

MR. ALEXEI ANDREEV  
Counsellor

52

**UPR – LATVIA – 26 January 2016**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr. President!

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of Latvia.

We acknowledge Latvia's strong commitment to the protection of human rights and welcome the Government's efforts in supporting a free and engaged civil society.

Bulgaria commends the progress made in gender equality policy, in combating discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial and ethnic origin, and in protecting persons with disabilities including the establishing of inclusive education system and participation in social projects.

We note with appreciation the establishment of the Division of the Rights of Children to the Ombudsman's Office with the aim to strengthen child protection. We also welcome the measures taken by the Government, for elimination and reduction of domestic violence set out in the State Family Policy Guidelines (2011–2017).

Bulgaria would like to recommend Latvia to:

- 1) reinforce measures to prevent trafficking in human beings, provide effective support and redress to victims, investigate and prosecute offenders,
- 2) guarantee freedom of expression, of the press and opinion, including by effectively investigating cases of attacks against journalists,
- 3) ensure the full enjoyment of rights by non-citizen residents and linguistic minorities and facilitate their integration into society.

Thank you!