



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

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**Universal Periodic Review of Ukraine**

Madam President,

Slovenia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Ukraine and thanks them for their presentation. (We also appreciate the answers provided to our advance questions.)

We welcome a number of positive initiatives in the past four years, in particular the ratification of the CRPD and of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

With regard to our previous recommendations, we would like to ask the delegation to elaborate on how Ukraine has included a gender perspective in the UPR-follow-up processes.

While a number of equality guarantees are provided for in domestic legislation, the number of women in leadership positions in the civil service and the parliament remains low. Overall women's salaries are lower than men's. Social stereotypes regarding the role of women persist. We invite Ukraine to step up efforts to close the wage gap and to recruit more women for public office.

We would also like to reiterate our previous **recommendation** to apply the Yogyakarta principles in policy development. We welcome the commitment of Ukraine to equality and non-discrimination, but are concerned by reports that a number of bills are currently under consideration that could restrict freedom of expression with regard to sexual orientation. We **recommend** that the government rejects any proposed legislation that would restrict freedom of expression relating to sexual orientation.

We also **recommend** that Ukraine considers:

- stepping up efforts towards reform in juvenile justice,
- bringing national legislation relating to trafficking in and sale of children in line with the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Thank you.