



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Working Session 12 FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS I Human Rights Education

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 19 – 30 September 2016

Mr./Ms. Moderator,

Since the very beginning of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, Slovenia has been actively promoting human rights education, both at home and in its foreign policy. Allow me to mention in this regard a project that we developed during Slovenia's chairmanship of the OSCE a decade ago. The project, titled "Our Rights", is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has to date reached more than 185,000 children in 26 countries. The project's educational materials are available in 23 different languages.

At a time when so many children are in desperate situation due to conflicts, natural and ecological disasters, and economic dislocation, Participating States should take all feasible measures to ensure the necessary care and protection of refugee and migrant children. Raising awareness of their rights is an important part of such policies.

Slovenia has a good practice to share in this regard. After half a million migrants and refugees passed through our country last year, we saw the need to raise awareness about the rights of refugee children among local children. Thus, we developed a simple teaching tool based on the experience of the "Our Rights" project. By applying the tool in schools, about 40,000 Slovenian children had a chance to think and talk about what migrant and refugee children go through, what challenges they face, and what rights they have in the difficult situation they found themselves in.

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm that Slovenia is dedicated to further spreading human rights education, and that to this end it stands ready to make available to the international community its projects on human rights education.

Thank you.