**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF SLOVAKIA AT THE 32ND UPR WORKING GROUP, 28 JANUARY 2019**

Mr President,

Singapore commends the systematic approach by Slovakia to advance human rights under their National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Slovak Republic.

We also acknowledge Slovakia’s continuing efforts to better protect and promote the rights of minorities and marginalised communities, including the Roma, through policies such as the Action Plan to Protect the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (2016 – 2020).

We commend Slovakia for implementing concrete measures to eliminate violence within families such as the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence, the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women (2014 – 2019), and defining domestic violence crimes for the first time in its Crime Victims Act.

We **recommend** that the government continue to update the relevant strategies and strengthen legislation to root out family violence.

We also commend the Slovakian government’s continuous efforts to tackle human trafficking through its National Programme for Combatting Human Trafficking 2015 – 2018 and the Programme of Support and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking.

We **recommend** that the governmentexpands its outreach campaigns in partnership with relevant stakeholders to target those who are most at risk of being trafficked.

Thank you Mr President.

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