

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Saudi Arabia

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and takes this opportunity to make the following recommendations:

1. Invite a team of international experts to participate in the investigation of the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as requested by the High Commissioner; and provide full support to this team, including full access to evidence and witnesses.
2. Immediately end the ban and criminalization of protests and unconditionally release anyone imprisoned solely for exercising their rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, including women human rights defenders.
3. Establish a moratorium on the death penalty.
4. Abolish the male guardianship system.
5. Ensure women's equality with men before the law in the enjoyment of all human rights, including the rights to freedom of movement, education, employment, marriage, and protection from violence in the home and family.
6. To immediately halt the conflict in Yemen and implement the recommendations made by the Group of Eminent Experts.

I wish Saudi Arabia all success for its review,

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Senegal

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Senegal.

We welcome the efforts of Senegal in the advancement of human rights. We are pleased to note that since it's last UPR, Senegal received a visit from the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice.

However, my delegation regrets that a number of recommendations from the 2013 UPR on extending a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders has not been implemented.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.
2. 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.
3. Strengthen the training of health personnel on adolescents, youth and sexual and reproductive health.
4. Adopt and implement an anti-discrimination legislation that protects individuals from discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Senegal all success for its review,

I thank you.

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-China

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the People's Republic of China.

We appreciate and applaud the efforts of China to ensure that more citizens can enjoy a decent standard of living for the fulfilment of their human rights. We note that development and respect for human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

We take this opportunity to express our concerns over reports related to the Uyghur population in Xinjiang. We call on China to cooperate fully with relevant UN bodies in this regard.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. To ratify the ICCPR.
2. End arbitrary detention of those who defend and promote human rights.
3. To adopt concrete measures to promote women's full and equal participation in political and public life.
4. Establish a moratorium on executions.

I wish China all success for its review,

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Nigeria

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Nigeria.

Iceland appreciates the difficulties Nigeria is faced with on account of Boko Haram.

While we call on authorities to do their utmost to safeguard the lives of ordinary civilians, we remind them of their obligations under international law.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. To adopt concrete measures to eliminate gender discrimination and violence against women.
2. To repeal legislation that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. To release all individuals held in detention because of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.
4. To establish a moratorium on executions; commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment; and to abolish the death penalty for all crimes.

I wish Nigeria all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Mexico

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Mexico.

We welcome the efforts of Mexico 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. Ensure harmonization of the penal codes of all Mexican states so that women, regardless of their place of residence, can access legal, safe, and voluntary termination of pregnancy; and guarantee the provision of the respective medical services.
2. Undertake an awareness raising campaign in all Mexican states to promote a culture of respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons.
3. Improve records and other data on violence faced by LGBTI persons.
4. Recognize the important work of women human rights defenders, LGBTI defenders, environmental defenders and others; ensure their effective protection against threats and violence they face because of their work or who they are.

I wish Mexico all success for its UPR.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Mauritius

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Mauritius.

We welcome the strong commitment of Mauritius to democracy and the rule of law and applaud Mauritius intentions to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Similarly, Iceland believes the amendment of the Criminal Code referenced in the national report to allow medical termination of pregnancy in specified cases to be a positive step.

However, we regret that Mauritius has not repealed sections of its Criminal Code regarding consensual same sex activity but welcome your commitment, Minister, to do so.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Continue positive steps to the achievement of gender equality by taking further measures to promote women's full and equal participation in political and public life.
2. 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.
3. Repeal all laws that criminalize persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Mauritius all success for its UPR.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland

UPR31-Jordan

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Jordan.

We welcome the efforts of Jordan related to addressing domestic violence, to ensuring the free and informed consent required for marriage and the political participation of women. Jordan's efforts to accommodate and fulfil the rights of Syrian refugees are commendable.

We deeply regret, however, that Jordan has decided to lift its de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Continue its efforts for gender equality and allow Jordanian women to pass on their citizenship to their children and spouses.
2. Ensure that all surveillance of communications is conducted with respect for the right to privacy and in compliance with Jordan's human rights obligations.
3. Recognize the important work of human rights defenders facing discrimination or marginalization and ensure their effective protection against threats and violence they face.
4. Establish a moratorium on executions and commute all existing death sentences for the full abolition of the death penalty.

I wish Jordan all success for its UPR.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Malaysia

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Malaysia.

