



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
18th Session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of Slovakia – 3 February 2014**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Slovakia to the UPR Working Group. We take note of the developments in the field of human rights in Slovakia since the first cycle of the UPR, as outlined in the national report.

Human rights education is an integral part of improving human rights conditions of a country. We therefore welcome the integration of human rights aspects, including multicultural education, into school educational programmes in Slovakia.

However, we note concerns about the discrimination of Roma children in education and that there are disproportionate numbers of Roma children in special and segregated education, resulting in these children receiving a lower standard of education.

We take positive note of efforts to combat human trafficking and the socio-legal protection and assistance being provided to minors who are victims of human trafficking in cooperation with IOM and other relevant stakeholders.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Slovakia:

1. Strengthen efforts to include Roma children in mainstream education;
2. Support the preservation and development of the cultures of national minorities.
3. Reinforce preventive measures for combating trafficking in women and girls, for purposes such as sexual exploitation.

We wish Slovakia success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.