

20th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 27 October - 7 November 2014

*Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania
at the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina
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Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and thanks for the informative National Report.

Lithuania recognizes the positive steps taken by the state in ensuring the protection of women's rights by ratifying all major international law instruments on human rights of women and creating the second Action Plan for the period 2014-2017 for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Lithuania also welcomes the ratification by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) in 2012 and recommends the state to raise public awareness thereof.

Lithuania is concerned about the implementation of international obligations related to women's rights and recommends implementing the Law on Gender Equality and Gender Action Plan 2013-2017 as well as ensuring that adequate resources are provided for the implementation processes. Being very much concerned about the female victims of sexual and gender-based violence during the war, vast majority of which are still awaiting justice, we recommend to amend the Criminal Code in order to ensure that the definition of war crimes of sexual violence is in accordance with international standards and to implement the National War Crimes Strategy.

Lithuania also recommends to publicly condemn any attack or intimidation of journalists and human rights defenders, investigate such acts and bring perpetrators to justice. In this context, we recommend using international good practices as specific benchmarks for progress to improve the situation of the media community, as proposed by the OSCE media freedom representative Dunja Mijatović. Lastly, we recommend protecting the freedom of assembly and hold accountable any police officers involved in violence against protestors.

Thank you.