



**United Nations Human Rights Council  
13th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 23 May 2012**

---

**German questions and recommendations to  
Finland**

**by**

**H.E. Ambassador Hanns H. Schumacher  
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations**

*Rednerplatz: 41; Redezeit: 2 min*

Madam President,

Germany appreciates the positive steps taken by Finland with respect to the recommendations made during its first UPR in 2008. In that regard, the adoption of a National Action Plan to reduce violence against women and the signature of the European Convention on violence against women are particularly positive developments.

Germany would also like to commend the inclusive and innovative way of preparing the national report for the second UPR cycle which allowed civil society to participate via an online survey.

Germany would like to ask the following **questions**:

- 1) Concerning the prevention of racism and xenophobia, especially on the Internet, Germany noted, that the Finnish government stepped up Internet monitoring and amended the Criminal Code providing for additional powers to intervene in racist and other hate speech.

**Germany would like to know if the government of Finland also intends to raise more public awareness on the issue and if so how it intends to do this.**

- 2) As far as combatting discrimination, especially against Sinti and Roma is concerned, we noticed that Finland undertook concrete measures such as media campaigns to sensitize the public and prevent prejudice.

**Germany would like to know, if the government of Finland plans to put the focus as well on the humanitarian aspect of the Roma question in its awareness raising campaigns.**

3) In the area of domestic violence and violence against women, significant progress has been achieved in the follow up to the previous UPR, as already pointed out. However, the attrition rate concerning cases of gender-based violence is still very high.

**Germany would like to know, which concrete steps the government of Finland is planning to take, to ensure that women who are victims of gender-based violence are provided with protection and assistance.**

Finally we would like to thank Finland for its commitment and our excellent cooperation with regard to our **joint initiative on the right to housing** in the Human Rights Council.

I thank you.

