**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BULGARIA (FIRST BATCH)**

**SLOVENIA**

* Does the Bulgarian Government envisage legislative measures to criminalize all forms of violence, including domestic violence and marital rape, and amend the Criminal Code to include domestic violence as a specific crime?

**SWEDEN**

* Could you give us a state of play regarding the implementation of the framework and action plan for inclusion of the ethnic Roma population?

**GERMANY**

* Taking into account the decision of the Bulgarian government to not ratify the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence): What measures does the government of Bulgaria implement in order to fight and prevent violence against women and domestic violence?
* When does the government of Bulgaria plan to revise the criminal law relating to young offenders?
* What kind of measures does the Bulgarian government take in order to prevent and, if necessary, criminalize, hate speech and resentments against Roma people, members of the LGBTI community and critical NGOs in general and particularly in the fields of politics and media?
* What measures does the Bulgarian government take to increase the knowledge on health issues, to reduce stereotypes, as well as to raise awareness for sexually transmissible diseases among young people? Are there any projects implemented at Bulgarian schools targeting these issues?
* In which ways does the Bulgarian government work to implement both the goals and the spirit of the National Strategy for the Child 2019-2030 and to improve the situation of children with disabilities?
* What measures does the Bulgarian government take in order to prevent contention among different ethnicities?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* The United States commends the Bulgarian authorities on banning the neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic Lukov March in Sofia this year, but is concerned at the growing anti-Semitism on social media and the increase in anti-Semitic graffiti and vandalism. What further steps is the Bulgarian government taking to combat anti-Semitism?
* What step is the government of Bulgaria taking to foster an independent and diverse media? What is the government doing to enable journalists to exercise their freedom of expression free from intimidation and threats of violence? Is the government taking steps to ensure compliance with the laws that require public disclosure of media ownership or to allow public access to the disclosed information?
* How is the Bulgarian government increasing protection for trafficking victims? What action is the government taking to increase the prosecution of traffickers and ensure significant sentences?

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

* What steps has the Government of Bulgaria taken to provide clarity in its Penal code with regard to the wording and scope of sexual assault offences including reducing the conditions required in order to constitute a lack of consent?
* What measures has the Bulgarian Government taken to uphold and implement the 2005 Protection Against Domestic Violence Act to protect against domestic violence and improve reporting of gender-based violence?
* What is Bulgaria doing to address hate speech and negative rhetoric against specific groups of society, for example Roma, LGBT+, illegal migrants, in particular by those in public positions?
* Can the Government of Bulgaria explain what progress has been made to introduce judicial review of prosecutorial refusals to open investigations?
* What action is the Government of Bulgaria considering to improve media freedom in Bulgaria, including media ownership transparency, the safety of journalists and media impartiality free from political interference?

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Bulgaria considering ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?
* Will the government of Bulgaria take the necessary steps to ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe (Istanbul Convention) and, in the meantime align its national legislation and practice with this Convention?
* Does the government of Bulgaria intend to amend the Criminal Code in order to facilitate access to justice, by removing the requirement for victims to prove 3 incidents of domestic violence before criminal charges can be filed?
* Is the government of Bulgaria considering to amend Articles 162 and 163 of the Criminal Code so as to include hate crimes and hate speech based on sexual orientation or gender identity?
* Which concrete measure have been taken by the government of Bulgaria to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the Roma community?

**URUGUAY**

* Following the recommendation submitted by Uruguay in the second cycle of the UPR, which was accepted by Bulgaria, additional information would be welcome on the measures taken in recent years to ensure the criminalization of hate crimes and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

**CANADA**

* The Committee welcomes the adoption in 2018 of the Anti-Corruption and Forfeiture of Assets Acts, but is concerned about the fact that so far very few convictions for high-level corruption was confirmed by final court decisions. What steps is Bulgaria taken to increase cooperation between the prosecution and investigative agencies?

**PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRF’s**

* Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
* Has the State-under-review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, *inter alia*, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?