**Universal Periodic Review, 42nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of CZECHIA**

**Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

Denmark thanks the delegation of Czechia for its presentation.

Denmark welcomes the progress on inclusion of Roma children in mainstream education and the appointment of the first Government Commissioner for Roma Affairs.

NGOs report an increase in the demand for domestic violence victim support services for women during the pandemic.

*Denmark recommends Czechia to ratify the Istanbul Convention and implement it into domestic law, change the legal definition of rape to be based on a lack of consent, and make deliberate and systematic efforts to combat violence against women.*

We further note that same sex couples in civil unions are not accorded rights equal to heterosexual married couples in Czech civil law.

*Denmark therefore also recommends Czechia to extend the right for marriage to same-sex couples and to ensure equal treatment and protection, as enjoyed by heterosexual married couples.*

Denmark wishes Czechia a successful review.

I thank you.