



REFERENCE: CERD/98<sup>th</sup> session/FU/MJA/ks

10 May 2019

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 98<sup>th</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of the Convention, and Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year of the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/SRB/CO/2-5), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined second to fifth periodic reports, at its 94<sup>th</sup> session held in November – December 2017.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined sixth to ninth periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document by 27 April 2020.

### **Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations**

The Committee takes note of the measures taken by the State party to fight against hate crimes, such as: the joint trainings for judges, public prosecutors and police officers to improve their knowledge and skills to prosecute hate crimes and ensure sanctions against perpetrators, the establishment of services for information and support in higher public prosecutor's offices; the issuance of general mandatory instructions in 2018 which designate certain prosecutors as contact persons for hate crimes; and welcomes the issuance of Guidelines for Criminal Prosecution of Hate Crimes in the Republic of Serbia to help public prosecutors understand how to conduct effective prosecutions of hate crimes. The Committee recommends that the State party continue its efforts to fight hate crimes and provide updated information on the implementation and impact of these measures in its next periodic report.

His Excellency Mr. Dejan Zlatanović  
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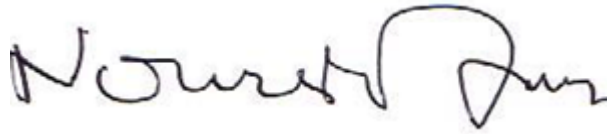
### **Paragraph 17 of the Concluding Observations**

The Committee welcomes information that special records are kept on hate crimes committed under Article 54a of the Criminal Code and that the public prosecutors offices submit quarterly reports to the Republic Prosecutor's Office, which include data from these special records. The Committee also welcomes some information provided on hate crime investigations and prosecutions; however, it regrets the lack of information on redress provided to victims of hate crimes, the lack of comprehensive information on the number of cases currently pending before the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office and before the courts, and the lack of comprehensive information on the nature of the hate crimes. The Committee requests updated detailed information and statistics on hate crimes in its next periodic report disaggregated by ethnicity, the number and nature of racist hate crimes reported, prosecutions and convictions, the number of pending cases, and information on redress provided to victims.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Nouredine Amir  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination