



17

**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

UPR of FINLAND

Slovenia would like to thank the delegation of Finland for their presentation. *We also appreciate the answers provided to our advance questions.*

We welcome the fact that Finland has presented a mid-term report on implementation of UPR recommendations in June 2010 and has taken meaningful steps to fulfill its commitments from the first cycle of the review. *In particular, we appreciate the fact that Finland has integrated UPR recommendations into the Government's Human Rights Policy Report and into the draft National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, as well as into thematic action plans and projects.* We are satisfied that a gender perspective has been integrated into the UPR follow-up processes and that a reform of non-discrimination legislation, aimed at extending protection to all grounds for discrimination, is underway.

Having carefully studied the national report, we commend Finland's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights at the national and international level, as evidenced by measures such as Finland's media campaign to eradicate negative stereotypes and prejudice against the Roma, the National Action Plan against Disciplinary Violence aimed at halving the physical disciplinary violence experienced by children, the application of the principle of design for all in construction, its housing programs, etc. In particular, we welcome the leadership role of Finland in the process leading to the adoption of a new Optional protocol on a communications procedure to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the fact that Finland has signed this document on 28 February 2012.

With a view to further improving the human rights situation in Finland, we offer the following 5 recommendations for the consideration of the Government of Finland:

- ratify and implement the CRPD, with active involvement of representatives of persons with disabilities,
- ensure that women who are victims of trafficking are recognized as such and provided with protection and assistance,
- ensure that rape is categorized as a sexual violation rather than according to the degree of violence used or threatened by the perpetrator; and facilitate access to justice for victims of rape to ensure that cases of rape are reported and prosecuted in court,
- train educators and health workers in identifying signs of sexual abuse in children,
- introduce human rights education as a mandatory part of teachers training.

Thank you.