

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

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| **WG UPR 42 – Czech Republic** ***Belgian intervention****23.01.2023* |

President,

Belgium welcomes the efforts and positive steps made by the Czech Republic since its previous UPR. Notwithstanding these efforts, there is still room for progress, in particular regarding women’s rights, LGBTQI+ rights and Roma rights.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of the Czech Republic to:

**R1.** Ratify and fully implement the Istanbul Convention and change the legal definition of rape within the criminal code to be based on the absence of consent, in line with international standards.

**R2.** Include sexual orientation and gender identity as a basis for hate crimes and ensure that victims enjoy the same protection as victims of hate crimes based on race, religion, nationality or ethnicity.

**R3.** Fully implement the Roma integration strategy 2021-2030, including by ensuring it is adequately resourced, and ensure a satisfactory and prompt redress of unlawful sterilisations.

Thank you, President