UPR15 – Serbia (Denmark)

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Serbia and would like to thank them for their comprehensive presentation given here today.

Denmark would like to commend Serbia for positive developments in the field of human rights, especially in the area of civil and political rights. We believe, however, there is a lack of adequate response from the authorities to the recent events of threats from the far right towards public figures. Democracy must be based on free dialogue. Unlawful threats and acts must be investigated and prosecuted.

Denmark welcomes the establishment of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture. The Mechanism reports of poor living conditions, unsatisfactory health care programs in prisons, psychiatric hospitals, police stations, and social care institutions. It also reports of inadequate legal safeguards for the placement and treatment of people with mental disabilities and inadequate internal control systems in the police in terms of response to allegations of ill-treatment.

- Denmark recommends that the Government of Serbia allocate adequate financial means and put proper legal foundations in place in order to address the concerns expressed by the Mechanism.

Denmark notes that some progress on anti-discrimination policies has been achieved and welcomes the recent ruling regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation in a workplace. Denmark notes with concern that discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, age and sexual orientation remains widespread. Violence and threats against the LGBT population and those promoting LGBT rights still occur, which for the second year in a row has resulted in undermining the right to assembly for the Belgrade Pride Parade.

- Denmark recommends that the Government of Serbia takes all appropriate measures to protect the right to assembly and to ensure investigation and prosecution of persons violating civil and political rights as guaranteed by the Serbian constitution.

Marie-Louise Wegter, DPR