

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR – Czech Republic** ***Belgian intervention****06.11.2017* |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of the Czech Republic and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third Universal Periodic Review.

We acknowledge that some positive steps were taken by the Czech Republic with respect to the implementation of the recommendations accepted during its second UPR, such as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children,
child prostitution and child pornography.

However, on certain issues, such as the fight against all forms of discrimination, there is still room for progress. In this regard, Belgium wishes to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** With regard to the continued segregation of Roma Children from mainstream education, to monitor the impact of reforms aiming at inclusion of Romani pupils in mainstream schools;

**R2.** To continue fighting racial hatred and racially motivated violence against Roma, by effectively and promptly investigating and addressing all crimes against them;

Furthermore, Belgium attaches great importance to women’s rights. We therefore recommend:

**R3.** To continue the efforts to prevent and address gender based violence and in this context to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention);

Thank you, Mr. President