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**UPR 42**

**SRI LANKA**

*1st February 2023*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka and appreciates its commitment to the UPR. Looking at the previous recommendations, we would like to appreciate the ongoing prison reform process.

We wish respectfully recommend:

* To impose moratorium on the use of **Prevention of Terrorism Act** stifling inter alia freedom of expression for fear of reprisals, and to revise the legislation by 2025 to comply with international human rights law.
* To cease surveillance, intimidation and harassment of **journalists or human rights defenders** by intelligence services, the military and the police.
* To allow immediate investigation of **extrajudicial killings** and excessive use of force, including sexual violence, committed by the Security Forces.
* To repeal section 365A of the Penal Code and specific sections of other laws criminalizing homosexuality, and introduce legislation to prevent criminal and hateful behaviour towards **LGBTQI persons**.

We wish Sri Lanka a successful review.

I thank you.