

ENGLISH VERSION – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



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**Human Rights Council
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Bulgaria**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Brazil commends Bulgaria for acceding to OP-CAT and CRPD, as well as to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Stateless Persons, as recommended by Brazil in the first cycle. We encourage the country to lift reservations to the 1954 Convention.

We welcome the development of the National Roma Integration Strategy (2012-2020). Discrimination against the Roma population is still a matter of concern, particularly in the areas of education, employment, health and housing.

Brazil wishes to recommend that Bulgaria:

1. adopt the draft Gender Equality Act and criminalize domestic violence and marital rape;
2. review and reform its legislation allowing for the detention of asylum seekers on the basis of illegal entry, and ensure that the detention of asylum seekers, particularly of children, be applied only in exceptional circumstances after due diligence.

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Discriminatory practices against women and domestic violence remain a concern. It is important that all acts of sexual violence are investigated and perpetrators prosecuted.

We recognize that the refugee flows pose a challenge, and highlight the importance of international solidarity. We stress the need to ensure full respect of the principle of non-refoulement and access to fair and efficient asylum procedures.

We note the implementation of the National Program for Prevention and Control of HIV. Brazil encourages Bulgaria to provide adequate treatment and care to all persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you.