

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**25th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 3rd May 2016**

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**German national statement**

**Greece**

Mr. President,

we warmly welcome the delegation of Greece to the UPR and thank them for their national report.

Germany commends Greece’s achievements in the area of human rights especially the passing of a law in 2015 that extends civil unions to same-sex couples, the actions to fight racist crimes and Greece’s commitment to improve the situation of Roma by developing the National Roma Integration Strategy in 2011. We however remain concerned about the *de facto* segregation of Roma children and the exclusion of some Roma communities. Germany notes the increase of discrimination and hate speech against Roma and other vulnerable groups such as migrants, refugees and the LGBT community, knowing that this problem also exists in other countries.

Taking into consideration that Greece faces the challenge of high numbers of refugees and migrants, we are concerned about continuing human rights violations in the fields of poor conditions in detention as well as the humanitarian situation in official reception centers.

We encourage further activities particularly in these areas.

Germany offers the following recommendations:

1. Recognize the Roma as minority and continue to improve the standards in housing, education and health care.
2. Extend measures to address the problem of hate speech, especially by ensuring effective investigations.
3. Extend the use of alternative detention measures as a step towards compliance with international standards of custody.

We wish Greece every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.