

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**26th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 02.11.2016**

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**German national statement**

**Lithuania**

Mr President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Lithuania to the UPR. We welcome Lithuania‘s commitment to human rights and its readiness to engage in an open dialogue.

Germany is concerned about the lack of progress regarding the reduction of above-average long prison sentences and the improvement of prison conditions in general.

We would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. End the overcrowding of prisons, inter alia by developing alternative forms of punishment. Pursue the implementation of the Prison Modernization Program in order to improve prison conditions in a manner compliant to international human rights standards.
2. Strengthen the right to fair trial, inter alia through the consequent implementation of relevant EU standards.
3. Ensure that the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information is not applied with a discriminatory effect against LGBTI persons.
4. Continue efforts to create the appropriate conditions for the integration of migrants and for improving their living and working conditions.

Thank you Mr. President.

German questions submitted to Lithuania in advance:

* 1. Germany recognizes that Lithuania seeks to improve the prison conditions and welcomes the efforts undertaken so far. However, the overcrowding and living conditions in prisons are still worrying.

**Which strategies has Lithuania developed to implement alternative penalties? How is Lithuania planning to achieve the goals of the Prison Modernization Program by 2022?**

* 1. Regarding the right to a fair trial, Germany takes note of the partial implementation of the relevant EU guidelines. Nevertheless, structural deficits in criminal proceedings still remain, for example regarding legal aid and the defense of minors, persons with disabilities and accused in need of a translator.

**Which concrete measures has Lithuania taken since the last UPR to safeguard the right to a fair trial?**

* 1. Since the last UPR Lithuania has adopted several legislative initiatives which may restrict the freedom of expression and may have the effect of discriminating against LGBTI individuals.

**How does Lithuania guarantee the protection of LGBTI persons and which concrete measures does Lithuania plan to encourage tolerance and non-discrimination of LGBTI, inter alia through respective school curricula?**

* 1. Since the start of the migration crisis Lithuania has intensified its efforts to integrate migrants/refugees and to improve their living and working conditions.

**How does Lithuania evaluate the current situation and treatment of migrants and asylum seekers/refugees and how does Lithuania plan to address xenophobia?**