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**UPR40 – LITHUANIA**

**Statement by Slovakia**

26 January 2022

President,

Slovakia commends Lithuania’s strong commitment to the protection of human rights.

We note with satisfaction that Lithuania took a legal stance against all forms of violence against children and established mechanisms for responding to such violence.

Lithuania faces new challenges with migrants. While we condemn the instrumentalisation of migration for political motives, it is of utmost importance to manage the situation in accordance with international legal obligations.

While we appreciate Lithuania’s measures to combat hate speech and hate crimes, it is essential to continue fighting prejudices and antisemitism.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to Lithuania:

1. strengthen its efforts to combat intolerance, stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination towards vulnerable groups and increase its efforts to prevent hate speech and hate crimes,
2. ensure that any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence is prohibited by law,
3. strengthen Holocaust education to stop Holocaust distortion in the media, social networking platforms and vandalism on memorials,
4. take necessary steps to implement legislative guarantees for the protection of children from all forms of violence, exploitation and trafficking.

We wish Lithuania a successful review.

Thank you, President.