

(56)

Gerald Vollmer

United Nations Human Rights Council

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

15th Session – Review of ROMANIA

Geneva, 22 January 2013

Statement by AUSTRIA

Mr. President,

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Romania to the UPR. We thank them for their report.

We commend Romania for the progress achieved in improving its legal framework for the protection of human rights, not least through the continuing implementation of the EU's legal acquis.

We note that challenges remain, notably with regard to the effective prevention and persecution of cases of discrimination. We are particularly concerned about the widespread discrimination of persons belonging to the Roma minority, including forced evictions from their settlements and the lack of effective legal remedies in such cases. We are also concerned about discrimination of LGBT persons and other vulnerable groups.

We welcome Romania's ratification of the CRPD in 2011 and would like to ask what measures the Government intends to take for its implementation?

Austria offers the following recommendations to the Government of Romania:

- Establish an effective legal framework to protect the right to adequate housing of persons belonging to the Roma minority and ensure that cases of discrimination against them are swiftly investigated;
- Ensure that acts of discrimination against LGBT persons and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups are properly investigated and perpetrators held accountable;
- Ensure the systematic collection and publication of statistical data on hate crimes;
- Finally, enact legislation to ensure the unhindered participation of persons with disabilities in the education system and in the labour market.

I thank you.