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PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

STATEMENT

UPR of Slovakia 3 February 2014. Statement by Norway.

Norway appreciates the presentation of Slovakia's national report, demonstrating their strong dedication to the UPR process.

Slovakia has introduced important measures to reduce the discrimination of Roma students in school education, such as free pre-school education and access to zero class at primary schools. However, the enrolment of Roma students in special schools or special classes remains disproportional. We recommend that appropriate steps are taken to ensure inclusive education in Slovak schools and to de-segregate students that have been placed in special classes or special schools on other grounds than mental disability.

Norway welcomes the recent announcement of the Slovak government about the establishment of a special team to prepare proposals for reform of the Judiciary. There are a number of concerns regarding the Judiciary in Slovakia, especially on lack of trust, transparency, accountability and lengthiness of legal procedures. We recommend that necessary reforms to ensure proper functioning and legitimacy of the Judiciary are undertaken, in a transparent and inclusive process with all stakeholders including the civil society.

Norway commends Slovakia for adopting an amendment to the law 300/2005 of the Penal Code, including provisions related to sexual orientation in the hate crime law. At the same time the lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex (LGBT) persons still face discrimination in the Slovak society. We recommend that a national action plan for the protection of the human rights of LGBT persons in Slovakia is developed and implemented, within the context of the planned human rights strategy.

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