

**Recommendations made by Iceland to Norway
19th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

Thank you Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the honourable delegation of Norway.

In many respects Norway is a role model state. It has ranked at the top of the UN's Human Development Index for several years and human rights and democracy are fundamental values of the Norwegian welfare state.

But although the status of human rights is strong in Norway, breaches do occur and challenges are encountered in a number of areas.

Iceland notes Norway's commitment to achieving gender equality and encourages continued efforts to eliminate discrimination and close gender gaps, including the wage gap between women and men.

Iceland welcomes the new national action plan against domestic violence for the period 2014-2017 and encourages Norway to ensure its effective implementation.

Iceland further welcomes the new national strategy to combat violence and sexual abuse against children and young people. In this context we make the **following recommendation to Norway**: The services of the Children's Houses should be available and accessible to all children up to the age of 18, and the due process of law should be strengthened for children who have been reported as victims of violence and sexual abuse, by ensuring that they are interviewed within the 14-day statutory deadline.

Finally, Iceland would like to raise the **following question to Norway**: Is the Government planning to strengthen efforts to provide assistance to victims of trafficking and to ensure that crimes related to trafficking in persons for all kinds of exploitation are investigated and prosecuted promptly and effectively?

I thank you.