



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

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UPR of SOUTH AFRICA

Madame President,

Slovenia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of South Africa and appreciates their elaborate presentation *and the answers provided to our advance questions.*

We commend the Government for the action plans and programs introduced with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals *and we encourage South Africa to continue with decisive action in this direction.* Furthermore, we appreciate South Africa's leading role in the adoption of the landmark HRC Resolution on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

We are nevertheless concerned about the persistence of violent attacks against LGBT individuals, the occurrence of hate crimes, and about the fact that sexual violence against women appears to be socially acceptable and is accompanied by a culture of silence and impunity.

In light of reports of widespread violence against children, we regret that Slovenia's recommendation from the first UPR cycle on the full abolition and criminalization of corporal punishment has not yet been implemented. We also note the lack of legislative measures to prevent, prosecute and punish acts of torture and other ill-treatment. We therefore **reiterate** our previous **recommendation** to South Africa to define torture in its national criminal legislation, prosecute and punish perpetrators of torture, and ratify as soon as possible the OP CAT.

Additionally, we **recommend** that South Africa:

- conducts comprehensive public awareness campaigns and enhances the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes perpetrated on grounds of ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity,
- establishes mechanisms that will offer the victims of rape appropriate and adequate support and provide them with redress,
- ratifies the ICESRC and its Optional Protocol.

Thank you.