

Mr. Martin Eyjólfsson, Ambassador 20

**Recommendations made by Iceland to Cape Verde
16th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

Thank you Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the positive increase in women's representation in politics and public administration over the past decade and encourages Cape Verde to continue on this path. On that note, has Cape Verde considered taking measures to increase the number of women in decision-making positions in other spheres such as in the private sector? Furthermore, has Cape Verde taken measures such as awareness raising programmes on gender equality in order to eliminate existing patriarchal and gender stereotypes?

Iceland notes the efforts made to protect children both in terms of legislative measures as well as social measures such as the setting up of support centres for child victims of ill-treatment, abuse and sexual exploitation, and the urgent-care centres coordinated by the municipalities. Further to that, what measures is Cape Verde taking to criminalise the corporal punishment of children in those spheres not provided for in accordance with existing national legislation, i.e. in the home and in non-institutional forms of care. Furthermore, what action is Cape Verde taking in combatting abuse and sexual exploitation of children in schools?

We are concerned about the prevalence of human trafficking, especially of women and children, from and through the territory of Cape Verde. What measures is Cape Verde taking to combat human trafficking? Are the relevant actors such as law enforcement, border personnel, judges, lawyers receiving adequate training in dealing with cases of human trafficking? Additionally, are victims receiving adequate protection, reparation and assistance, and are perpetrators being prosecuted and sentenced? We invite Cape Verde to investigate the trends in human trafficking to and from Cape Verde as well as to take measures to protect vulnerable groups from falling victims to human trafficking.

I thank you.