

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Kyrgyzstan

Madam/Mr. President,

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

1. Adopt and implement legislation prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings, including at home.
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. Fully implement the Criminal Code provisions on bride kidnapping and the 2016 Law prohibiting child marriage and ensure that those breaching these laws are held accountable.
4. Remove barriers faced by adolescents and unmarried youth in accessing sexual and reproductive health services including contraception, and to address misconceptions and biases about their sexuality, so that the 2015 Law on Reproductive Health and Rights can be duly implemented in practice.

I wish Kyrgyzstan all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Kiribati

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Kiribati.

We welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation. In particular, we welcome Kiribati's efforts to address the high prevalence of violence against women and are encouraged by the opening of the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre in 2018 and encourage further effort in this regard.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Incorporate a comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health into the next National Development Plan for 2021 – 2025, including family planning programs that are accessible to all, and allocate sufficient resources in the annual budget to ensure effective delivery.
2. Revise the Family Life Education curriculum to bring it in line with the updated UN technical guidelines on sexuality education and integrate it into all school curriculums, including both in Junior and Senior high schools.
3. Implement national media campaigns, training for state officials, and education programs in all schools to eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms that are root causes of gender-based discrimination and violence.
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 Kiribati all success for its review.

I thank you.

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Guinea

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Guinea.

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

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the second optional protocol to the ICCPR.
2. 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.
3. Guarantee the rights to freedom of information and freedom of expression and ensure that human rights defenders and journalists can carry out their legitimate and peaceful activities, including monitoring and documenting human rights violations, without threat to their security and without fear of attack or reprisal.
4. Amend legislation to criminalize marital rape and remove provisions which discriminate against women, including exceptions to the prohibition of early and enforced marriage in the Criminal Code.

I wish Guinea all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 – Lao DPR

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Lao DPR.

We welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation. We particularly welcome the recent reduction in the scope of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. To expand and accelerate implementation of existing frameworks in order to reduce the high rates of child marriage in rural areas.
3. To address barriers preventing women and girls to access sexual and reproductive health services as made available by the 2016 Guidelines on the prevention of unsafe abortions.
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 Lao DPR all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Spain

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Spain.

We welcome Spain's engagement for the full respect of human rights and welcome steps taken by Spain outlined in the national report.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that the basic law on the protection of public security does not infringe on the freedom of expression and assembly.
2. Consider establishing specialized centres so that all survivors of sexual violence can be comprehensively assisted by a specialized team.
3. Establish a mechanism to ensure that women's access to sexual and reproductive health services is not impeded by refusals to provide abortion services on the grounds of conscience.
4. Continue legislative initiatives on amending the requirements for registering a change of sex and on combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sexual characteristics.

I wish Spain all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Lesotho

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Lesotho.

We welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation, in particular the commitment demonstrated to address gender-based violence and the changes made to ensure equality regarding the acquisition of citizenship.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. 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.
3. Amend Section 3 of the Marriage Act of 1974 for it to be inclusive of same-sex couples.
4. Enact the Domestic Violence Bill, support its immediate implementation and strengthen coordinated essential services and referral pathways between the health, social services, police and justice sectors in order to respond to gender-based violence.

I wish Lesotho all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Kenya

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Kenya.

We welcome 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. 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.
3. Ensure a strong multi-sectoral response to combat violence against women with capacity to investigate cases and enhance access to justice for survivors.
4. Adopt and implement curricula on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, including information about issues of violence, that is provided throughout schooling.

I wish Kenya all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Armenia

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Armenia.

We welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation. We also welcome the commitment of the Government to creating favourable conditions for the exercise of equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Continue to reform relevant legislation, including the Criminal Code, in order to fully criminalize domestic violence, in line with the Istanbul and Lanzarote Conventions, and move towards the ratification of these two instruments.
2. Introduce comprehensive and evidence-based sexuality education in Armenian schools.
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. Strengthen the health-care system and continue to improve the availability and accessibility of health services in all regions.

I wish Armenia all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 – Guinea-Bissau

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Guinea-Bissau.

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

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Take effective measures, including the strengthening of existing legislation, to prevent child, early and forced marriages in practice, and to bring national legislation in line with the CRC and CEDAW.
2. Increase efforts to promote men's involvement to fight gender inequality and to promote free access of women to modern family planning methods.
3. To provide for the decentralization of sexual and reproductive services at the local level, including by extending the representative protection services by the Ministry of Health, Family and Social Cohesion in the regions.
4. Enact legislation protecting the rights of LGBTI individuals, including expanding non-discrimination laws to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Guinea-Bissau all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Sweden

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Sweden.

We welcome Sweden's engagement for the full respect of human rights and welcome action outlined in the report.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that all arms transfers and exports comply with Sweden's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.
2. Adopt a new gender recognition law based on self-definition, detaching medical procedures from legal gender recognition.
3. Ensure access to comprehensive, affordable and accessible support for all survivors of sexual violence, including those who do not report the crime to the police.
4. Expand existing training programs on hate crime for police employees and make training on the legislation and implementation of the legislation on hate crime mandatory in all areas of law enforcement.

I wish Sweden all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Grenada

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Grenada.

We welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation. We particularly welcome steps outlined to tackle domestic and sexual violence and hope for further steps in this regard.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and remove legal, administrative and practical barriers to accessing safe and legal abortion services.
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. Adopt legal and regulatory measures to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services without restrictions in terms of marital status, age and third-party authorization requirements.

I wish Grenada all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Turkey

Mr. President,

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

1. Guarantee the freedom of thought and religion, and the rights to freedom of information and freedom of expression and ensure that human rights defenders and journalists can carry out their legitimate and peaceful activities without fear of attack or reprisal.
2. Condemn hate speech and hate crimes towards LGBTI individuals, effectively investigate and prosecute such cases and lift the ban on LGBTI events and pride marches.
3. Strengthen the rule of law and ensure the independence of the judiciary and prohibit executive branch interference with or attempts to exert influence over the judiciary.
4. Develop an evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education curriculum based on human rights principles.

I wish Turkey all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Guyana

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Guyana.

We welcome 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. Ensure access to contraceptives and safe, timely abortion services in order to guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, in line with existing legislation.
3. Revise and strengthen the Health and Family Life Education program and its delivery to include comprehensive sexuality education, in line with international guidelines and best practices.
4. Integrate sensitization training into the national police curriculum to improve responses to violence and discrimination against people based on sexual orientation and gender identity and develop a state policy on preventing and addressing discrimination of persons based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Guyana all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR35 - Kuwait

Madam/Mr. President,

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

1. Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Ensure a safe and enabling space for civil society and human rights defenders, including by ending all forms of harassment against defenders.
3. Amend the Press and Publications Law, Cybercrime Law and Communication Law to bring them into line with international standards on the right to freedom of expression.
4. Amend the Nationality Act to enable Kuwaiti women to transfer nationality to their children and spouses on an equal basis with men.
5. 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 Kuwait all success for its review.

I thank you