



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
18th Session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of New Zealand - 27 January 2014**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of New Zealand to the UPR Working Group.

We take note of New Zealand's efforts in addressing women's rights, particularly with regard to reducing violence against women, improving their economic independence and participation in governance. We also congratulate New Zealand on the country's 120th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2013.

In its efforts to promote the rights of the child, New Zealand's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography since its last UPR is a welcome step. We also take note of the introduction of the Vulnerable Children Bill, which aims at protecting children from abuse and neglect.

We welcome the announcement by the Immigration Minister of further measures to combat exploitation of migrant workers.

We note that New Zealand is in the process of preparing its 2nd National Action Plan on Human Rights and that the current UPR will also feed into this process.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to New Zealand:

1. Take steps to eliminate the gender pay gap across all groups and ethnicities;
2. Intensify efforts to combat discrimination against migrants and take measures to support their integration into the community.

Thank you.

*Priyanga Wickramasinghe  
Member Counsellor*