



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

## 14th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

### Finland's questions and recommendations to Ukraine 24 October 2012

Madam President,

Finland wishes to thank Ukraine for the national report and its presentation today. We welcome the steps taken to involve civil society in the preparative process for the UPR.

Finland welcomes Ukraine's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol as well as amendments to several laws concerning the rights of persons with disabilities. However, there are concerns that the resources for successful implementation of these laws remain inadequate.

We are also concerned about the draft law (no. 8711) that – according to the information available – would criminalise any reference to homosexuality in the media or public domain, and could result in fines or prison sentences of up to five years. This would not only threaten freedom of opinion and expression but also contradict Ukraine's other international human rights obligations and the Ukrainian anti-discrimination law (no. 10468), adopted in September.

#### Finland recommends that Ukraine:

1. Ensure implementation of legislation and other measures protecting the rights of persons with disabilities by, inter alia, allocating adequate funding for projects aiming at establishing a barrier-free living environment, and guaranteeing equal access to education in general schools for children with disabilities.
2. Step up the fight against discrimination by refraining from contradictory legislation and amending the anti-discrimination legislation to include explicit references to sexual orientation and gender identity as possible grounds of discrimination.

Thank you.