

Remedies and Sanctions in Sex Discrimination Cases

Katrin Wladasch

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Remedies

Article 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights

Everyone whose rights and freedoms guaranteed by the law of the Union are violated has the right to an effective remedy before a tribunal in compliance with the conditions laid down in this Article.

MS have to ensure that
judicial procedures for the enforcement of obligations under this Directive are available to all persons who consider themselves wronged by failure to apply the principle of equal treatment to them are in place

2006/54/EC Recast Directive Art 17

Effective, dissuasive and proportionate sanctions

Sanctions in discrimination cases have to be

- effective
- dissuasive
- proportionate

can
include compensation

2006/54/EC Recast Directive Art 25

Effective, dissuasive and proportionate sanctions

How sanctions and remedies are designed in principle is up to the national legislator

BUT: have to be proportional, dissuasive and effective

AND: all measures necessary to ensure that they are applied have to be taken

BUT HOW?

AND WHAT DOES THIS
MEAN?

Case Law of the CJEU

Sanctions in discrimination cases should

- be adequate in relation to the damage sustained (*von Colson* C-14/83)
 - not be mere symbolic (ACCEPT C 81/12)
 - not be made dependant on a proof of fault (*Decker* C-177/88)
 - have a real deterrant effect (*Decker* C-177/88)
 - not have any upper limits (*Marshall* C-271/91)
 - not be dependant on the existance of an individual victim (*Feryn* C-54/07)
 - might include punitive damages, that are really additional (*María Auxiliadora Arjona Camacho v Securitas Seguridad España, S.A.*, C-407/14)
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Case Law of the CJEU

Proportionality *von Colson* C-14/83

Application as social workers in a prison by two women, job was given to men, court decided on discrimination, damages: travel costs 7,20 German Marks

CJEU:

- Even, if the relevant Directive (76/207/EC) does not require a specific type of sanction, it is still necessary to guarantee that it is effective and has a dissuasive effect
 - Compensation in any case has to be proportional in relation to the damage sustained
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Case Law of the CJEU

Proportionality *ACCEPT C 81/12*

Discriminatory comments in relation to homosexuality, when talking about a potential transfer of a soccer player by a publicly known person perceived as a functionary of a soccer club. Complaint to the Consiliul Național pentru Combaterea Discriminării. Harassment was acknowledged, but based on Romanian law only a warning could be given.

CJEU:

- Affirms its case law also for 'non-gender' cases
 - Sanction can not be mere symbolic
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Case Law of the CJEU

No proof of fault *Decker C-177/88*

Application as an educator, notification of pregnancy, jury proposes applicant as most qualified, but not employed. National Dutch Law social insurance does not cover maternity allowance, if pregnancy already in application process, employer can not afford to employ substitute - justification?

CJEU:

Violation of the prohibition of discrimination has to be sanctioned in a way that is adequate

- *to guarantee real and effective protection*
- *to have a real deterrent effect on the employer*

Making the liability for infringement dependant on proof of a fault or the non-existence of a ground of exemption *the practical effect of those principles would be weakened considerably.*

CJEU Case Law

No upper limit *Marshall C-271/91*

Dismissal at the age of 62, when wanted to work until 65. UK law entitled women to receive pension payment at that age. Discrimination on grounds of gender. Law determined upper limit for damages, which did not cover actual damage (difference between pension and income)

CJEU:

• *Reparation of the loss and damage sustained by a person injured as a result of discriminatory dismissal may not be limited to an upper limit fixed a priori or by excluding an award of interest to compensate for the loss sustained by the recipient of the compensation as a result of the effluxion of time until the capital sum awarded is actually paid.*

CJEU Case Law

No upper limit *Draehmpaehl, C-180/95*

Job advert: Female assistant to sales management department. No reaction to a job application by a male applicant. Discrimination on grounds of gender.
German Law: upper limit of three month's salary in failure to make an appointment.

CJEU:

- Sanction must have a real deterrent effect on the employer and must in any event be adequate in relation to the damage sustained
 - Upper limit of three month's salary not adequate, if the applicant was the best qualified.
 - Could be adequate, if the applicant would not have been given the job also without discrimination.
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EU Legal Framework

Gender Recast Directive 2006/54 requires **real and effective compensation or reparation for the damage sustained** (Article 18)

- in a way which is dissuasive and proportionate to the damage suffered
 - Restriction by the fixing of a prior upper limit ,only' for cases, where it was refused to take a job application into consideration
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CJEU Case Law

No need for a concrete victim Feryn C-54/07

Executive director of a company makes clear that he would not employ Marroccans, because his client would not want them. Belgian equality body claims. No person effected in concrete.

