



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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Statement by Mr. Nuno Gabriel Cabral
Permanent Mission of Portugal
19th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
(28 April to 9 May 2014)

Bhutan

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Bhutan and thanks it for the presentation of the national UPR report on progress achieved on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Portugal welcomes the fact that since the last review, the Government of Buthan extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education to visit the country.

Portugal recommends that Bhutan take further measures to address the decline of female enrolment in schools, in order to ensure that young women complete their secondary education.

Portugal welcomes the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (2013) and the Child Care and Protection Act (2011). Nevertheless, Portugal remains concerned about prevailing violence against women and shortcomings concerning the fruition of rights by women and girls and recommends that Bhutan take further measures to address this issue.

Finally, we recommend that Bhutan ratifies the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and both its Optional Protocols; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment and its Optional Protocol, as well as the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the rights of the Child.

Thank you Mr President.