**34th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of SLOVENIA**

12 November 2019

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Slovenia to UPR and thanks them for their report and presentation today.

We commend Slovenia for the progress made since the last review and particularly welcome the explicit prohibition of corporal punishment and degrading treatment of children.

Furthermore, we welcome the noticeable progress made in the protection and inclusion of persons belonging to the Romany community, but also recognize the still existing disparities between the majority population of Slovenia and persons belonging to the Romany community.

Minorities are an important and enriching part of our societies. Besides the Hungarian, Italian and Roma minorities that are recognized under the Constitution or in relevant legislation, there are others, like the German-speaking community, which are striving for the recognition of collective rights.

The rule of law is pivotal to the enforcement of human rights. While welcoming that the majority of cases of denationalisation have been concluded, we however observe with concern that 26 years after the deadline for applications a considerable number of denationalisation proceedings are still pending.

We recommend:

* Further the understanding that anti-Gypsyism is a driver for social exclusion of Roma and Sinti, and strengthen efforts to improve their living-conditions e.g. by adopting measures to ensure their access to drinking water, sanitation and electricity;
* Recognize the Slovenian sign language in the Slovenian constitution;
* Engage in a structured dialogue with the German-speaking community including the Umbrella Organisation of the Cultural Associations of the German-speaking community, as also recommended by the Council of Europe[[1]](#footnote-1);
* We reiterate our previous recommendations to allocate additional resources to the preservation of the culture and language of the German-speaking community in Slovenia.

I thank you.

1. Resolution CM/ResCMN(2018)12 <https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016808e85f4> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)