CJEU:

- sanctions have to be effective, proportional and dissuasive even if there is no concrete victim.
 - Proposals for appropriate sanctions:
 - Finding of discrimination by the court in conjunction with an adequate level of publicity, the cost of which is to be borne by the defendant
 - Prohibitory injunction – in case necessary with fine
 - Damages to the body bringing the proceedings
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CJEU Case Law

Punitive damages? *Arjona Camacho, C-407/14*

Dismissal of a security officer of prison for juveniles after two years.
Discrimination on grounds of gender. Factual damage was EUR 3.000,-. Enough to be dissuasive? Can a sanction include punitive damages?

CJEU:

- Member States have to take measures necessary to ensure real and effective compensation or reparation
 - Measures should be sufficiently effective to achieve the objective of the Directive
 - Dissuasive effect does not necessarily mean that punitive damages have to be foreseen
 - Punitive damages are possible, if the concept forms part of the national legal system
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CJEU Case Law

Compensation without discrimination? *Braathens Regional Aviation AB, C-30/19*

Additional security check for person presumed to be an Arab and/or Muslim by airline

Airline was ready to pay for compensation but without admitting any form of discrimination

Advocate General Saugmandsgaard:

- the absence of a link between the compensation and the declaration of a breach of the right to equal treatment undermines both the compensatory and deterrent function of the sanction.
 - the right to effective judicial protection (Art 47 CFR) includes applicant's right to have a court examine whether, or find that, discrimination has occurred.
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National Approach

- Compensations for material and immaterial damages
 - Administrative and criminal fines
 - Obligations/recommendations to stop discriminatory treatment
 - (Re-)instatement into a situation without discrimination
 - Publication of a decision
 - Recommendations/orders to install equality polices
 - Warnings
 - Property sanctions for legal entities
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Calculation of a sanction

National legislation and case law

- Financial capacities of the perpetrator
 - Status of the perpetrator (public or private entity)
 - Numer of discriminatory acts (repeated discrimination)
 - Dimension/Gravity of discrimination (multiple discrimination, *Vento Bands*)
 - Need of preventive effect
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Different Standards

- Criminal law vs civil law
 - Criminal sanctions apply for hate crimes
 - Aggravating factor of discriminatory motivation
 - Limitation to grounds related to racism and xenophobia
 - No shift of the burden of proof
 - Different standards for different grounds
 - Different standards for different fields of discrimination
 - Dependency on the competences of bodies in charge
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Which sanctions are the most effective ones?

EU Equality Bodies' perspective

- Administrative fines, if punitive character
 - Publications of the decision
 - Compensations with amounts of dissuasive character
 - Obligations/Recommendations to stop discriminatory practises/ structures/ procedures
 - Reinstatement in situation without discrimination
 - Imposing the obligation to fulfil community services
 - Obligations/Recommendations to implement anti-discrimination policies and/or plans, if they can ensure change in the workplace
 - Warnings, if potential to damage an image
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Complainants' perspective

A person affected by discrimination may want

- Have the problem solved, achieve what he/she wanted before discrimination started
 - Compensation for damage suffered
 - Money
 - Have the perpetrator punished
 - Statement/judgement that a discrimination has taken place
 - Systemic change
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Obstacles and challenges

- Each case is different – would require a tailor-made form of redress
 - Range of possible sanctions not in line with what persons affected would want
 - Low chances to achieve adequate compensation, specifically for immaterial damages
 - Lack of experience in and sensitivity for discrimination cases on the side of the judiciary
 - How to provide evidence
 - Lack of enforcement
 - Lack of structured and efficient monitoring procedures
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Enhance effectiveness, proportionality and dissuasiveness

- Improve **access to relevant information** for (potential) victims of discrimination, making also relevant **case law** easily accessible
 - Strengthen the capacities of legal professionals in **understanding and applying the concepts** of immaterial and aggravated damages and of multiple and intersectional discrimination
 - Encourage **widening the range of sanctions** available so that the one most suitable to the case can be applied
 - **Make public** a decision, a judgement and/or a concrete sanction issued
 - Monitor **enforcement of decisions**
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Thank you!

Contact:

Katrin Wladasch

katrin.wladasch@univie.ac.at
