

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

CUBA

- "In the Czech Republic, minorities, particularly the Romani, are victims of discrimination and regular violations of human rights, including the right to life. Which measures have been adopted by the Czech Government to end this situation and to guarantee the full respect of human rights of these vulnerable groups? Which measures have been adopted by the Government to avoid impunity for the perpetrators of such discriminatory and violent actions against minorities? Which measures and programmes have been implemented by the Government to help victims of such human rights violations? Which actions have been taken by the Government to fight discrimination and violence racially motivated, as well as to avoid anti-Romani public statements?"
- (quote) "Which measures and actions have been implemented by the Government to investigate allegations on the use of the Czech Republic's territory as a transit point for secret flights transporting persons to countries where they run the risk of being subjected to torture or ill-treatment? Which measures have been implemented by the Government to avoid the use of its airports for such purposes?"

DENMARK

- What is the Czech Republic doing to ensure the rights of the Roma minority?
- Why has the Czech Republic not ratified the Rome Statute on the establishment of the International Criminal Court?
- Why does the Czech Republic uphold a lustration/screening law, which clearly discriminates officials from the former regime?

FINLAND

- We acknowledge that the Government of the Czech Republic has made commitments to protect children from violence, including by elaborating a National Plan of Fight against Violence against Children to be introduced in 2008¹.
- With regard to the United Nations study on violence against children², which states that "no violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable", we would appreciate to receive further information on legislative, administrative and other measures taken to implement the Study's overarching and setting-specific recommendations in the Czech Republic. In particular, we would

¹ The national report for the universal periodic review submitted by the Government of the Czech Republic, page 19.

² Report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299).

greatly appreciate if the Government of the Czech Republic could share with us good practices to prevent and respond to violence against children³.

ITALY

- In 2003 the Committee on the Rights of the Child requested the Czech Republic to develop an effective system for the reporting and investigation of cases of domestic violence, ill-treatment and abuse of children. It also recommended the State to adopt and implement measures to prevent and address cases of child abuse and neglect; to enact legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment; to implement training programmes on children's right. We have noted that a National Plan of Fight against Violence against Children is to be introduced in 2008. Could you provide more information about its content?
- While underlining the efforts by the Czech Republic to effectively address the problem of discrimination against Roma, including the establishment of an Agency for Social Inclusion of Roma Communities, we would like to know if the Government has envisaged further measures in this field.

NETHERLANDS

- What changes will the anti-discrimination law that was passed on 19 March 2008 bring about? How does the delegation envision the implementation of this law?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- We note that the Czech Republic has taken a range of measures designed to address the concerns over the treatment of persons belonging to the Roma minority in relation to a number of economic, social and cultural rights. How does the Czech Republic intend to improve its ability to monitor and measure the effectiveness of these activities?
- The Czech Republic is a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. What is your expected time-scale for ratification of this important instrument?
- We note the information provided on improvement of conditions in childcare facilities, including discouraging the use of restraints such as caged beds. How effective do you assess this has been, and what next steps are you considering to improve conditions for children from vulnerable backgrounds?
- Please could you provide information on the existence and status of a National Human Rights Institution in the Czech Republic and whether it complies fully with the Paris Principles?

³ Report (which provides information on the dissemination of the United Nations study on violence against children and on progress made in the initial phase of follow-up to the study) of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/62/209, see footnote 9).

- Could you please elaborate further on the extent to which civil society in the Czech Republic was involved in the preparation of your national report?
