**UPR36**

**Bulgaria**

*6 November 2020*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria, thanks for the presentation of the National Report and congratulates on the NHRI “A” status accreditation achieved in 2019.

We commend the active role of the *Ombudsman* and we support the appeal of the CERD and CAT on the capacity and financial resources of the Office.

We continue to follow the issue of domestic violence that inhibits the meaningful *participation* of women and girls in the society, including in the labour market. We **recommend** to further amend the Criminal Code to explicitly include marital rape. We also **recommend** to strengthen State-funded crisis centres and effective protection orders by its next UPR.

We appreciate Bulgaria’s fight against *discrimination* of ethnic, religious, sexual and other minorities. Unfortunately, reports inform about serious incidents of hate speech, hate crimes and persistent inequalities in access to health, housing and education. We therefore **recommend** to ensure that all cases of hate speech and hate crime are promptly and effectively investigated, sanctioned and prosecuted.

We wish Bulgaria a successful review.