



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

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Statement from Norway:

UPR of Germany

Thank you Mr. President,

The Government of Norway would like to thank the German delegation for the presentation of their national report and for Germany's dedication to the UPR process and her persistent efforts to ensure the enjoyment of rights and freedoms of all its citizens. Norway also appreciates the strong emphasis on human rights at the federal state level.

Norway welcomes the unconditional commitment that the German government shows in cooperating with civil society, NGOs and international organisations.

The national report confirms how Germany has improved its already excellent normative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights since the last review and numerous new legislation have entered into force or been set in motion.

Norway is happy to see that Germany since the last review has adopted a National Action Plan to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and we applaud the introduction of a law strengthening the rights of victims of sexual abuse. Norway has also taken positive note of Germany's ratification of the optional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Norway warmly welcomes the work carried out by Germany in order to meet the recommendations since the last review. We are especially encouraged to see that the German government continues to take gender equality and women's rights very seriously. Norway recommends that Germany takes measures to further improve the situation for gender equality.

Norway also commends the recent adoption of the German National Action Plan for the period from 2013 until 2016 on the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.

The national report confirms that Germany has intensified the efforts in fighting religious based discriminatory practices, xenophobia and racism. That being said, the situation for Roma and Sinti is, as in many other countries, still a matter of concern in Germany.

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Norway applauds the measures taken by Germany to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation. In this regard Norway welcome the amendment of article 1 of the Transsexual Amendment Law, with the effect that married transsexuals are no longer compelled to divorce before a sex change. Norway recommends that Germany continues the important efforts to combat hate crime based on sexual orientation. Norway is following the on-going debate in Germany over the rights of lesbian, homosexual, bisexual and trans-persons with regards to taxation and adoption. This debate should take place in more countries