



**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Guyana**

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck,  
Geneva, January 28, 2015*

**Mr President,**

Sweden welcomes the delegation from Guyana to the UPR working group and thanks them for presenting their national report.

Rape, including marital rape, is forbidden according to law. Despite this, rape is quite common. The inclination to report rapes is rather low due to fear of stigmatization, vengeance and continued violence. Inadequate resources at the police and the prosecution entails few prosecutions and fewer convictions. Violence against women, mainly carried out within the home, is a significant problem. There are a few organizations working against domestic violence on a voluntary basis, but no overall national action plan is in place to address the problem.

Sweden therefore recommends Guyana to adopt a national action plan in order to combat gender-specific violence, including domestic violence.

In general, the indigenous people of Guyana have a lower standard of living, than the majority society. This includes a more limited access to education and health services. There has been special programmes focusing on poverty reduction and health care, which have somewhat improved the situation.

Sweden recommends Guyana to adopt a national action plan for the improvement of the situation for indigenous peoples.

Thank you, Mr President