

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Italy

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Italy.

We welcome Italy's engagement for the full respect of human rights and welcome action outlined in the report, in particular for the protection against all forms of discrimination as well the specific attention paid to LGBTI individual's rights in everyday life.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Develop and implement an integrated action plan that includes prevention and response to cyberbullying among children and young people.
2. Ensure that all arms transfers and exports comply with Italy's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.
3. Extend the provision of paid paternity leave and promote the equitable distribution of parental responsibilities between women and men.
4. Enact legislation on the recognition of both same-sex parents involved in the growth of a child, as well as extending their access to adoption on par with others.

I wish Italy all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR34 – El Salvador

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of El Salvador.

We welcome steps outlined in the national report and the efforts undertaken for the achievement of gender equality, including its recent gender-balanced cabinet. We are however deeply concerned over the continued criminalization of women and girls for obstetric emergencies and miscarriages.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Decriminalize abortion as well adopt measures to avoid the incarceration of women as a result of obstetric emergencies and miscarriages.
2. Develop health care programs, prioritizing the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, that include access to comprehensive sexuality education as well as access to contraception, with particular attention to zones of high vulnerability.
3. Create a national plan to take joint measures with the objective of investigating, prosecuting and eradicating the high rates of impunity of gender-based violence.
4. Encourage the Legislative Assembly to approve the Law on Gender Identity.
5. Implement inclusive and anti-discriminatory policies with the aim of preventing, condemning and prohibiting all types of violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons.

I wish El Salvador all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Gambia

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Gambia.

We welcome the steps outlined in the report and the significant advances that have been made since the new Government took office, including with regards to the death penalty and look forward to its formal abolishment.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Urgently review and bring in conformity with international and regional human rights obligations restrictive laws on the right to freedom of expression, including the relevant sections of the Criminal Code.
2. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and repeal any discriminatory laws.
3. Effectively implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act by adopting the necessary regulations and allocating adequate resources.
4. Amend legislation to decriminalize abortion in all circumstances as well as ensure that safe and legal abortion services and post-abortion care are available.
5. Reduce the high rate of maternal and infant mortality, including by ensuring the availability of comprehensive sexual, reproductive, and child health services, and that all births are assisted by a skilled birth attendant.

I wish Gambia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Bolivia

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Bolivia.

We welcome steps outlined in the report and in particular the efforts to advance gender equality. We would also like to welcome recent action to allow for the full exercise of the human rights of persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity without discrimination.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Develop a legal framework that recognizes and protects the right to form a family between people of the same sex, granting them the same rights conferred to other couples to marry and form unions.
2. Eliminate criminal sanctions against women and girls in cases of voluntary abortion and eliminate all barriers that currently hinder access to legal, affordable, and timely termination of pregnancy.
3. Approve as early as possible the national plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health with sufficient resources to ensure its effective implementation.
4. Foster an environment in which human rights defenders can freely carry out their legitimate human rights work and publicly recognize human rights defenders as legitimate and vital actors in society.

I wish Bolivia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Fiji

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Fiji.

We welcome Fiji's engagement for the full respect of human right and welcome steps outlined in the report, in particular efforts to advance gender equality.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Revise the current Family Life Education curriculum to comply with the revised UN International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, guarantee its implementation throughout the national school system and provide ongoing professional development for teachers to ensure they are equipped to teach it.
2. Develop a national LGBTI strategy in collaboration with the LGBTI community to guide its work in eliminating multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination against LGBTI people.
3. Enact a holistic Anti-Discrimination or Equality Legislation to comprehensively address social discrimination faced by the LGBTI community.
4. Develop and implement policies to increase opportunities for women in the formal employment sector in order to address the gender gap in labour force participation.

I wish Fiji all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR34 – San Marino

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of San Marino.

We welcome steps taken by San Marino to tackle discrimination and applaud its revision of its legal code, in particular its inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity as a basis of discrimination. We look forward to continued steps taken to improve the situation of human rights in the country.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Eliminate criminal sanctions against women and girls in cases of voluntary abortion and eliminate all barriers that currently hinder access to legal, affordable, and timely termination of pregnancy.
2. Enact general legislation on the recognition of both same-sex parents involved in the growth of a child as well as extending access to adoption to same-sex couples on par with others.

I wish San Marino all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR34 - Kazakhstan

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Kazakhstan.

We welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Incorporate comprehensive sexuality education in the school curriculum at all levels of schooling and out of school settings.
2. Criminalize all forms of violence against women, adopt legislation to combat sexual harassment in the workplace and revise the criminal code to ensure that the definition of rape is in line with international standards.
3. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses direct and indirect discrimination and encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Eliminate any form of restriction to women's choice of profession and strengthen policies to address discriminatory practices limiting women's economic empowerment.
5. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

I wish Kazakhstan all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Angola

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Angola.

