) and 67% of the persons concerned are persons with a dark colour of skin. According to those statistics racist discrimination is most frequent in the area of public space.

During the last several years racism and discrimination has been observed not only as a behaviour of Austrians against migrants but also among different migrant groups and against Austrians therefore constituting an of social conflicts.

Time and again there are fierce debates on the use of public spaces, mainly connected to the discrimination of certain groups of persons (beggars, punks, migrants, youth). (Groups of) persons are often criminalised (e.g. in and through the media, politicians, etc. talking about e.g. “African drug dealers”, “gangs of Slovakian beggars” etc.).



Another highly doubtful decision from the human rights' point of view is the amendment of the Styrian state security law which prohibits the begging in public places (in force since 1st May 2011). This decision has an exceeding negative connotation because Graz as a Human Rights City has not only not countered such a launch of prohibition, but partly attributed to the instigation. Especially during the election campaign period there has been massive campaign slogans that declared beggars as "garbage" which had to be cleaned from the streets of Graz (election poster of BZÖ 2007). Strengthened not only by politicians but also by the media, there exist a lot of advantages in society, talking about "organised gangs of Slovakian beggars" or the "beggarmafia" although there exist any underlying facts. As no criminal offences could be proved, the argument for the amendment, namely to defend the beggars e.g. from the mafia is therefore reduce to absurdity. The prohibition is not only the reason for growth of poverty but it seems like as if this action proves a racist motive because the persons concerned are almost exclusively Romani people that do not have an Austrian citizenship. A decision of the Constitutional Court on a pending case against the general prohibition of begging is still outstanding (April 2012).

The laws on racist discrimination and assaults in public spaces (penal law) are clear but unpunished for various reasons (e.g. remain unreported, no witnesses) (see below in the chapter on the police).

2.5. JOB MARKET

According to the OECD report people with a migration history are more frequently affected by unemployment in Austria. Even those who earned a degree in their country of origin have to accept a job that is way below their qualifications because their education is not much valuable in Austria. Further the children of those with a migration background are compared to children without a migration background four times oftener among the low qualified, without work or education.

On closer consideration the rate of general unemployment in Austria is 6.9% (in 2010) whereas those without an Austrian citizenship have to deal with an unemployment rate of 9.7% and those with an Austrian nationality with a rate of 6.4%. An eye-catching fact is that those with a Turkish nationality and other third-country nationals make it to an unemployment rate of 13.1%

In Graz, the unemployment rate of non-Austrian citizens is also higher than that of Austrian citizens, and it has continuously been rising since 2007. The percentage of non-Austrian citizens among the persons reported unemployed rose to 25% in 2009. The reason for the high unemployment rate frequently lies in lower educational achievements, in the refusal to acknowledge foreign certificates and in a deficient command of the German language.

Especially alarming (in Graz and in Austria as a whole) are the income differences between women and men but also between "natives" and "foreigners" whereupon women without Austrian citizenship show the lowest incomes.

2.6. LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The human resources management of the city administration has so far hardly accounted for the rate of persons with a migration history that live in Graz. Up to now the rate was regressive or constant, but in the last time the intercultural opening of the city administration has been promoted by respecting language diversity, employment of staff particularly in the fields of care and support. Still lacking is multilingual information on the services and performance of the departments. Intercultural topics and competencies are to be fostered through education and by introducing them as relevant for exams of all new employees. In conclusion, the topics of gender and diversity are examination subjects, respective courses are therefore



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obligatory for new employees. Long-service employees are offered courses and awareness raising in the framework of further education measures.

According to the city directorate (“Präsidiatamt”) staff members who have contact to the public receive continuous education on the non-discrimination rule and on respectful interaction/communication, particularly with citizens with a migration history. Furthermore, an equal treatment body was appointed to act as a contact person for the city employees according to the Equal Treatment Act of the Province of Styria (“Gleichbehandlungsgesetz des Landes Steiermark”) and also for the population of Graz according to the equal treatment directive (“Gleichbehandlungsgebot”). Her field of responsibility comprises discrimination motives related to gender, ethnicity, religious belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. In this context it is striking that “ethnicity” is the discrimination motive mentioned most often when persons report being discriminated by city employees in 2009 and 2010.

