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*Statement by Mr. ~~Thordur Sigtryggsson~~*

**ICELAND**

*21st session of the Universal Periodic Review: Kuwait*



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**Recommendations made by Iceland to Kuwait**  
**21<sup>st</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Mr. President,**

Iceland welcomes the honourable delegation of Kuwait to the UPR.

My delegation applauds efforts taken to grant women greater economic freedom, including the right to work as prosecutors. We strongly urge the Kuwaiti government to ensure **equal rights for women** in all areas, including through legislative reform that guarantees equal inheritance rights, marital rights and equal standing before the courts. The lack of sufficient legislation to prohibit domestic violence, sexual harassment or marital rape is deeply troubling and must be redressed.

Second, we welcome the adoption of legislative measures on labour standards for **migrant workers**, and would urge the government to apply these standards to domestic workers as well. The use of the so-called Kafala system – where the employer acts as a sponsor – is deeply flawed. Such a system fundamentally undermines the rights of domestic migrant workers and should be abolished.

Iceland respectfully makes the following recommendations:

- On gender-based violence; to establish accessible reporting mechanisms and to strengthen investigation and enforcement capacity.
- On LGBT; to stop arresting individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or appearance, and to repeal legislative measures that criminalise consensual homosexual conduct.
- On Migrant workers; to ratify the ILO Convention on Domestic Migrant Workers and abandon the current Kafala system.