



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Office of the United Nations and  
to the other International Organizations  
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
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Geneva, 26.01.2015**

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**German questions and recommendations to  
Sweden**

**German National Statement**

*Frank Jarasch*

Mr. President,

Germany would like to commend the Government of Sweden for its comprehensive national report and the transparent proceedings in its UPR preparations. Sweden has an exemplary record of human rights protection and we welcome the continuous and tireless efforts made since the first cycle to further ensure full respect for human rights in Sweden.

Nevertheless, we have observed that xenophobic and islamophobic parties have gained ground over the past few years resulting in anti-muslim sentiments being voiced more strongly, including in the online and offline media. Subsequently, the occurrence of hate speech and racially motivated hate crimes has risen.

We appreciate the adoption of action plans by the Government of Sweden to ensure that the systematic work on human rights in Sweden is continuously promoted, in particular the action plan for the protection of children against human trafficking, exploitation and sexual assaults.

To support the Swedish government in setting national priorities for its further work to strengthen protection for human rights, we would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Germany recommends Sweden to further effectively investigate, prosecute and punish all hate crimes and establish an authority where complaints in this regard can be addressed.
2. Germany recommends that Sweden signs and ratifies the Third Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you, Mr. President!

**Questions in advance:**

1. The German delegation would like to know about the status of incorporation into domestic law of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a special view to the solitary detention of young people in juvenile detention institutions.
2. In terms of next steps of implementation: What will be the focus areas of the government's third action plan for human rights and what is the current thinking regarding the recommendation from the first cycle to establish an independent national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles?

