



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of Spain -21 January 2015**

Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Spain and expresses appreciation for its national report and update.

We acknowledge the ongoing efforts of Spanish Government to enhance the legal and institutional frameworks for human rights protection. The establishment of provincial hate crime and discrimination departments, a national council of victims of hate crimes and the reforms of the criminal code of 2010 and the legislative improvements concerning equality of opportunity for women and men are noteworthy developments in this regard.

Sri Lanka is aware of the difficulties faced by Spain due to the economic crisis which impacted social rights in the country. We note that the number of people at risk of poverty has been increasing since 2009 due to increasing unemployment and diminished income among the general population. We encourage the Government of Spain to take effective measures to safeguard the rights and status of the most vulnerable population groups, through focused social assistance and income support. We would like to have more information on Spain's plans to reverse the rise of people living in poverty and those who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion?

We welcome a number of policy measures that have been taken to promote the rights of women, children and youth. These include the adoption of the National Strategy for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2013-2016, the approval of the Child Protection Bill including the importance given to combating child poverty as an objective at all levels of the 2013-2016 National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.

We take note of the special importance given by the Government of Spain to combat trafficking of persons through preventive measures such as raising public awareness about trafficking in women and girls for purposes of sexual exploitation, legislative and institutional measures to combat trafficking, including the amendments to the Spanish Criminal Code and improving coordination through the establishment of the post of National Rapporteur on human trafficking.

We recommend that Spain:

1. Considers ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW);
2. Continue to adopt all legislative and executive measures against gender-based violence, with special attention to migrant victims;
3. Consider prioritizing measures to mitigate the impacts of the economic crisis, particularly focusing on the disadvantaged and marginalized/vulnerable individuals and groups.

Finally, we wish Spain success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.