



**Intervention of Slovenia
Review of Lithuania
26th Session of UPR Working Group
Geneva, 2 November 2016**

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the delegation of Lithuania and thanks them for their presentation. Slovenia commends Lithuania for the ratification of the OP-CAT and the Additional Protocols No. 15 and 16 to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

We welcome the establishment of the Department of National Minorities and take note with appreciation of the draft Law on National Minorities that is planned for adoption. While some progress has been made regarding the rights of minorities, we also note that several previously accepted **recommendations** on this matter are yet to be implemented.

We welcome the introduction of training in basic legal education in schools of general education as well as the training programme for the Lithuanian police officers on combating hate crime, which is the result of the cooperation between Lithuanian Ministry of Interior and the OSCE.

Despite these achievements, we note that challenges still persist in the areas of equality and non-discrimination.

We offer the following **recommendations** to the Government of Lithuania:

- to refrain from adopting legislation which may limit the rights and freedoms of LGBTI persons;
- to take all necessary measures to prevent and prosecute hate crimes, especially all forms of violence and harassment related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you.
