

SINGLE-PURPOSE OMBUDSMEN IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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Summary: With the introduction of a general Ombudsman in 2005 (appointed in 2007), as well as of particular forms of single-purpose ombudsmen, the Republic of Serbia joined a vast majority of countries already having the general and special purpose ombudsmen. Following the general trend toward ombudsman specialisation, the forms of single-purpose ombudsmen that are met in Serbia include the Protector of Patients' Rights, established under the Health Care Act, and the Commissioner for Equality Protection, established under the Prohibition of Discrimination Act (2009). In addition, there is another, we can say, hybrid form of political and administrative control and protection of human rights – the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, established under the Act on Free Access to Information of Public Importance. After analysing the single-purpose ombudsmen, we find that these institutions, primarily as a form of extrajudicial (political) control of the work of the administration, can merely be a suitable supplement to the existing institutional mechanisms for human rights protection.

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