We welcome steps taken to tackle discrimination and applaud the revision of the penal code, as well as its new discrimination law, in particular its inclusion of sexual orientation as a basis of discrimination.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Abolish or amend all laws and policies which limit the activities carried out by civil society and human rights defenders and adopt a national law for the promotion and protection of human rights defenders.
3. Develop and implement a national plan to combat and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
4. Amend the Penal Code to decriminalize abortion in all cases, enhance access for women to inclusive health-care services by trained personnel and ensure that all women and girls have access to affordable and modern forms of contraception.

I wish Angola all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Iran

Mr. President,

Iceland expresses its concern that the rights of women and girls continue to be violated in Iran. We are troubled that the authorities would arrest women protesting against the compulsory use of the hijab. The rights of women human rights defenders must be protected and respected.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Implement a moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty.
2. Identify and remedy all laws that have a discriminatory impact on persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, including the Bahá'í community.
3. With a view to fully decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults, repeal relevant articles of the penal code, including those that impose the death penalty and flogging for offences related to consensual same-sex conducts between adults.
4. Adopt the Women's Safety against Domestic Violence draft bill to criminalize domestic violence.
5. Provide information and education for young people on reproductive health in all schools, in line with international standards.

I wish Iran all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR34 - Madagascar

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Madagascar.

We welcome steps outlined in the national report and look forward to continued steps taken to improve the situation of human rights in the country.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Amend legislation which unduly restricts freedom of expression in line with international and regional human rights law, including by decriminalizing defamation and abolishing insult laws;
2. Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and remove legal, administrative and practical barriers to accessing safe and legal abortion services;
3. Ensure all women and girls can access sexual and reproductive health information, services and commodities, including emergency contraception and other modern methods of contraception, as well as comprehensive sexuality education both in and out of school.
4. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses direct and indirect discrimination and encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Madagascar all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Iraq

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Iraq.

We welcome steps outlined in the report and look forward to continued steps taken to improve the situation of human rights in the country.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Implement a moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty.
2. Investigate and end violence against and killings of LGBTI people and develop and implement public awareness campaigns directed at changing harmful attitudes towards LGBTI persons.
3. Adopt the draft law on domestic violence to criminalize all forms of violence against women, including forced intimate relationships.
4. Accelerate the process of revising the penal code, the code of criminal procedure, the personal status act, and other national legislation, in order to harmonize it with international standards, especially CEDAW and CRC, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

I wish Iraq all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Slovenia

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Slovenia.

We welcome Slovenia's engagement for the full respect of human rights and its broad commitment to cooperating with the Human Rights Council and other international mechanisms. We also welcome steps taken by Slovenia outlined in the report and in particular efforts to advance gender equality and the right to a healthy environment.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Revise the definition of rape in the Criminal Code so that it is based on the absence of consent, bringing it in line with international human rights law and standards.
2. Strengthen activities and laws aimed at the elimination of discrimination in society, other intolerance and hate speech against minorities and other groups, including based on sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics.
3. Enact general legislation on the recognition of both same-sex parents involved in the growth of a child, as well as extending access to adoption to same-sex couples on par with others.
4. Develop and implement a national strategy on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

I wish Slovenia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR34 - Egypt

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Egypt and makes the following recommendations:

1. Implement a moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty.
2. Introduce legal provisions to combat rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence in line with international law and standards.
3. End the arrest and prosecution of people for their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and repeal laws criminalising consensual same sex relations.
4. Abolish or amend all laws and policies which limit the activities carried out by civil society and human rights defenders and adopt a national law for the promotion and protection of human rights defenders.

I wish Egypt all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR34 – Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

We welcome steps outlined in the national report and look forward to continued steps taken to improve the situation of human rights in the country.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure harmonization of legislation on domestic violence and continue strengthening referral mechanisms in order to provide protection and support to victims of domestic violence.
2. Ensure equal opportunities for women and men in the labour market by adopting family strategies aimed at achieving gender equality and adequate work-life balance for both women and men, narrowing and closing the gender wage gap, as well as ensuring access to necessary social and health-care services for new parents and children.
3. Introduce education on human rights and gender equality, as well as comprehensive sexuality education for children and young persons in the formal and non-formal education system.
4. Pass and implement laws that would recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of co-habiting couples in same-sex unions.

I wish Bosnia & Herzegovina all success for its review.

I thank you