



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Jamaica

*Delivered by Minister-Counsellor Josefin Simonsson Brodén
Geneva, May 13, 2015 (speaking time 1 min 50 sec)*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation and express our thanks for the information related to our advance questions.

Same sex intimacy among males is illegal and punishable by up to ten years in prison, though homosexuality *per se* is not punishable. According to reports, hostility, violence and other types of abuse perpetrated against Jamaicans who are either lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender is widespread. Despite the fact that more LGBT people are reporting acts of violence and discrimination to the police, many incidents still go unreported. Sweden recommends the Government of Jamaica to repeal the legal provisions making same sex intimacy among men – described as “gross indecency and buggery” – illegal.

Jamaica has received recommendations to prohibit all corporal punishment of children from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee. Sweden therefore recommends the Government of Jamaica to ensure the revised Child Care and Protection Act prohibits all corporal punishment of children, including in the home, and explicitly repeals the right to administer “reasonable and moderate” punishment.

Thank you, Mr. President