



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
29th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Serbia

Geneva, 24 January 2018

Mr President,

Slovenia would like to thank the distinguished delegation of Serbia for the national report and its presentation today.

As a strong advocate of women empowerment and gender equality Slovenia welcomes Serbia's harmonization of national legislation with the Istanbul Convention. We especially welcome the law on the prevention of domestic violence as well as amendments to provisions of the Criminal Code. However, we remain concerned over continual gender-based violence, including violence in family and partner relationships, sexual harassment and rape, disproportionately high unemployment rate affecting women and multiple forms of discrimination faced by women belonging to minorities.

We therefore wish to **recommend** to Serbia to:

1. formulate and implement systematic measures toward eradication of stereotypes regarding women in society creating a climate of zero tolerance for violence against women;
2. adopt the envisaged legislative amendments to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children, in all settings.

We note that, despite the country's efforts to prevent offences motivated by hatred, hate crimes remain a serious problem. We would like to encourage the Government to strengthen measures to eradicate all forms of social stigmatization of and discrimination and violence against persons belonging to minorities and other vulnerable groups.

Thank you.