



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Office of the United Nations and  
to the other International Organizations  
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
23rd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 09 November 2015**

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**German recommendations to  
Austria**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes its fellow EU member state Austria to the UPR. We commend Austria for the progress achieved since the first cycle, starting from an already very high level of promotion and protection of human rights. While some challenges persist, we particularly welcome that since the last UPR, Austria has become signatory party and ratified the *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance*, and the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT)*.

However, we see persisting shortcomings in the field of non-discrimination of women and of minorities, in particular the status of the country's Slovenian minority, and the rights of Roma people in Austria. We are also concerned about discrimination against LGBTI persons.

In this regard, we wish to make the following recommendations:

- To ensure equal protection from all forms of discrimination, including by harmonizing and extending the scope of anti-discrimination laws to include the grounds of religion and belief, age and sexual orientation;
- To ensure that the national human rights institution and the national preventive mechanism, envisaged by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, comply fully with the Paris Principles.