We welcome the efforts of Malaysia in the advancement of human rights. In particular, we are pleased with recent announcements that a moratorium on executions has been established and that the death penalty will be abolished.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Guarantee the right of everyone to equal protection under the law, in conformity with Malaysia's international commitments.
2. Continue its efforts for gender equality and allow Malaysian women to pass on their citizenship to their children and spouses.
3. Update the current Reproductive Health and Social Education syllabus, to include education on healthy and respectful family life and interpersonal relationships, including on consent and bodily integrity, in line with the UN technical guidelines.
4. Repeal all laws that criminalize persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Malaysia all success for its UPR.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Central African Republic

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Central African Republic.

My delegation is deeply concerned about the current situation in the CAR and encourages the government to continue its work in addressing the human rights challenges facing the country.

My delegation is worried over the large and increasing number of acts of rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage and other forms of violence against women perpetrated by armed groups and civilians.

Finally we welcome that the CAR accepted the recommendation from the previous cycle to abolish the death penalty, which has not been used for many years.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.
2. Refrain from appointing individuals suspected of human rights abuses and crimes under international law to positions where they may commit further abuses or crimes.
3. Develop and implement a national strategy to combat and respond to sexual violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.
4. Adopt legal provisions criminalizing marital rape.

I wish the Central African Republic all success for its review,

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Monaco

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Principality of Monaco.

Iceland welcomes the ratification by Monaco of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Take concrete measures to promote women's full and equal participation in public life, in particular by accelerating women's full and equal participation in elected and appointed bodies.
2. Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples.
3. Abolish the discriminatory prohibition on women remarrying within 310 days following a divorce.
4. Amend its nationality law to ensure that women have equal rights with regard to obtaining, keeping and transmitting nationality.
5. To ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

I wish Monaco all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Belize

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Belize.

Iceland commends Belize for developing a climate change adaptation strategy and putting mechanisms in place for the effective management of risks associated with climate change.

Iceland also welcomes the ruling of the Supreme Court in 2016 that section 53 of the Criminal Code could not be used to criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults. However, Iceland is concerned that Belize has not taken action to review the Constitution or to pass specific legislation to address discrimination against different groups.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Guarantee the right of everyone to equal protection under the law, in conformity with Belize's international commitments.
2. Update the Health Family Life Education curriculum to comply with the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, and develop a legal framework to ensure its execution.
3. Ensure that an effective HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategy includes the principles of human rights and non-discrimination on the basis of gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Iceland wishes Belize all success for its review.

I thank you

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Chad

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Chad.

We are pleased to note that, during the previous four years, real progress has been made in the field of human rights, including through the adoption of the law reforming the National Human Rights Commission, the Criminal Code, the law prohibiting child marriage, and the law prohibiting and prosecuting the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts. However, my delegation is concerned about reports that the death penalty continues to be imposed despite a moratorium.

Iceland is also concerned that 38 percent of women have undergone female genital mutilation, with the rate as high as 96 per cent in some regions.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty as part of the revision of the Criminal Code.
2. Organize awareness-raising campaigns for men and women on the adverse effects of violence against women.
3. Continue its commitment against all forms of violence against women, particularly sexual violence, female genital mutilations and forced marriage.
4. Repeal all laws that criminalize persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Chad all success for its review.
I thank you.

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Congo

Mr President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Congo.

We welcome the ceasefire agreement between the Government and armed groups to end the crisis in the Pool region.

We commend Congo for the strategies adopted to reduce the high maternal and child mortality rates, to manage childhood illness, to improve the treatment of malnutrition and to reduce malaria.

However, my delegation regrets that the constitution does not include a general prohibition of discrimination, including for the protection and promotion of the human rights of LGBTI persons.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.
2. Adopt a comprehensive law punishing all forms of violence against women, including marital rape, female genital mutilation and the sexual abuse and exploitation of women in prison and in conflict areas.
3. Criminalize acts of violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Congo all success for its review,

I thank you.

Statement by Iceland
UPR31-Malta

Mr. President

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Malta.

Iceland takes this opportunity to applaud the decision by the Maltese Parliament, from 2017, to approve marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples. In the past few years, Malta has proven itself to be a strong supporter and advocate of LGBTI rights.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. 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.
2. To improve the availability of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning.
3. In light of the killing of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, to take all measures to protect and support journalists working to uncover corruption and other matters of the highest public interest.

I wish Malta all success for its review.

I thank you