



CROATIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

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Statement by

Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Croatia to the UN

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Universal Periodic Review

Review of Turkey

Geneva, 27 January 2015

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Turkey and thank them for the presentation of their report.

Croatia commends the considerable efforts of the Turkish Government in the field of the protection and promotion of human rights and encourages the Government to continue with the reforms in the field of human rights, freedom of speech and media freedom.

We welcome the positive steps taken by the Government in implementing several recommendations from the previous UPR. We also wish to commend Turkish authorities for the assistance and the commitment to the displaced people, in particular Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

As observed by the Human Rights Committee, the current legislation of Turkey on discrimination is not comprehensive, thus failing to protect against discrimination on all the grounds enumerated in the ICCPR.

While welcoming the decision on reduction of military service from 15 to 12 months, Croatia notes that no step was taken to recognize conscientious objection to military service and no civil alternative service is available.

Mr. President,

We have two recommendations:

1. Review relevant legislation to ensure that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited.
2. Adopt laws recognizing and regulating the right to conscientious objections and ensure that the civilian alternative to military service has no punitive or discriminatory effects.

Thank you.