



UPR 20, November 5, 2014
Recommendations by Canada for Bosnia and Herzegovina's UPR

Question

In 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to take all steps necessary to remove ethnic segregation from schools. Could the Delegation please inform us of progress in this regard, as well as the obstacles to the realization of this goal?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Bosnia and Herzegovina:

1. End school segregation on the basis of ethnicity, as well as review and revise school curriculums and textbooks with a view to promoting intercultural understanding and appreciation for the history and religion of all ethnic groups and national minorities.
2. Implement a single harmonized national school core curriculum, agreed upon by representatives of the country's ethnic groups and national minorities.
3. Implement measures to reduce and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, including by addressing factors leading to high school drop-out rates among Roma children.

Observations (if time allows):

Canada welcomes the commitment to human rights principles and the constructive and open approach of Bosnia and Herzegovina to dialogue on human rights issues. We also recognize the particular challenges posed by fragmented jurisdiction and by the legacy of inter-ethnic conflict.

While progress has been made, the existing education system continues to perpetuate discriminatory attitudes and raises a new generation of citizens ill-equipped to participate in a healthy, multi-cultural society. Educational segregation is not an appropriate means of ensuring the education-related human rights of parents and children. Recognizing the capacity of citizens to have multiple identities and attachments, the educational system in Bosnia and Herzegovina could serve to enhance national integration and reinforce the country's multicultural character.