



## **SUBMISSION COVER PAGE**

# **BULGARIA**

**Twenty-second Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
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**Submitted September 2015 by:**

**The Advocates for Human Rights**, a non-governmental organization with special consultative status, and the **Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation**  
in cooperation with **the Alliance for Protection against Domestic Violence**

The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a non-profit organization that seeks to implement international human rights standards in order to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, we build broad constituencies in the United States and select global communities. The Advocates holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Advocates and BGRF have worked in partnership since 1994, publishing human rights reports on domestic violence in Bulgaria in 1996 and 2008, training court monitors in 2004, consulting on drafting and passing the 2005 domestic violence law, and training police and judges on effective implementation of the new law.

The Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF) is a non-governmental organization based in Sofia that promotes social equality and women's human rights in Bulgaria through research, education and advocacy program. BGRF works in the fields of gender equality, prevention of domestic violence, reproductive rights and anti-discrimination by providing information, research, analyses and draft laws, conducting campaigns and lobbying for legislative changes, training and consulting with professionals, and working in networks with other organizations, public institutions and experts.

The Alliance for Protection against Domestic Violence (APADV) is a registered network of ten active Bulgarian NGOs working on domestic violence and other forms of violence against women and girls. The Alliance promotes changes in legislation and policies, monitors the implementation of legislation, and works on standards for services for victims of violence, prevention, education and training, and intersectoral cooperation.

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