

UPR22

BULGARIA

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria. We appreciate the delegation's response to some of our advance questions.

The Czech Republic has the following **recommendations to Bulgaria:**

First, we **recommend** Bulgaria strengthen human and financial resources of the directorate of the Ombudsman responsible for the new role of a national preventive mechanism according to the OP-CAT so that they match the number of facilities overseen.

Second, we **recommend** that Bulgaria include racist motivation of crimes as an aggravating circumstance in the Criminal Code and make more effective the investigation and prosecution of hate speech and violence, including against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Finally, the Czech Republic **recommends** that the Government of Bulgaria improve prosecution and prevention of domestic violence and ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to shelters and other services.

Thank you.