**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO NORTH MACEDONIA**Generated on 26 Apr 2024 17:09

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of North Macedonia considering ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure as well as the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (189)?
* Does the government of North Macedonia intend to amend the Criminal Code to incorporate a clear and comprehensive definition of hate speech explicitly including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics as protected grounds?
* What concrete measures has the government taken to ensure the safety of journalists? Will it implement measures to address and prevent online harassment of journalists, especially women journalists, to hold perpetrators accountable and to provide protection when necessary?
* What concrete steps is the government of North Macedonia taking to address instances of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by the police as well as to improve conditions of detention and overcrowding in penitentiary institutions?
* Will the government adopt all bylaws/protocols/programs of the 2021 Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and ensure designated funding sufficient for successful implementation?

**CANADA**

* What steps is North Macedonia taking to address the discrimination and hate speech towards the Roma population?

**GERMANY**

* When does North Macedonia foresee to stop prolonging the state of emergency in Idrizovo prison?
* What is the status of the registration/recognition of the Bektashi community Tetovo (in line with the pertinent ECtHR judgment of 2018 and the respective 2022 action plan)?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has North Macedonia taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?

**PORTUGAL**

* Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends of the NMIRF: Could the State under review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
* Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends of the NMIRF: Has the State under review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, inter alia, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

**SLOVENIA**

* What measures are in place to combat ageism and eliminate age discrimination in all its forms, and to protect the human rights of older persons?
* An important element of combating hate speech is public denunciation of such messages and a show of solidarity with victims. What activities are undertaken to combat hate speech in media, in particular hate speech along ethnic or political lines?

**SPAIN**

* What measures does the Government consider taking to reduce undue delays in investigations and judicial processes and implement surveillance systems against the police’s abuses of power?
* Due to the increase in anti-gender campaigns in the country, what measures is the Government taking to enforce the respect of LGTBI rights and to fight against discrimination?
* Are there sufficient mechanisms within the current legislative framework of the Republic of North Macedonia to prevent statelessness? Is the government planning to create any mechanism to implement the legal framework more effectively?
* As the recommendations made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture on the treatment of detainees have not been implemented, what measures does the Government plan to take to improve the situation in prisons?

**SWEDEN**

* What measures are being taken to address concerns about undue political influence in the process of appointments, promotions or dismissals of justice sector officials?
* What measures are currently being undertaken to implement the National Strategy for Development of the Penitentiary System?
* What measures are being taken to improve transparency and prevent corruption in governmental institutions, to investigate cases of suspected corruption and to bring those responsible to justice?

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

* How is North Macedonia addressing the issue of discrimination against ethnic minorities, particularly in access to education, employment, and healthcare?
* What measures is the government of North Macedonia implementing to enhance prison conditions and uphold the rights of detainees, including ensuring access to legal representation and healthcare?
* How is North Macedonia addressing concerns raised regarding freedom of expression and media independence, including measures to protect journalists from intimidation and harassment, and to ensure a diverse and pluralistic media landscape?
* What steps North Macedonia is taking to effectively investigate and prosecute hate crime and hate speech against vulnerable groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What steps are North Macedonia authorities taking to address government corruption and to promote transparent and accountable governance, including progress toward the implementation of the recommendations of the Council of Europe’s Group of States Against Corruption?
* What steps are authorities taking to improve the treatment of detainees and reduce severe overcrowding in prisons, including through implementing the recommendations made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture?
* What measures are authorities implementing to combat violence and threats of violence against journalists?
* What measures are authorities implementing to regulate commercial spyware and to prevent and promote accountability for its misuse?