

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**42nd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Czechia**

*Geneva, 23 January 2023*

Excellencies,

Slovenia wishes to thank the delegation of Czechia for their presentation today, as well as country’s dedication to the UPR process.

Slovenia welcomes Czechia’s solidarity with the refugees from Ukraine and its efforts to integrate them into society by granting them access to the labour market, healthcare, social support and education.

Slovenia appreciates Czechia's support for the Human Rights Council's recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

We are delighted to learn about the recognised priority of your government to establish the institute of Children Ombudsperson.

We recommend Czechia:

* step up the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and integrate children’s rights into school curricula;
* to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention);
* to extend the right of marriage to same-sex couples by amending the Civil Code, thereby removing the discrimination children brought up by same-sex couples face compared to the children brought up by heterosexual married couples;
* to change the legal definition of rape within the criminal code to be based on a lack of consent, rather than use of force or threat.

I thank you.