

NORWAY

Madame President,

Norway appreciates the presentation of the Czech Republic's national report demonstrating the Czech Republic's strong dedication to the UPR process.

We recognize the Czech commitment to reduce discrimination and promote equality, such as the adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 2009. Norway supports the work of the Agency for Social Inclusion to counter discrimination and promote inclusion of the Roma minority. The Agency needs full support, financial as well as political, from all central, regional and local authorities in its endeavors to improve the conditions of life in socially excluded Roma neighborhoods. However, Norway remains concerned about the access to justice for victims of discrimination.

- We **recommend** that the Czech Republic allows NGOs and other actors to bring discrimination cases to court, in order to secure increased access to justice for victims of discrimination.

The Czech Republic has introduced important measures to reduce the discrimination of Roma students in school education, such as providing for pre-school education for socially disadvantaged children, as well as measures provided through the Inclusive Education Support Center. Nevertheless, the proportion of Roma students attending so-called practical schools persists. As equal access to education is one of the most important measures to promote inclusion of minorities;

- We **recommend** that appropriate steps be taken to ensure inclusive education in Czech schools: The Czech Ombudsman, in his report from May 2012, have put down clear guidelines on what measures should be taken in this regard.

Norway welcomes the new Criminal Code to take effect in January 2014, and the adoption of the legislation on criminal liability and punishment for legal entities for certain crimes, which will enable the Czech Republic to ratify relevant international conventions in the fight against organized crime, human trafficking and protection of victims.

I thank you, Madame President.