

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (FIRST BATCH)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- When will the government grant access to international human rights monitors to Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, which Russia is presently illegally occupying?
- What is the government doing to address the conclusions of the recent OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring mission that the 2018 Presidential election "took place in an overly controlled legal and political environment marked by continued pressure on critical voices" and that "restrictions on fundamental freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, as well as on candidate registration, limited the space for political engagement and resulted in a lack of genuine competition and an uneven playing field for candidates?"
- What steps is the government taking to hold accountable the perpetrators of unsolved killings and attacks on journalists, activists, and whistleblowers, such as Natalia Estemirova, Sergei Magnitsky, Oleg Kashin, and Andrei Rudomakha?
- How has the recent law decriminalizing certain forms of domestic violence affected the rights of women and children in Russia?
- What is the government doing to combat societal discrimination and violence against members of ethnic and religious minorities and LGBTI persons?
- What steps is the government taking to ensure that independent civil society groups are able to operate without the fear of violence or baseless prosecution in Chechnya?
- Why has the government been holding Church of Scientology members in St. Petersburg in extended pre-trial detention, either in jail or under house arrest, since June 2017?
- What is the government doing to prevent continued discrimination against peaceful religious minorities, including Jehovah's Witnesses, from discrimination in school and raids and attacks by police and individuals in their homes and places of worship? Why did the government deregister the Jehovah's Witnesses' church and seize its properties?
- Public reporting this past summer alleged worker deaths and labor abuses associated with the preparations for the June 2018 World Cup. As Russia nears the beginning of the World Cup, what is being done to protect workers striving to meet the coming deadline?

SLOVENIA

- Slovenia welcomes the adoption of the national strategy for women for the period 2017-2022. We would be interested to hear more about measures to prevent violence against women, including domestic violence.

- What measures have been adopted so far to eliminate the use of hate speech in regard to LGBTI people? Are there any intentions to repeal the 2013 "gay propaganda" law?

NORWAY

- What efforts has the Russian Federation undertaken and what steps does it plan to take in order to fully implement all final judgements in cases to which it has been a party at the European Court of Human Rights as required by Article 46.1 of the European Convention on Human Rights?
- What steps have the federal authorities of the Russian Federation undertaken to investigate the reports of detention, mistreatment and forced outing of alleged LGBTI persons in Chechnya, protect the victims and bring those responsible to justice?

SWEDEN

- The human rights situation in Russia's Northern Caucasus region is of great concern, with reported cases of torture and persecution, including against the LGBT society in Chechnya, and recent cases of attacks against the human rights organization Memorial, including the detention of the head of its Chechen office Oyub Titiev. What steps is the Government of Russia planning to take to improve the human rights situation in the region and to end the culture of impunity regarding crimes against human rights defenders?
- What is the timeline for the adoption and implementation of specific legislation concerning domestic violence?
- Counter-terrorism and anti-extremism legislation have led to repressive actions against religious communities, most notably a ban on Jehovah's Witnesses. How will the Government of Russia ensure that counter-terrorism and anti-extremism measures are remain in line with international law and that freedom of religion or belief is upheld?