

Statement by Iceland

UPR38 - Namibia

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Namibia and the number of human rights related policies and laws passed, as well as institutions established, since Namibia's last review.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Raise awareness about violence against women and children and address the obstacles faced by victims in seeking remedies and protection.
2. Strengthen efforts to eliminate harmful traditional practices and take comprehensive measures to eliminate stereotypical conceptions of gender roles.
3. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to strengthen institutional capacity to deliver quality comprehensive sexuality education.

I thank you.

Statement by Iceland

UPR38 - Niger

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Niger and notes the positive efforts by the Government by developing a national strategy on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty.
2. Adopt a law strictly prohibiting child marriage and raise the legal age of marriage for girls to 18.
3. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to promote sexual and reproductive health and empowerment of women and girls.
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 Niger all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR38 - Mozambique

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Mozambique and welcomes the commitment to achieving gender equality.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Extend the national strategy on preventing and combating child marriages and early pregnancy and ban harmful traditional practices.
2. 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.
3. Strengthen civic space by investigating all reported cases of violence or intimidation, including reported attacks on human rights defenders and the press.
4. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to distribute quality and safe long term modern contraceptive methods, information and education in 100% of secondary schools by 2030.

I wish Mozambique all success for its review.

I thank you.

Statement by Iceland

UPR38 - Estonia

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Estonia. We welcome Estonia's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and note in particular the clear progress in the field of gender equality and the well-developed system of protection and support for victims of gender-based and domestic violence.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Amend the Equal Treatment Act so that discrimination is prohibited on all grounds in all spheres of society.
2. Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples.
3. Add gender identity to the prohibited grounds in Articles 151 and 152 of the Criminal Code.
4. Change the regulation of gender recognition by separating the processes of medical and legal gender recognition and ensure that legal gender recognition is based on self- determination.

I wish Estonia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR38 - Belgium

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Belgium and efforts to promote and protect human rights, in particular LGBTI+ rights.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT.
2. Continue its efforts to raise awareness among the public, the police, the judicial authorities and social workers at support centres on all forms of violence against women and on the mechanisms available for victims.
3. Effectively implement the Act of 22 April 2012 aimed at reducing the wage gap between men and women.
4. Continue to promote increased representation of women at all levels of the public administration, particularly in decision-making positions.

I wish Belgium all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR38 - Paraguay

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Paraguay, welcomes the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Approve a protocol criminalizing sexual harassment and develop a national action plan to prevent sexual harassment both within and outside of the workplace.
2. Accelerate the implementation of an efficient social policy, focusing on early childhood and aimed at ending inter-generational poverty.
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. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to expand the supply of combined oral contraceptive methods, incorporate sexuality education in formal and non- formal education, and promote prevention programs to reduce the high rate of adolescent pregnancies.

I wish Paraguay all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR38 - Denmark

Madam President,

We welcome the delegation of Denmark and recent legal changes for gender equality and to protect women and girls from violence. We also welcome action outlined in the report by the Governments of Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Develop a comprehensive national human rights action plan.
2. Enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in order to narrow and ultimately close the gender pay gap.
3. In Greenland, adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. In the Faroe Islands, address violence against women and provide the appropriate support services to rape and sexual assault survivors.

I wish Denmark all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR38 - Somalia

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Somalia, welcomes the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to ratify CEDAW in order to fulfil, protect and respect women's human rights.
3. Ensure and accelerate the submission to Parliament of the original Sexual Offences Bill, in line with human rights standards.
4. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Somalia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR38 - Palau

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Palau, welcomes that it repealed legal provisions that criminalized consensual same-sex sexual activity between men through its new Penal Code and encourages further consideration of the rights of LGBTI+ individuals.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify CEDAW without delay.
2. Take further steps to increase the participation of women in the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, particularly at decision-making levels, including by the adoption and implementation of temporary special measures.
3. Commit resources, including through international cooperation, to establish shelters and safe homes for women and children subjected to violence.
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 Palau all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR38 – Solomon Islands

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Solomon Islands and is encouraged by action such as SAFENET programme by government and non-government partners to provide services to those affected by gender based violence.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. ensure that women have equal rights to acquire and transmit nationality in law and in practice and amend the Citizenship Act to ensure that women and men are treated equally.
2. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to ensure access to appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive quality and timely sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth, in order for them to be able to make informed choices about their sexuality and reproductive matters and protect them from unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence & STIs.
3. Expand SAFENET to the five remaining provinces of Solomon Islands to allow all survivors of gender-based violence to access appropriate support services.
4. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Solomon Islands all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR38 - Seychelles

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Seychelles, welcomes that it repealed legal provisions that criminalised consensual same-sex sexual activity and encourages further consideration of the rights of LGBTI+ individuals.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. 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.
2. Pass and implement laws that would recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of co-habiting couples in same-sex unions.
3. Update and adopt a new strategy on gender-based violence that provides specialized training, support to victims and survivors and ensures that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished.
4. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to ensure zero unmet need for family planning information and services, and universal availability of quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives.

I wish Seychelles all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR38 - Latvia

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Latvia. We welcome Latvia's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Continue to address violence against women and in particular provide the appropriate support services to rape and sexual assault survivors, including through completing the ratification of the Istanbul convention.
2. 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.
3. Pass and implement laws that would recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of co-habiting couples in same-sex unions.
4. Effectively enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in order to narrow and ultimately close the gender pay gap

I wish Latvia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR38 - Singapore

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Singapore, its national report and Aide Memoire.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify international human rights treaties, including ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT.
2. Fully abolish the death penalty.
3. Review relevant legislation that may unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression or peaceful assembly, in line with international standards.
4. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Singapore all success for its review.

I thank you.

Statement by Iceland
UPR38 – Sierra Leone

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone, welcomes the national report, the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Expedite the enactment of the Gender Equality Bill and fully implement the Amended Sexual Offences Act of 2019, including through providing adequate resources to its implementation.
3. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to integrate comprehensive sexuality education and related policies in the revised National Education.

I wish Sierra Leone all success for its review.

I thank you