



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
To the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in  
Geneva

Check against delivery

22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the WG of the UPR  
Review of Bulgaria

Statement  
of  
Mr. Dusko Uzunovski  
Minister Counselor  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

*Geneva, May 7, 2015*

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia would like to welcome the delegation led by *HE Mrs. Karija Todopova* and to thank them for their presentation of a compelling and comprehensive report.  
*Deputy MHA of RB*

The Republic of Macedonia welcomes the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and expresses its conviction that the creation of this body will enhance the national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights of all citizens, irrespective of their ethnic origin.

We have four recommendations:

- We recommend that the authorities ensure that no disadvantage shall result for citizens from the exercise of their right to identify themselves as belonging to any ethnic group.
- We encourage the government of Bulgaria to give a strong response to hate speech, including in offline and online media, as well as systematically denounce expression of intolerance by opinion leaders in the country.
- We recommend to the authorities to ensure that the principle of freedom of association, as provided for in Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, is respected without any discrimination and applied in accordance with the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights.
- Finally, we recommend to the Bulgarian Government to ensure that no impediments are created to the preservation, expression, and development of cultural identity by all citizens.

Thank you.