



19<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Nicaragua

Statement by Austria

7 May 2014

We warmly welcome H.E.... and the delegation of Nicaragua and thank them for the presentation and the national report.

Austria welcomes the efforts undertaken since the last review, especially the adoption of a national action plan on violence against women and the reform of the criminal code which now criminalizes femicide and other forms of violence against women and girls.

Despite the progress made, challenges still persist especially with regard to overcrowding in detention facilities and the often reported hostile environment for human rights defenders and journalists in the country. What further measures do you intend to take as to effectively tackle this?

Finally, we would like to express our concern over the acquiescence of corporal punishment of children and the ongoing discrimination of persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples.

Austria offers following recommendations:

- Fully implement without further delay Act 779 on violence against women;
- Bring conditions of detention in line with international standards, in particular to reduce overcrowding and promote non-custodial measures;
- Guarantee a safe and enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders and ensure that all cases of attacks against them are investigated by independent and impartial bodies;
- Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home and detention facilities;
- Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and the Optional Protocol to CEDAW;

I thank you.