

UPR – Pre-Session
AUSTRIA

Austrian League for Human Rights

*Florian HORN,
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AUSTRIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

The League and its partners

- **Austrian League for Human Rights**
(<https://liga.or.at>)
+ around 30 thematic roof organisations
+ around 300 represented organisations
- Oldest NGO in Austria since 1926
- UPR: 2025 two Statements (<https://liga.or.at/universal-periodic-review-upr-en/>):
 1. Joint Statements with all Partners, 16 Subtopics, 159 Point of Action
 2. Individual technical statement, follow-up and implementation



TOPICS

Today's Talk

- **Formal follow-up process**
- **Examples of material topics for 4th cycle:**
 1. **National Action Plan for Human Rights**
 2. **Inclusive education for children with disabilities**
 3. **Corporate responsibility**



FOLLOW-UP

Implementation in Austria

- Civil society statements to the State Report:
 - <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/themen/menschenrechte/universal-periodic-review/stellungnahmen-zum-entwurf-des-4-upr-oesterreich>
- Annual Plenary-Meetings:
 - Anually since 2021
 - Jointly chaired
 - Interested NGOs, all federal ministries, some regional administrations
- BUT ... political outcome was limited



4TH CYCLE

National Action Plan for Human Rights

- NO strategic planning of human rights policy
- Little or no statistical data
- Last attempt for NAP failed in 2017
- New starting commitment in government programme

- Recommend that:

AUSTRIA shall develop and maintain general National Action Plan for human rights as a strategic coordination tool in close cooperation with civil society.



4TH CYCLE

Inclusive Education

- Significant setbacks in recent years
- Austria is returning to policy with segregated schools „Sonderschulen“
- This segregation in youth translates to discrimination in adult life
- Recommend that:

AUSTRIA shall stop funding the construction of segregated schools for children with disabilities, but ensure a comprehensively inclusive school system based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



4TH CYCLE

Corporate Responsibility

- Good cooperation on adopted 3rd cycle recommendation N°140.17 (transnational enterprises)
- BUT ... European Union level now significantly watered down on corporate sustainability due diligence
- Recommend that:

AUSTRIA shall participate constructively in the Open Ended Inter-Governmental Work Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights and develop a national action plan on business and human rights



CONTACT

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UPR-Monitoring-Tool: <https://liga.or.at/UPR-en>

