**Types of Questions Addressed to Governments during First UPR Cycle (2008-2011)**

**Excerpts from the Advance Written Questions documents[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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| **To** | **From** | **Question** | **Area**  |
| Ukraine | Denmark | What tangible measures will the Ukrainian Government take to ensure sufficient legal safeguards for detainees during the initial period of detention?  | Detention conditions  |
| Ukraine | United Kingdom | Could Ukraine please give us further information about its programmes to tackle HIV/AIDS? How does Ukraine react to the latest UN figures indicating Kiev and Mikolaev regions have become the first HIV/AIDS pandemic regions in Europe? | HIV - Aids |
| Ukraine | Germany | With regard to para. 5 of the OHCHR's compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/2/UKR//2) Germany notes the concerns expressed by the CESCR, but also by CAT and CERD, on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights' (National Ombudsman Institution) reported lack of independence and its ineffectiveness in defending economic, social and cultural rights. Which measures did Ukraine implement to ensure the independence of the Ombudsman? And which measures did Ukraine take to widen public access, including by minority groups, to the Commissioner's Office at the regional, district and municipal levels?  | NHRI Treaty bodies |
| Ukraine | Netherlands | Despite the progress that has been made since a couple of years, cases of torture and ill-treatment have still been reported. What further measures does Ukraine envision to address this?  | Torture and other CID treatment |
| Ukraine | Sweden | Amnesty International and other non-governmental organisations report that rape, assault and other violence against women continue to be widespread. Civil society organizations report that police authorities often refrain from acting on complaints of violence against women. Could the government of Ukraine elaborate on what measures it is considering to eliminate violence against women?  | Women's rights/  |
| Ukraine | Sweden | ILO and civil society organizations have noted that the situation of children in Ukraine continues to be problematic, including with regard to child labor, poor school facilities with high incidence of students discontinuing their studies, a high percentage of children living in institutions and inadequate child health. Especially children with disabilities appear to be discriminated against in these circumstances. Could the government of Ukraine elaborate on what measures it is taking to ensure that all children are able to fully enjoy their right to education?  | Rights of the Child |
| Russian Federation | Czech Republic | How is ensured access to education of children with disabilities? | Rights of the Child/right to education |
| Russian Federation | Netherlands | Several journalists were killed and harassed in Russia in 2008 (Jevlojev, Alishajev, Abashilov, Beketov, Politkovskaja). With Ms. Baburova being the latest victim in 2009. In the past cases involving the murder of journalists were rarely solved. Could Russia indicate what measures it has taken to improve the security for journalists? | Freedom of the press |
| Russian Federation | Denmark | The UN Committee against Torture is concerned about the numerous allegations of torture, and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture has not been able to visit Chechnya and North Caucasus under his usual terms of operation, including unhindered access and possibility to interview anyone privately. What is being done to meet the recommendations from CAT, and when will the Special Rapporteur be invited to visit Chechnya and North Caucasus under the usual terms of operation? | Treaty bodies |
| Russian Federation | Netherlands | Statistics show a rising tendency of extremist violence and hate crimes in Russia especially towards minority groups such as migrants and LGBT, in spite of a tougher attitude of law enforcement and more convictions against these types of crime. What measures is Russia considering to curb this negative trend, especially in light of the vulnerable position of migrants as a result of the financial crisis?  | Racial discriminationSexual rightsMigrants  |
| Russian Federation | United Kingdom | What steps is Russia taking to tackle penal reform, particularly the issues of independent monitoring of prisons, over-crowding; abuse of prisoners; and the prevalence of serious health problems, such as hepatitis, TB and HIV/Aids?  | Detention conditions HIV-Aids |
| Macedonia | United Kingdom | We welcome improvements made in addressing the rights of the disabled people through the opening of new day care centres countrywide. Could you provide some more detail on how the authorities are ensuring that these centres are accessible to their clients and that the staff who operate them are properly qualified and trained?  | Disabilities |
| Macedonia | United Kingdom | We recognise that national legislation now provides for the compulsory education of Roma children. Could you provide some more detail on how the authorities are addressing the high drop out rate of Roma children, often due to poor economic circumstances?  | Minorities |
| Macedonia | Netherlands | Domestic and other violence against women and children is a persistent and common problem. Reports indicate an increase in victims of domestic violence, including child abuse. Cultural norms, including victims' concern over possible shame to the family, discouraged the reporting of violence against women and children, and victims of domestic violence rarely filed criminal charges. Although the law specifically criminalizes domestic violence and prescribes substantial punishments for violators, there are reports that the authorities rarely applied the law in practice and that the requirements for proof were more stringent than for other violent crimes. What does the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia plan to do to improve early detection and prevention of domestic violence against women and children, including sexual abuse or harassment?  | Women's rightsRights of the child |
| Armenia | Czech Republic | How is ensured investigation of crimes of torture and other ill-treatment and how is ensured reparation and compensation for their victims? What human rights education is provided to the police and prison staff? How is ensured non-admissibility of any evidence obtained through torture or ill-treatment before the court? | Torture and other CID treatment |
| Armenia | Germany | Some stakeholders have raised concerns over the lack of qualified medical professionals in rural areas and even regional medical centres and the resulting insufficient access to adequate general health-care services, including reproductive health care services for women. We would be interested to know more about strategies to overcome these regional discrepancies in access to health care./ (ARM/3 49., 50.) | Right to health |
| Armenia | Netherlands | The Open Society Institute alleges in its submission for this UPR that the Police Monitoring Group does not have access to all places of detention such as police stations. Would it be possible to broaden access of the Police Monitoring Group to all premises and facilities of the police where people may be detained including police stations? | Detention conditions |
| Armenia | United Kingdom | We note concerns raised by Armenian civil society on the issue of gender equality and in particular the issue of domestic violence. What efforts are being taken to address the issue of domestic violence, including issues such as psychological abuse, marital rape and sexual assault? | Women's rights |
| Georgia  | Denmark | Overcrowding is a serious problem in Georgian prisons. One way of reducing overcrowding is to use alternative measures to detention and imprisonment. The new Criminal Procedure Code provides tools to that end. How will the government encourage the judiciary to use these measures? When does the government expect the new Criminal Procedure Code to be fully implemented?  | Detention conditions |
| Georgia | Switzerland | On several occasions, for example in January this year, demonstrators have reportedly been dispersed illegally and sometimes violently. Have these acts been independently investigated? Have the processes resulted in responsible agents being brought to justice? | Freedom of assembly |
| Georgia | Netherlands | In 2008 the Government adopted the Strategy and Action Plan for IDP’s, which is elaborated on in part H of the national report. In light of the recommendations and concerns expressed in paragraph 79 of the OHCHR compilation and paragraph 75 of the stakeholder report on the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan, how will the Government ensure that the goals as set out in the Strategy and Action plan will be realised for all IDP’s such a manner that their socio-economic rights are secured? Furthermore, concerning the process of closing collective centres and concerns about the compatibility with international standards of evictions of IDP’s, as stated in paragraph 80 of the OHCHR report and paragraph 76 of the stakeholder report, could the Government clarify in what way the new process adequately protects the legitimate rights of IDP’s guaranteeing an individual approach to each IDP-household? | Internally displaced persons  |

1. Document compiled by Mariana Berbec Rostas, manager with the Human Rights and Governance Grants program of the Open Society Foundations, June 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)