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Mr Miloš VYSTRČIL

President of the Senate of the Czech Republic

Ms Miluše HORSKÁ

Chairperson of the Committee on Social Policy

Mr Jiří DRAHOŠ

Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions of the Senate of the Czech Republic

Mr Tomáš GOLÁŇ

Chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of the Senate of the Czech Republic

Ms Miroslava NĚMČOVÁ

Senate Rapporteur for law proposal (print no. 119)

Strasbourg, 8 July 2021

Dear President, Chairpersons, Rapporteur,

As Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, my mandate is to foster the effective observance of human rights in all 47 member states of the Council of Europe. To this end, an important part of my work is to engage in dialogue with the governments and parliaments of member states, and to assist them in addressing possible shortcomings in their laws and practices.

In this instance, I am writing to you to express my support for the *Proposal for a law for a one-time financial compensation for persons who were the victim of unlawful sterilisation* (Senate print no. 119). I was pleased that the draft law was recently adopted by the Chamber of Deputies and has subsequently moved to the Senate for further consideration.

In my letter to the Chamber of Deputies in September 2020, which you can find [here](#), I noted that the draft law provides an important opportunity for elected representatives in the Czech Republic to address the historic injustice against women, in particularly also those of Roma origin, that became victims of forced and coercive sterilisations. Specifically, the draft law would provide for a significant step towards establishing an accessible and effective mechanism to ensure that victims receive reparations for the harm suffered, as required by the Czech Republic's human rights obligations. I therefore call on members of the Senate to adopt the draft law, and thus to take advantage of the opportunity it provides to allow the victims to experience a measure of justice and to move forward.

I would appreciate if you could share this letter with all members of the Senate, including the members of your respective Committees.

Sincerely,



Dunja Mijatović