



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
34th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Gambia

Geneva, 5 November 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of the Gambia for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to **recommend to the Gambia to strengthen the measures to effectively address violence against women and girls and eliminate harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage.**

Slovenia would like to note with appreciation efforts made by the Gambian Government since last cycle. We commend the ratifications of many instruments, including the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR. We would also like to note the implementation of recommendations related to rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and on enactment of legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation.

However, Slovenia is concerned that despite engagement challenges still persist. We are concerned by the low rate of literacy among women and girls, the prevalence of discrimination and violence against women and girls and by persistence of harmful traditional practices.

We are also concerned by the reports of domestic violence, discrimination, abuse and exploitation of children. We are very concerned also by reports on criminalisation and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you!