

Mary Pierre-Wau

Czech Republic

Question

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In 2008, the Czech Republic agreed to take further measures to enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation as well as develop effective measures to eliminate multiple forms of discrimination. Could the Delegation of the Czech Republic inform us as to the progress that it has achieved to date in implementing these recommendations?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that the Czech Republic:

1. Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Inclusive Education (NAPIE) by ensuring that adequate funding is made available and that concrete targets are set to ensure that all children, including Roma, are provided with equal access and equal opportunity to education.
2. Establish a national human rights institution.
3. Take steps to prevent acts of racially motivated violence and discrimination, including through education and awareness campaigns, ensuring effective interventions by law enforcement and ensuring the successful prosecution of those that commit such crimes.

Observations (if time allows):

We welcome the ratification by the Czech Republic of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We also welcome the numerous legislative changes that have been enacted, including amendments to the Criminal Code, to strengthen the protection of human rights and freedoms in the Czech Republic.

We are concerned that measures to address the segregation of Roma children in education, including their disproportionate placement in "practical" schools for mentally disadvantaged children, are not being consistently applied. We underscore the importance of ensuring that all children, regardless of their ethnic background, have equal access to quality education.