



CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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at the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

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Madam Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is my great pleasure to address the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement earlier made by Ireland on behalf of the European Union.

Elimination of violence against women is a prerequisite to achieving gender equality and rightful society. For these reasons, the Czech Republic strongly supports the adoption of Agreed Conclusions on this session's priority theme and reiterates the need for them to cover all forms of violence against women and girls while building on and re-enforcing the existing language.

In 2011, the Czech Government approved the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence for years 2011-2014. Domestic violence is one of the most common forms of violence against women in the Czech Republic. The Action Plan aims at systemic and comprehensive solutions. It includes several goals in areas such as support for persons endangered by domestic violence, work with violent persons, education and interdisciplinary cooperation, legislation or research in the field of domestic violence.

The implementation of the Action Plan is monitored by the Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence which is an advisory body to the Government Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. Independent experts, representatives of NGOs as well as public servants are represented in the Committee in order to secure its independence and interdisciplinarity. We consider cooperation with civil society crucial in our effort to tackle violence against women.

Important steps have also been taken in the field of legislation. In 2007, the institute of restraining order was incorporated into the Czech law. It was followed by the establishment of intervention centres which provide psychological, legal and social assistance to endangered persons and coordinate interdisciplinary cooperation between various public administration bodies and health-care institutions, courts and regional police forces.

Furthermore, the Government of the Czech Republic has recently prepared a bill on victims of crime. The law will expand the rights of the victims, including survivors of the violence against women, and the assistance provided to them.

Significant progress has been also achieved in the training of relevant actors, especially police officers, prosecutors and judges. Primary prevention has been also strengthened and attention has been paid to education of children and youth in the field of non-violent conflict resolution.

However, we still have a number of challenges to overcome, such as the prevalence and latent nature of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. Another important issue is the economic impact of domestic violence which still remains to be analyzed in detail. We plan to undertake a complex study on costs of domestic violence in the upcoming years.

Exchange of best practices among different countries with different experience is crucial for the achievement of a world free of all forms of violence against women. For this reason the Czech Republic will organize a side-event together with Peru, Zambia, UN Women and Norwegian NGO Alternative to Violence. Please accept my sincere invitation to this side event.

Madam Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, let me reassure you of the Czech Republic's commitment to promote gender equality and to protect human rights.