A long-term and well-known problem in Graz is the exclusion from cafés and discos because of ethnicity which violates the ban of discrimination according to EGVG. A possible sanction for this violation is the revocation of the owner’s business license but according to the Anti-Racism Hotline Helping Hands these cases are often seen as petty offences and therefore not prosecuted in an adequate manner.

2.7. POLICE AND JUDICIARY

Generally, police and judiciary administration are federal agendas in Austria. Some aspects though, such as pre-service and in-service training, are at least partially committed to provincial bodies (provincial police academy and regional court of appeals). In December 2007 the city of Graz established a municipal guard to watch over minor offences e.g. against the ban of alcoholic drinks on the main square (with the exception of bars, restaurants and sausage stands) or the correct disposal of dog excrements.

22% of all discrimination cases reported to the Anti-Racism Hotline Helping Hands in 2011 (2010: 25%) relate to discrimination through public authorities, particularly the police. Police controls and police stops affect members of so-called “visible minorities”, particularly persons of dark colour of skin, disproportionately often. According to the Fundamental Rights Agency’s EU MIDIS Report of 2010 this is one of the main reasons for low trust in the police and consequently for a very low reporting rate for discriminatory and racist assaults.

Police policies to raise trust comprise first approaches to diversity management, e.g. concerning the admission to police services where women and persons with a migration history are encouraged to apply. So far, the outcome of this policy has to be judged carefully: Gender diversity has been a topic for several years, and the rate of female students at the (Styrian) police academy’s pre-service training is about 30%. The idea of employing persons with a migration history in police is quite young in Austria; so far there are two Austro-African policemen (one in Vienna, one in Graz) and a few police persons with Balkans, particularly ex-Yugoslavian, roots. To meet the curricular requirements, the police academy assigns human rights issues not only to the regular police teaching staff but also (in a limited number of lessons) to NGO human rights educators.

Starting from 2004, the regional court of appeals in Graz which is responsible for pre-service and in-service training for future and sitting judges in the provinces of Styria and Carinthia established human rights and intercultural communication training courses in the regular curriculum in cooperation with the ETC.

2.8. PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Access to basic health care is guaranteed in Austria. Persons who slip through the net of the obligatory health insurance receive treatment on a welfare basis in public and private (church-owned) hospitals and ambulatories. Still, health risks are distributed unequally. The Graz summary of the Austrian Health-Survey shows that every second adult (20 plus) in a household threatened by poverty or pauperization suffers from a chronic disease or from restrictions caused by health problems whereas in well-off households only 20% are affected. Socio-economic status and health are directly related, poverty “produces” illness and vice versa.



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Furthermore, access to public health care services is also distributed unequally. During the last years there has been a strong trend towards a two-tier medical system corresponding to the societal development. Mainly affected are (again) migrants who also face higher risks of poverty or pauperization and, in addition, problems in accessing public health care: Communication problems and cultural differences increase the risk for diagnostic errors and medical malpractice, culturally inadequate health facilities and a lack of awareness/understanding/respect shown by medical staff and fellow patients endanger therapeutic response.

Through the efforts of (Muslim) civil society organizations some progress has been made in the Graz-based provincial and university hospital. An escort service for Muslim patients was established, and as an alternative there is a pool of translators for a dozen languages that can be reached on the phone day and night.

2.9. POLITICS AND MEDIA

There is a distinction between “us” and “the others”. Especially the alarming extent of racist and xenophobic comments at public and political discourses, which is mostly backed by the media, typifies the public climate of opinion in Austria. Political slogans, such as “Home instead Islam” (Daham statt Islam), “More courage for our Viennese blood” (Mehr Mut für unser Wiener Blut), “Social security for our people” (Soziale Sicherheit für unsere Leut) and hate speeches against the “Muslim majority” fosters the climate of isolation and racist discrimination which then becomes socially acceptable.

Racism in Graz is rather “cultivated” by political groups that are democratically recognized than by the extreme right-winged marginalized groups (e.g. neo-Nazis).

According to the Human Rights Report of the City of Graz (2007), “during the election campaign the culturally diverse society was defamed as negative, branded as threat and suggested as reversible. To make such a claim is a part of a “mass-psychological” suggestion: If the state does not eliminate the evil, so the alleged “righteous” has to do it.” The numerous recorded cases of racist discrimination and encroachments in Graz (with an increase during the campaign time) show that such a suggestion succeeds.

