

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - New Zealand

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of New Zealand.

We welcome the efforts made by New Zealand in the advancement of human rights. We are pleased with our cooperation on the advancement of gender equality, protection of the rights of LGBTI persons, as well as persons with disabilities and welcome developments articulated in the national report.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Remove abortion from the Crimes Act of 1961 and amend the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act of 1977 so abortion is decriminalized and implement recommendation "Model A" from the Law Commission report on "alternative approaches to abortion law".
2. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in line with international human rights standards.
3. Continue to strengthen efforts to combat domestic and all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, particularly in relation to Maori and Pasifika women and girls, as well as women and girls with disabilities.
4. Add gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristic as specifically prohibited grounds of discrimination in Article 21 of the Human Rights Act of 1993.

I wish New Zealand all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - Afghanistan

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan.

Iceland notes positive achievements in combatting corruption, signing of the Law on the Prevention and Prohibition of Harassment of Women and Children, and the prohibition of virginity testing.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Take all measures to protect and support journalists, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and civil society organizations; investigate all attacks against them; and bring the perpetrators to justice.
2. Refer cases of violence against women to the criminal justice system, not to mediation or traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.
3. Take concrete steps to realize the right to primary and secondary education for girls by ending discriminatory practices, recruiting more female teachers, and ensuring that all schools have adequate boundary walls, toilets and access to safe water.
4. Ensure the active participation of women in the peace process.

I wish Afghanistan all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR32- Chile

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Chile.

We applaud the significant progress made by Chile on the rights of LGBTI persons and towards gender equality. We welcome the law from 2017 which decriminalized abortion in certain cases.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Eliminate existing barriers that deny women access to safe and legal voluntary termination of pregnancy and introduce stricter justification requirements to prevent the blanket use by medical institutions and practitioners of conscientious objection.
2. Adopt a comprehensive legal definition of all forms of discrimination against women and establish the principle of equality in legislation.
3. Review and revise laws, policies and regulations to address violence against women, also in digital contexts, in compliance with international human rights obligations.
4. Guarantee, and promote, the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, and to protect journalists and human rights defenders, also in the online environment.

I wish Chile all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR32 - Viet Nam

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Viet Nam.

Iceland welcomes the efforts made by Viet Nam to improve gender equality as well as ensuring the rights of LGBTI persons.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Prohibit all forms of violence against women and strengthen women's access to justice.
2. Enact legislation to ensure access to gender affirmation treatment and legal gender recognition.
3. Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples.
4. Address the root causes of son preference and the misuse of medical technologies for sex selection without curtailing women's access to safe abortion services.
5. Release human rights defenders sentenced to prison for exercising their right to freedom of expression.
6. Impose a moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty.

I wish Viet Nam all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - Uruguay

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Uruguay.

Iceland commends the significant progress made by Uruguay in promoting the rights of LGBTI persons and drastically reducing maternal mortality. We also acknowledge the important achievements made in the field of access to education for women and girls.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Take measures to ensure that all women have access to legal abortion and post-abortion services.
2. Introduce stricter justification requirements to prevent the blanket use by medical institutions and practitioners of conscientious objection to performing an abortion.
3. Introduce education on sexual and reproductive health to prevent early pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.
4. Take all measures to combat discrimination against LGBTI persons, investigate all acts of violence motivated by the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim and bring the perpetrators to justice.
5. Ensure that health services are accessible to persons with disabilities, and train health professionals in treating persons with disabilities, observing the right to free and informed consent.

I wish Uruguay all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR32 - Yemen

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Yemen.

Iceland welcomes the consultations between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis convened in Stockholm in December and hope that the Agreement paves the way for a political solution to the crisis.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure the active participation of women in the peace process.
2. Immediately halt the practice of arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearances, and torture and other ill-treatment.
3. Take active measures to promote the right of girls to education through social mobilization campaigns, with the aim of changing attitudes to girls' education.
4. Revise legislation to finally establish a minimum age for marriage in compliance with international human rights standards.
5. With the support from UN agencies, donor governments and civil society organizations, promote access to psychosocial support for persons living in Yemen.
6. Continue efforts to halt the conflict in Yemen and implement the recommendations made by the Group of Eminent Experts.

I wish Yemen all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - Vanuatu

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu

Iceland recognizes that Vanuatu is one of the world's most at-risk nations to natural disasters and welcomes the adoption of the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy. Iceland also commends the efforts made by Vanuatu to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Amend its Constitution and other relevant legislation to fully incorporate the principle of equality between women and men and prohibit both direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and private spheres.
2. Revise legislation to raise the minimum age for marriage in compliance with international human rights standards.
3. Revise legislation so that women can access legal, safe, and voluntary termination of pregnancy; and guarantee the provision of the respective medical services.
4. Ensure that women, including those living on the outer islands, are included and actively participate in national planning, decision-making and implementation processes, in particular concerning disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management and climate change policies.
5. Take further efforts to protect and integrate LGBTI persons into society.

