

VIKTOR VELEK

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UPR 19 – BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Brunei Darussalam and thanks for its comprehensive presentation and the UPR National Report.

While noting deficiencies in laws and practices pertaining to freedom of expression and freedom of the press, we **recommend** that Brunei Darussalam review and amend all legislation placing undue and arbitrary restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, in particular the Sedition Act, the Undesirable Publication Act and the Local Newspapers Order, put an end to censorship of the media and decriminalize defamation.

Second, we **recommend** that the Government decriminalize sexual activity between consenting adults, and repeal all provisions of the newly enacted Penal Code discriminating against women and sexual minorities and introducing cruel or inhuman forms of punishment. In connection with the Penal Code, we also **recommend** upholding Brunei's long-lasting moratorium on the death penalty. With regard to juvenile justice, we **recommend** that the minimum age of criminal responsibility be raised and sentences of corporal punishment and life imprisonment for children under the age of 18 prohibited.

Finally, we would like to **recommend** that the Government ratify or accede to CAT, OP-CAT, ICCPR, and lift its broad reservations made to CEDAW and CRC.