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UPR 18th Session

Recommendations from Denmark to the Republic of Cyprus.

Statement delivered by Ms. Trine Grønberg, Attaché

Mr. President,

Denmark thanks the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus for their presentation today as well as for the comprehensive national report. We welcome the positive steps taken by Cyprus in the field of human rights since its first UPR examination.

Denmark commends the important steps taken to improve the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. In particular, we welcome measures adopted by Cyprus making it possible for children of irregular migrants to access educational services.

Still, we remain concerned that asylum-seekers and irregular migrants continue to be held in conditions falling short of international standards and in non-purpose-built facilities.

Denmark therefore recommends that Cyprus takes concrete measures to improve the access of irregular migrants to acceptable housing.

Denmark appreciates the government's ambition of introducing measures to promote a higher degree of control and transparency in the fight against human trafficking. However, we note with concern the data suggesting that the newly introduced work permit system has failed to increase transparency when it comes to exploitation for sexual or labour purposes.

Denmark recommends that more effective anti-trafficking measures are adopted and that measures already in use are evaluated further to limit human exploitation. This includes efforts to protect victims and to prosecute offenders of human trafficking.

Thank you Mr. President