



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

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UPR of AZERBAIJAN

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan for their presentation.

In the previous review, we made a recommendation regarding conscientious objection to military service. We appreciate the information on this issue provided today. We would appreciate some information on the implementation of the right to conscientious objection in Azerbaijan.

We welcome progress achieved in the area of infant mortality, but note that infant mortality rates remain high, while the health budget in Azerbaijan is, according to the Council of Europe, significantly lower than in the rest of the region. We are also concerned over reports of intimidation of journalists and writers and on the practice of sex-selective abortions.

We would therefore like to present Azerbaijan with the following **recommendations**:

- ensure that journalists and writers may work freely and without fear of retribution for expressing critical opinions or covering topics that the government may find sensitive,
- implement measures to prevent sex-selective abortions, and conduct educational campaigns about gender roles and the value of women and girls,
- in the spirit of the cooperative approach demonstrated by the two visits of special procedures to Azerbaijan since the first UPR, consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures.

Thank you.