

Mrs. Emilia Stefanova-Veleva
Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria
The Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria
29 Pindari Cres
O'Malley ACT 2606
Australia

RE: Bulgaria's official position regarding the Macedonian language.

29th March 2022

Dear Ambassador,

We, the undersigned, ethnic Macedonians, write to you to express our concern regarding the official position of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria to not recognise the Macedonian language as a unique and distinct language, spoken by Macedonians wherever they live throughout the world.

We are certain you are aware that every State and Federal jurisdiction in Australia officially recognizes the Macedonian language as unique and distinct, spoken by Macedonians living in Australia. Additionally, this is the position of many jurisdictions throughout the world, specifically where Macedonians live, including the United States of America, and the countries of the European Union. By comparison, the Republic of Bulgaria is the only state that does not recognize the Macedonian language and denies that it exists and is still spoken by Macedonians.

The Macedonian language, was recognized in 1977 at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in Athens. This is a clear indication that the Macedonian language has international recognition and has formal use in many countries.

Presently there are over 300,000 Macedonians, Australian citizens, living throughout Australia, who actively use the Macedonian language in their everyday life. At the same time, many of them receive services in the Macedonian language, from many government agencies. This means that your position, and the position of your government, to not-recognise the Macedonian language, as a unique and distinct language is an affront to every Macedonian-Australian citizen. Your position defies all scientific knowledge and understanding on the origins of the Macedonian language and

its people, is without basis and is in contravention of the human rights treaty on the rights and protection of the Macedonian people and their language.

We would also like to use this opportunity to ask you a very simple question:

Does the Republic of Bulgaria recognise the existence of a Macedonian ethnic community in Australia as separate and distinct from other ethnic communities and with its own history, tradition, culture and language?

We are certain that not only the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Macedonians living in Australia but the Australian authorities themselves, would like to know your answer to this question.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Kind Regards,

A group of Australian citizens

GOCE DOJCINSKI (SYDNEY) G. Dojinski.

BORIS GRIGOROSKI (PERTH) ~~Boris~~

Naume KAJMAKOSKI (PERTH) Naume

Natalija SOTIROSKA (PERTH) Natalija

ROBERT GRBERSKI (SYDNEY) R. G.

TONI SEKULOVSKI (SYDNEY) Toni

ROBERT NGDELJKOVIC (SYDNEY) Rob.

SLAVE TASKOVSKI (SYDNEY) Slave

VICENT RIZOVSKI (SYDNEY) Vicent

DARKO GEEHEVSKI (SYDNEY) Darko

STOJCE STEPANOVSKI (SYDNEY) Stojce

STOJCE GORJANSKI (SYDNEY) Stojce

TRAJCE PULAKOSKI (MELBOURNE) Trajce