Role and Responsibility of the media should be pointed out in this context. Some of the specific mediums use a pejorative and stereotyped representation of immigrants which causes a massive distribution of racist and xenophobic clichés.

3. LOCAL PROGRAMS, ACTION PLANS AND MEASURES TO PREVENT AND FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

3.1. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The most important steps at the local level are:

- the declaration of the first Human Rights City in Europe in the year 2001 and the
- admission to the European Coalition of Cities against Racism in the year 2006 (the ECCaR Ten-Point Plan of Action was passed firstly in 2006 and reconditioned in 2009)

For the realization of the “Declaration of Human Rights of the City of Graz” from 2001 the Human Rights Advisory Council has presented a suitable strategy for human rights education and an anti-racism work for the mayor, the city government and the local council. There is currently still a lack of a comprehensive human rights approach at politics and administration.



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Big steps have been made in the last two years in development of community work. The City offers a free conflict counseling and conflict mediation at the Peace Bureau of Graz (Friedensbüro der Stadt Graz) for a non-violent co-existence.

3.2. NGOs/COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS/SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS (CIVIL SOCIETY)

Graz has a strong civil society dating back to the anti-nuclear-power movement of the late 1970s. A lot of different non-governmental organisations exist in Graz, most of them involving themselves in anti-racism and non-discrimination work.

In the area of reporting and registering racist and xenophobic areas one organisation has to be mentioned: Helping Hands Graz, a specialized NGO, is documenting racist incidents with focus on Graz. In the year 2000 an anti-racism-hotline has been installed. Victims as well as witnesses have the possibility to report racist incidents.

Another important „organisation“ is the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz, which was installed in April 2007 by the mayor of Graz. The Council consists of 28 members, representing an impressive cross section of social actors. One of the Council's main tasks is to issue the annual human rights report of the city of Graz that draws a picture of the human rights situation at the local level. The strategy and aim is to inform the City of Graz about the human rights situation in order to guarantee an appropriate and efficient human rights policy. The report contains recommendations for further improvement of the human rights situation.

3.3. EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS

The European Training and Research Center for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz) is an important agent for Human Rights Education. ETC was set up in 2000 inter alia as support for the processes of the Human Rights City Graz and since 2007 it is also the branch office of the Human Rights Advisory Council. With its educational programs it offers further training for so-called “duty bearers” (judiciary, police, administration etc.) and also a general human rights education for everyone. ETC plays also an intermediary role between University of Graz and the Human Rights City.

Within the scope of education after the high schools there are now also primary schools which support the social inclusion through bilingual education. In the context of human rights education and anti-racism work in particular for kids and youth one important organisation, the “Youth Association against Violence and Racism” (ARGE Jugend gegen Gewalt und Rassismus) has to be mentioned.

3.4. BUSINESS SECTOR

In March 2007 the City of Graz has accepted a non-discrimination clause into the general terms of business for the conclusion of service level agreements with the city of Graz by a presidential decree. Unfortunately, due to the lack of monitoring mechanism the usability and effectiveness of this clause is inadequate.

3.5. MEDIA

The ORF/Austrian Broadcasting Corporation Styria is strongly engaged in promoting human rights. e.g.

- Production of TV-documentaries “Graz, City of Human Rights” and “Human Rights Cities in the world”
- The world.culture.initiative “Face Human Rights”: inspired by the idea of “giving a face to the people” the “ORF-Artist in Residence” Oscar Stocker painted 124 large oil portraits of 124 people of 124 nations/territories living in Graz. Within this project a social advertising spot, produced by the international renowned Austrian film director Rudi Dolezal was produced. After presenting the



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exhibition in Graz, in November 2010 it has been on the display at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

3.6. Religious Institutions

The Interreligious Council of the City Graz was set up by representatives from officially acknowledged religious communities in 2006 and it works as an advisory council for the mayor.

3.7. Political Parties

All parties in Graz have agreed on the 10 Point Plan for Action of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCaR).

3.8. SPECIAL AREAS: SPORT CLUBS

SK Sturm, the football club of the City of Graz, involves themselves actively in the fight against racism and discrimination. The club produced the advertising spot “Sturm against Racism”, which was presented to the audience before starting the games and it regularly participates to the yearly European action week “Football against racism in Europe”.