



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Office of the United Nations and  
to the other International Organizations  
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
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**Geneva, 05 February 2014**

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**German questions and recommendations to the Dominican Republic**

**German National Statement**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of the Dominican Republic to the UPR and commends the Dominican Republic for the progress achieved since the last review.

Germany is, however, concerned about the discrepancies between the Dominican Republic's legal standards and their insufficient reflection in practice, especially with regard to violence against women and excessive use of force by police officers.

Moreover, Germany is troubled by the discrimination that migrants face, in particular families of Haitian descent, most of which have been in the country for decades.

Germany therefore makes the following recommendations:

First, Germany recommends that the Government of the Dominican Republic take more effective measures to reduce violence against women, especially in the domestic sphere, to eliminate the occurrence of "femicidios" and to reduce gender inequality.

Second, Germany recommends that the Government of the Dominican Republic increase its efforts to ensure effective investigation into the high number of homicides and into the abuse of power by police officials and to hold those responsible accountable.

Finally, with regard to the ruling of the Constitutional Court issued on 23 September 2013, Germany recommends that the Government of the Dominican Republic ensure that its treatment of all affected persons is in line with its international human rights obligations and that it seek the technical advice of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to identify, prevent and reduce statelessness.

Thank you, Mr President.

Germany has submitted the following advance questions:

1. Germany remains particularly concerned that high rates of gender violence continue to persist in the Dominican Republic. Such crimes are not always prosecuted and convictions are rarely achieved. What measures will the Government of the Dominican Republic implement in order to prevent such violence and to increase support for women who have been subjected to it?
2. It is worrying that reports of illegal and excessive use of violence by the police forces in the Dominican Republic continue. Can the Government of the Dominican Republic outline what progress it has made in regard to the monitoring and investigation of allegations of abuse and crimes committed by police officers?
3. Germany remains concerned about discriminatory attitudes that persist on a societal level in the Dominican Republic. What steps is the government taking to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the Dominican Republic, including but not limited to, women, migrants and LGBTI persons?
4. How does the Government of the Dominican Republic intend to support those persons on its territory that have not yet been formally registered and do not possess legal documents to prove their residence status?

