

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BULLETIN**  
**5/2007**

**1. POLICIES, INITIATIVES AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE**

**Complaints against discrimination of Roma filed at the Commission for Protection against Discrimination**

On 9.11.2007 the Romani information agency Defacto filed a complaint at the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) against the National Railway Infrastructure Company for ethnic discrimination against three companies managed by members of the Roma minority. The complaint says that the railway company failed to grant public procurement contracts to these companies due to the ethnic origin of their management. Earlier, the information agency has filed two more complaints at the CPD – against the national TV channels bTV and BBT for building negative image of the Roma communities and for forming negative attitude towards the Roma.

<http://www.defacto-bg.net/>

**Students accused of launching a web site with fascist content**

Two students from the town of Karlovo (located in central Bulgaria) were accused in launching a website, which contained fascist information. The criminal procedure was initiated by the District Prosecution Office of Plovdiv and the case was brought to court in November. The first hearing took place on 27.11.2007 at the District Court of Plovdiv. The court interrogated nine witnesses and two experts. The case is still pending and is expected to be solved next year.

[http://dariknews.bg/view\\_article.php?article\\_id=201981](http://dariknews.bg/view_article.php?article_id=201981)

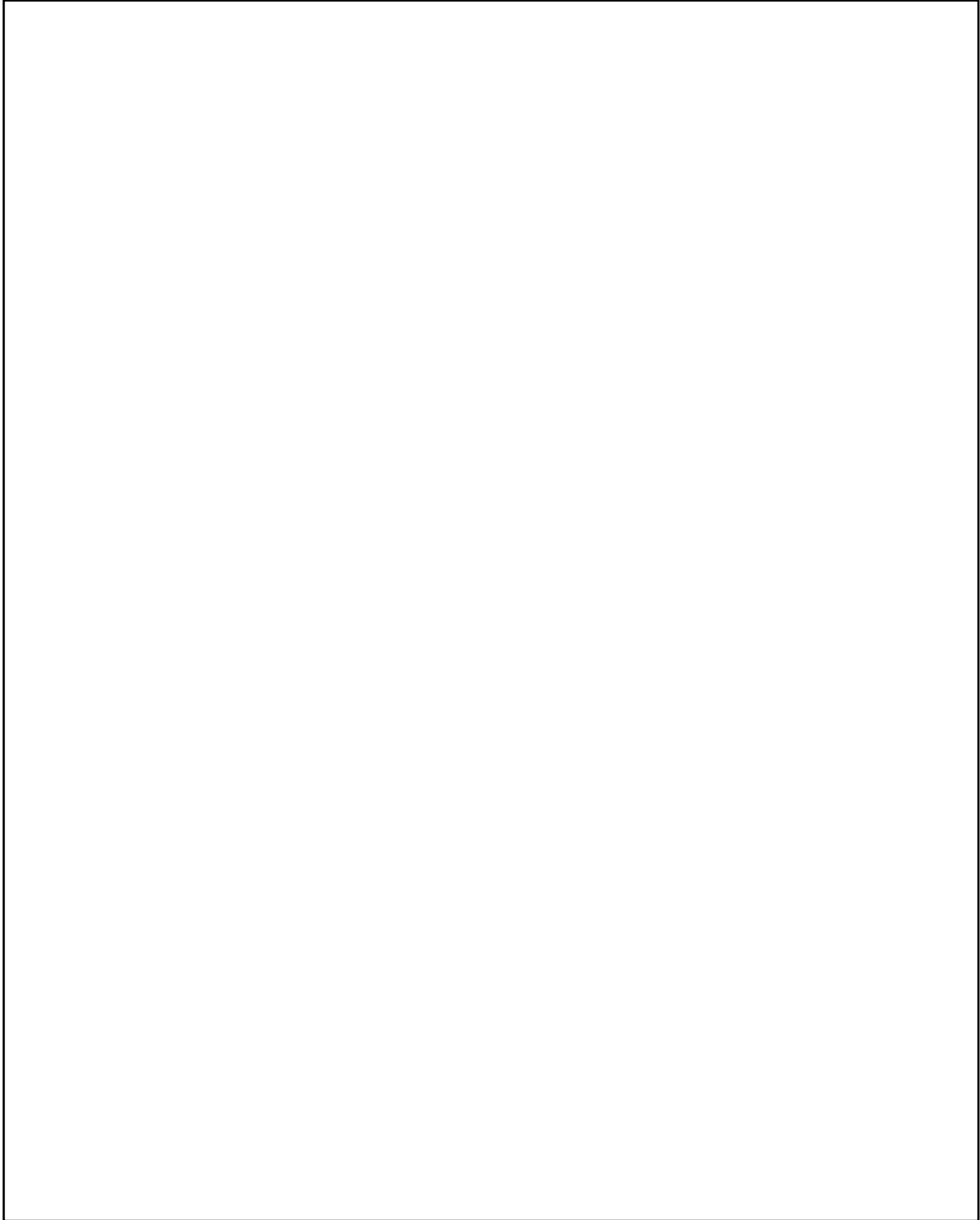
## 2. LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS AND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS

