



HRC 17TH SESSION 201

UPR - Austria

Speaker: Manish Nayak

Mr. President,

Firstly we appreciate Austria the large consultation with the civil society and other national institutions during the preparation for the UPR process. Secondly the incorporation of children's rights into the constitution by Austria is commendable. Thirdly the allotment of 50 percent of the national budget for labour market policy to be spent on programmes to improve women's chances on the labour market is a great step for the empowerment of women. Fourthly giving free legal and psychological support to the victims of domestic violence shows Austria's interest in upholding the value of human rights. Thus we appreciate the reformations and engagement of Austrian government for the promotion and protection of human rights in their society.

Mr. President, although anti-discrimination laws have been tightened in recent years in Austria, our organisation is concerned about the reports of racially motivated police misconduct towards foreign nationals, asylum seekers and ethnic minorities. RADDHO is apprehensive about the absence of strict laws on the crime of torture and the high level of impunity for abuses by the police. We regret the lack of accessibility to legal advice for asylum seekers. This might hamper the chances of asylum seekers to obtain asylum or international protection and to effectively challenge the reasons for their detention and deportation.

Finally we encourage Austria to examine the recommendations which were not considered and to work with the civil society to eradicate all forms of discrimination.

Thank you.

