



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
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**German questions and recommendations to
Bulgaria**

Mr. President,

we thank the Government of Bulgaria for its national report.

Germany warmly welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria to the UPR and commends the government for the progress achieved since the 1st cycle.

Germany remains concerned however about persisting discrepancies between the law on paper and in reality. The reception conditions for asylum-seekers entering Bulgaria partially improved but Germany remains concerned over access to Bulgarian territory and the integration of refugees. Prevention and investigation of hate crimes by the authorities in Bulgaria was also inadequate.

Germany wishes to offer the following recommendations:

1. To adopt the draft Law on Asylum and Refugees, which is to ensure i.e. unhindered access to primary education for refugee children.
2. To fully implement the National Integration strategy (adopted earlier in the year).
3. To ensure the prevention and full investigation of hate crimes and violent attacks targeting ethnic and religious minorities, including migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

Thank you Mr. President.

Questions submitted in advance:

1. Refugees / Minorities

Can you please inform us what measures the government of Bulgaria is taking to improve the living conditions of refugees and migrants in your country – in particular with a view to making sure that access to the right of asylum is fully implemented. What refugee integration strategy does Bulgaria pursue?

We should be grateful to know what steps the government of Bulgaria will take to improve access and the provision of public services and facilities to the ethnic Roma population in Bulgaria in order to improve their standard of living?

2. Children's Rights / Persons with disabilities / LGBTQI

Please could you tell us what measures is the government of Bulgaria taking to improve the situation of children, particularly those under three or with disabilities, within the state childcare system in order to protect their basic rights?

We should be grateful to know what procedures the government of Bulgaria uses to collect robust statistical data on the ethnicity, sexual orientation and disabilities of people accessing public services, or in public sector employment or in state social, custodial or medical care?

Please can you inform us what measures is the government of Bulgaria taking to ensure the equal treatment and protection from discrimination of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community within Bulgaria?