### **Draft law on holocaust denial rejected by the Parliament**

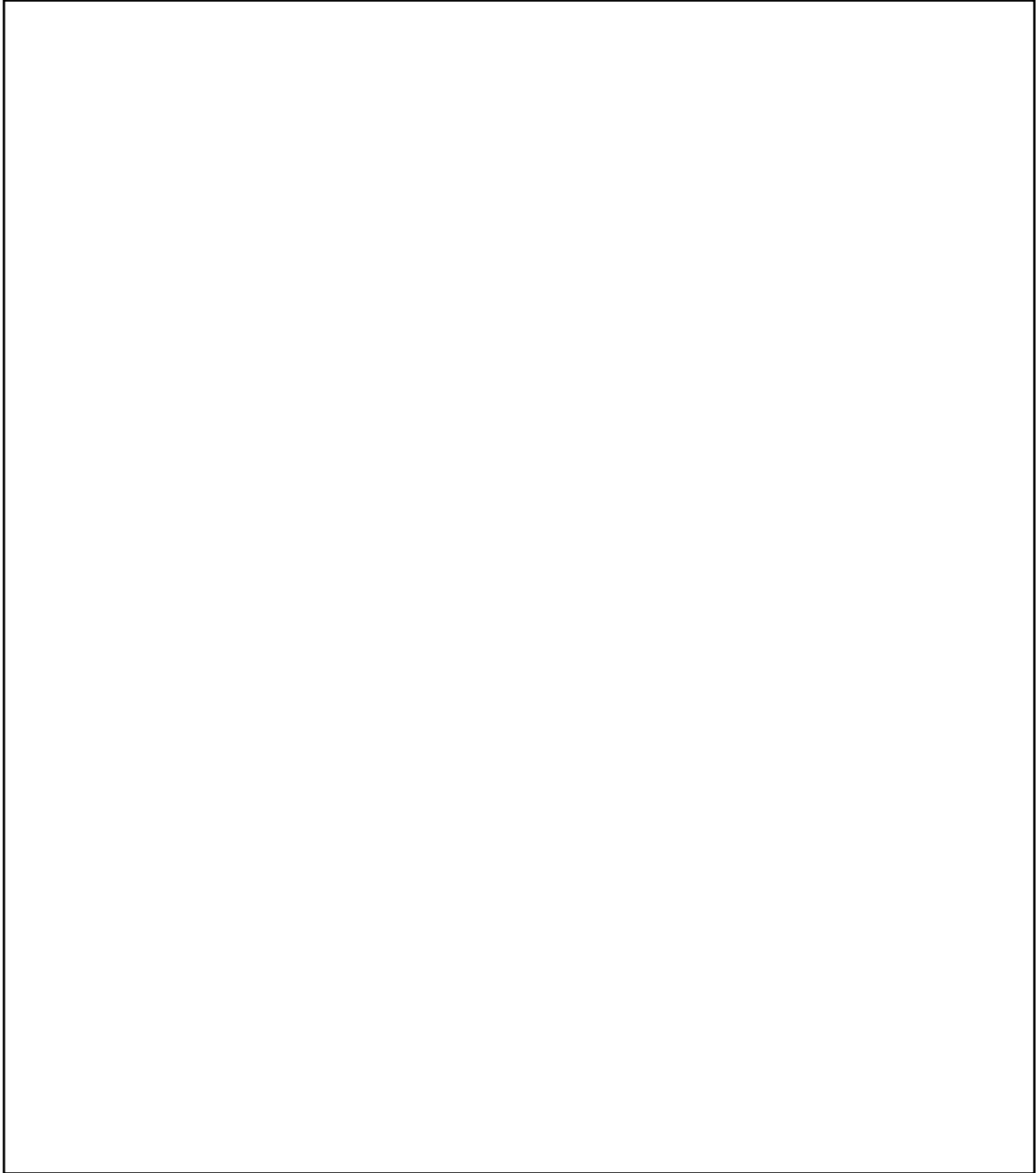
On 5.10.2007 the National Assembly rejected in a plenary session a draft law incriminating holocaust denial in Bulgaria. The draft envisaged a fine of 200 up to 1,000 Levs for teachers and lecturers denying or justifying the aggressive and dictatorial nature of the fascist regimes during World War I and II. The draft also envisaged criminal liability for historians who deny or justify the mass extermination of Jews and other ethnic groups, including gas chambers, death marches and extermination squads. According to the draft a repeated offence should have been sanctioned by a fine of up to 5,000 Levs.

<http://lex.bg/news.php?lang=bg&id=11839>

### **3. RESEARCH**



#### 4. Official / unofficial statistical data



## 5. Upcoming events

### **International conference: ‘Challenges of Bulgaria’s EU Membership: Policies and Good Practices for Effective Integration of Vulnerable Ethnic Minorities’**

On 30.11-1.12.2007 in Sofia the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues organises an international conference ‘Challenges of Bulgaria’s EU Membership: Policies and Good Practices for Effective Integration of Vulnerable Ethnic Minorities’. The objective of the event is to raise the awareness of public administration, local authorities and the civil society on the EU policies and the best practices of EU Member States in the area of integration of vulnerable ethnic minorities. More than 50 persons will take part in the event, including Members of the European Parliament, experts from EU Member States, representatives of Bulgarian ministries, agencies and local authorities, scientific institutes, non-governmental organisations, etc. The agenda of the conference is available at:

[http://www.nccedi.government.bg/upload/docs/draft\\_AGENDA\\_27\\_11\\_2007.doc](http://www.nccedi.government.bg/upload/docs/draft_AGENDA_27_11_2007.doc)

(27.11.2007). The presentations, speeches and recommendations made at the event will be published together with a summary in English in a special bulletin.

<http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=667>