

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**43rd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Serbia**

*Geneva, 10 May 2023*

Mr President,

Slovenia commends Serbia for its commitment to the UPR process. Slovenia also commends Serbia for the adoption of the new Law and the Strategy on Gender Equality since the last UPR.

We regret that explicit prohibition of corporal punishment of children has still not been put in place.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

* Bring the national criminal law provisions on rape in line with the consent-based definition of rape.
* Form an official database on femicides in the country.
* Discuss efforts to increase youth employment in dialogue between the government, employer and worker representatives and devise programmes with measurable goals and dedicated budget to increase employment of young people, while ensuring that active employment policies respect labour rights.
* Formulate safeguards in the legal framework to deal with obviously unfounded or abusive court proceedings against public participation that aim to curtail the freedom of media.

Thank you.

Advance questions:

* Why has the work on the Draft Law on the Rights of the Child and the Protector of the Rights of the Child been discontinued? How will the alternative action through amendments to the Family Law make up for the lack of an umbrella law on child rights? How will amendments to the Family Law bring in line legislative solutions related to child rights in all sectoral laws?
* How does the education system in Serbia provide for age-appropriate human rights and civic education in primary and secondary education?
* Media freedom is under threat when criminal justice does not provide timely and effective remedy against threats and violence against journalists. What measures are being devised to address the lengthy legal proceedings in criminal cases related to safety of journalists?