I wish Vanuatu all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR32 - FYRM

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Iceland welcomes proposed amendments to the law against discrimination which would extend the list of grounds of discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure access for all women, including rural women and women from vulnerable groups, to reproductive health-care services.
2. Make medical abortion available and accessible throughout the country, in line with the WHO Safe Abortion Guidelines, and urgently remove waiting periods, biased counselling and unnecessary administrative burdens.
3. Ensure universal coverage by the state health insurance of all costs related to sexual and reproductive health and modern contraceptive methods.
4. Effectively investigate and prosecute hate crimes, including against journalists and LGBTI persons.
5. Provide training for judicial authorities about the right to equality and prohibition of discrimination based on international human rights standards and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.
6. Investigate allegations and prosecute all instances of political pressure, intimidation, misuse of administrative resources and vote-buying.

I wish Macedonia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - Comoros

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Comoros.

Iceland commends the Comoros for adopting an act on combating violence against women and for prioritizing education. Iceland welcomes the increase in female public servants but notes with concern the rather limited participation of Comorian women in political life.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICCPR, the ICESCR and OPCAT.
2. Amend legislation to enable Comorian women to enjoy equal rights to pass on their Comorian nationality to non-Comorian spouses.
3. To adopt concrete measures to promote women's full and equal participation in political and public life and accelerate women's full and equal participation in elected and appointed bodies.
4. Intensify efforts to increase the school attendance rate and reduce the drop-out rate, especially among girls.
5. Repeal all provisions giving rise to discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

I wish the Comoros all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR32 - Slovakia

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Slovakia.

Iceland commends Slovakia for the progress made in strengthening the policy and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure equal access to all levels of education for every child without discrimination.
2. Ratify the Istanbul Convention.
3. Revise the Health Care Act to ensure access to safe abortion and remove requirements for mandatory counselling, medically unnecessary waiting periods and third-party authorization.
4. Ensure universal coverage by the state health insurance of all costs related to sexual and reproductive health and modern contraceptive methods.
5. Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples.
6. Extend the provisions of domestic hate speech legislation to cover sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.
7. In light of the killing of journalist Ján Kuciak and his partner Martina Kušnírová, take all measures to protect and support journalists working to uncover corruption and other matters of the highest public interest.

I wish Slovakia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR32 - Eritrea

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Eritrea.

Iceland welcomes the peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia and hope it will positively impact the human rights situation in Eritrea.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
2. Ensure that women have equal representation in the Government, particularly at high levels of decision-making, in legislative assemblies, in the judiciary and in the civil service.
3. Revise the penal code so that women can access legal, safe, and voluntary termination of pregnancy; and guarantee the provision of the respective medical services.
4. Release without further delay all journalists detained arbitrarily, allow independent media to resume operating and let foreign media visit the country.
5. Repeal provisions that criminalize homosexuality.
6. Impose a moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty.

I wish Eritrea all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - Cyprus

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Cyprus.

Iceland commends Cyprus for the considerable progress made in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and for ratifying the Istanbul Convention. Iceland also commends Cyprus for making progress in ensuring access to asylum procedures and protection from *refoulement*.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat racial stereotyping, discriminatory attitudes, hate speech and hate crimes and ensure enforcement of relevant legislation.
2. Strengthen the representation of women in decision-making positions in political life with a view to reaching the targets and quotas included in the national action plan on gender equality.
3. Ensure the active participation of women in the peace process.
4. Include gender identity as a prohibited ground for discrimination in equal treatment legislation and adopt an action plan to combat homophobia and transphobia in all areas of everyday life.

I wish Cyprus all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - Dominican Republic

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Dominican Republic.

Iceland welcomes the significant efforts made by the Dominican Republic to strengthen its capacity to prosecute incidents of sexual exploitation of children and notes the unique work carried out by the Centre for the Promotion of Adolescents' Sexual and Reproductive Health with the support of the Ministry of Women.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Promote and protect the human rights of LGBTI persons and to combat structural discrimination.
2. Develop long-term strategies to overcome stereotyped views on the role and position of women.
3. Urgently approve the bill entitled "Comprehensive System against Violence against Women" and assign the necessary funding for its implementation.
4. Abolish criminal sanctions on women and girls who undergo abortion and revise legislation so that they can access legal, safe, and voluntary termination of pregnancy.
5. Implement the Strategy for Comprehensive Sexual Education in an effective manner through the training of public and private teachers and designate the necessary funding for its implementation.

I wish the Dominican Republic all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR32 - Cambodia

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Cambodia.

Iceland welcomes the Royal Government's positive steps to promoting human rights and its consistent support for the Khmer Rouge tribunal.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Introduce an anti-discrimination law which guarantees and explicitly prohibits all kinds of discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.
2. Introduce a gender recognition law.
3. Amend the constitution to ensure marriage equality for same-sex couples.
4. Abolish the discriminatory prohibition on women remarrying within 120 days following a divorce or annulment.
5. Align laws such as the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations, the Trade Union Law, the Law on Political Parties and the Telecommunications Law with international obligations.
6. Repeal provisions of the Criminal Code which can be used to restrict the freedoms of expression, assembly and association and decriminalize offences such as defamation.
7. Take all measures to protect and support journalists, human rights defenders, trade union workers, land and environmental activists and other civil society actors, and members of the political opposition.

I wish Cambodia all success for its review.

I thank you