



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the

34th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Madagascar

Geneva, 11 November 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Madagascar for their commitment to the UPR process.

We would like to **recommend** to Madagascar to accelerate the adoption of the specific law on gender based violence that will also define marital rape as a criminal offence.

Slovenia would like to welcome the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, CRPD and Optional Protocol to CAT.

We note with appreciation that combating gender based violence and older persons are two areas of the General State Policy. We also note numerous measures taken to empower women and girls and combat gender-based violence as well as to improve the situation of children.

However, we are concerned about the reports on discrimination and violence against women and girls, including persistence of harmful practices, such as child marriage, sale of wives and girl markets, as well as the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health care and rights, especially in rural areas. We are also concerned by the reports on the continued violence, exploitation and abuse against children, including corporal punishment, child labour and sexual exploitation of children.

Thank you!