

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA (FIRST BATCH)**

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What is the Government doing to ensure that journalists are adequately protected, and that reported crimes against journalists are duly investigated by police and prosecutors?
- How will the Government ensure the proper and full use of legislation on hate crime, and that open investigations into previous hate crime attacks, including against the LGBTI community, are completed?
- How will the Government ensure the Strategy and sectoral Action Plans for The Roma are followed by ministries, services and local authorities to tackle issues including the lack of documentation, underage marriage, exclusion from the education system and child begging?
- Regarding the plans for a national census, what steps will be taken to ensure that this is conducted after wide consultation, and identifies and protects the rights of minorities?
- What is the Government doing to tackle corruption in prisons and end the practice of political appointees running correctional establishments, including steps towards professional prison director positions directly managed by the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions?

GERMANY

- What measures has the Government taken to eliminate the allegedly widespread illegal charges for health services provided by gynecologists and to ensure access for Roma women and other socially excluded women?

SWEDEN

- Sweden welcomes the reforms undertaken to address the issue of gender-based violence, particularly the amendment to the *Law on Social Protection providing for the protection of women victims of trafficking and sexual violence*, in 2018, as well as the *Law on Prevention and Protection of Domestic Violence* of 2014 and its by-laws of 2015. Sweden also welcomes the adoption of the action plan for implementing the *Istanbul Convention*, until 2023. Considering the prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls also in the private sphere, what measures does the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia intend to take to combat gender-based violence in the private sphere?

- Sweden welcomes the formulation of the National Strategy for Development of the Penitentiary System to address the severe deficiencies reported by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) at their last visit. Noting the measures outlined in the response to the CPT by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in what way have the measures been effective in addressing the endemic corruption exacerbating the issues of the prison system?
- Sweden welcomes the formulation of a national Roma strategy, as well as the National Action Plan 2015-2016. As regards to education, Sweden takes note of the increase in pre-school attendance rates. However, problems with drop-outs persist in primary and secondary education. What measures is the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia taking to deal with this issue, including at the level of local institutions?

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? 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?