

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SLOVAKIA (FIRST BATCH)**

### **PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRF's**

- Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
- Has the State-under-review established a dedicated 'national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up' (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

- The United States is concerned about the stringent requirement for official registration of religious groups. The minimum number of religious adherents required in order to be eligible to register rose to 50,000 from 20,000 in 2017. This discriminates against small or new organizations seeking official registration and recognition. What steps is the Government of Slovakia taking to reduce the burden of this requirement and guarantee equal rights for members of all religious groups?
- The United States is concerned about intolerance toward Jews and Muslims. What plans is the government developing to promote inter-religious understanding?

### **SWEDEN**

- What measures has the Government of the Slovak Republic taken to ensure the safety of journalists and media actors and to safeguard the independence of media?
- Roma women reportedly experience discrimination and obstacles to accessing satisfactory sexual and reproductive health care, including for maternal health. What steps are being taken to ensure universal and uniform access to reproductive and maternal health care for all (in line with the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma Integration up to 2020)?
- Sweden is concerned that the Government of the Slovak Republic abandoned its plan to adopt a National Action Plan for LGBTI Equality in 2016. What measures are being taken to ensure equal enjoyment of human rights and freedom from discrimination for LGBTI persons?

## **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- What steps is the Government of Slovakia taking to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking with potential victims?
- What is the Government doing to promote freedom of expression, including promoting plurality in the media and ensuring the protection of journalists?
- How does the Government intend to increase the number of students from the Roma community in the mainstream education system?
- What plans does the Government have to raise standards in the judicial system and to ensure equality of access and a reduction in delays?

## **GERMANY**

- What measures has the Government of Slovakia taken in order to ensure the legitimate needs of LGBTI-people?
- How do you plan to establish a coherent approach for the integration of Roma, as discrimination is still persistent despite the manifold efforts by national and local governments as well as civil society? What are the next steps the Government is planning to push forward the integration of Roma? What are the government's plans for strengthening acceptance of Roma in Slovak society and to tackle populist anti-Roma campaigns and sentiment?

## **BELARUS**

- **Subject 1**

The Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee were concerned at allegations of the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, mostly after apprehension, which might amount to ill-treatment or torture, and also at the low number of complaints, prosecutions and convictions in such cases.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed its concern at reports of excessive use of force and ill-treatment by law enforcement officers against ethnic minorities, particularly Roma. It was concerned that raids in Roma settlements were often carried out without arrest or search warrants, that in many cases members of the Roma minority had been injured, and that the majority of those reports were either not duly investigated, or when investigations had been initiated, they had been suspended. The Committee was particularly concerned that an investigation for alleged false accusations had been initiated against the victims of excessive use of force during a raid in a Roma settlement of Budulovská in Moldava nad Bodvou, which could deter other victims from reporting cases of police abuse or excessive use of force.

**Question**

In view of the Committees' observations, please inform how many cases of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials were investigated and how many officials were found guilty and brought to justice?

- **Subject 2**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the adoption of the Act of 25 June 2015 on the Commissioner for Children and the Commissioner for People with Disabilities and on changes and amendments to certain acts.

The Committee recommended, among others, to ensure adequate and long-term funding for the institution of the Commissioner for Children and establish a system for monitoring the implementation of measures proposed by the Commissioner.

**Question**

Please specify what steps the country plans to take to implement these recommendations?