



22nd Session of the Working Group for UPR
Interactive Dialogue on Report of **Bulgaria**

Serbia welcomes the esteemed delegation of Bulgaria, and we applaud them on their compliance with human rights mechanisms.

We take note of Bulgaria's developments in the adjustment of their legislature to international standards with a focus on establishing measures for the advancement of gender equality and non-discrimination. In particular, we commend the Bulgarian authorities on their cooperation with national human rights institutions and relevant NGOs to raise awareness of domestic violence and increase knowledge about existing protection procedures. In order to further Bulgaria's work in the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination, we recommend ^{to consider} amending the law so that it provides further efforts of redress for victims of domestic violence, in addition to increased punishment for repeated violations of violence against women. Moreover, we encourage legislative action aimed at promoting a comprehensive gender-equality policy.

With regard to the situation of human trafficking, Serbia realizes that prevention should be a main focus of the Bulgarian authorities. The Roma community, especially Roma women and girls, are highly affected by the issue. In this regard, we recommend strengthening existing mechanisms as well as creating new legal policies that prevent and combat human trafficking. We also recommend expanding these measures from the large towns to the rural neighborhoods and highly populated Roma communities so as to protect the most vulnerable groups of society.

We encourage authorities to continue honouring their commitments with respect to national minorities and in this regard we would appreciate if the delegation can present activities and plans for further strengthening the identity of different ethnic groups in Bulgaria.

We wish Bulgaria success in effectively fulfilling its recommendations.