

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LATVIA – Add.2

### NETHERLANDS

- LGBT

What plans does the Latvian government have to introduce legislation that will provide same sex couples the same rights and social security as couples of the opposite sex?

- Naturalisation

What plans does the Latvian government have to further facilitate naturalization and reduce the number of residents without the Latvian nationality, which represent around 15% of the population as this percentage has been more or less stagnant over the last years? What percentage of the inhabitants without Latvian nationality, the so called non-citizens, minors excluded, is eligible for naturalization and what percentage belongs to the eight categories of persons mentioned in Latvia's Citizenship Law that cannot obtain Latvian citizenship through naturalization? What plans does the Latvian government have to further integrate into Latvia's society non-citizens born in Latvia or having resided in Latvia for more than 10 years?

- KNAB

What plans does the Latvian government have to improve the standing of KNAB and the effectiveness of its management and operations?

- Prison conditions

What plans does the Latvian government have to improve the conditions in penitentiary institutions, in particular men's prisons?

- Kindergartens

What is the Latvian government planning to do about the waiting lists at public kindergartens, considering that preschool education is compulsory as from the age of 5?

- Disabled persons

What plans does the Latvian government have to further increase the legal certainty of disabled persons by introducing legislation that allows for a partial or segmented transfer of a person's legal capacity?

### NORWAY

- Norway has concerns about the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office, and would value comments from the government regarding future plans for strengthening the institution.

- We would like to express our concerns regarding protection of victims of human trafficking as well as victims of domestic violence. We would appreciate an account of the government's strategy for victim protection and a comment on any plans for educating the judiciary and the police to enhance their competence in treating victims.
- Norway is worried about the relatively large number of people with non-citizen status. Would the government consider to enhance the naturalisation through free training courses for the naturalisation examinations and to remove the requirements for exams for particular vulnerable groups and people who are educated in Latvia? Does the government have a strategy for improving social and political rights of the non-citizens?
- We are concerned about the deterioration of children's rights as a result of the financial crisis, especially those children living in the rural areas and the children living and working on the streets. Would the government consider strengthening relevant control institutions in order to ensure these children's right to education, medical treatment and nourishment, as well as protecting them for being exploited?
- Considering that Latvian criminal law does not recognise hate speech related to homophobia and transphobia, Norway would welcome the government's view of the need to amend the law in this regard.