



Universal Periodic Review of Jamaica
13 May 2015
Intervention by the Delegation of Estonia

Estonia very warmly welcomes the delegation of Jamaica to the UPR's 22st session. We thank Jamaica for their work in preparing the national report through dialogue with representatives of civil society and various other stakeholders. In that respect, we encourage Jamaica to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with civil society in all fields.

We commend Jamaica for the positive steps taken since the previous UPR, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC).

Estonia welcomes the adoption of legislative measures aimed at eliminating discrimination and violence against women, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, which provided for the right to non-discrimination; the Sexual Offences Act, and the Child Pornography Prevention Act, which is aimed at promoting gender equality. We take note of the appointment of several women in leadership positions in governmental bodies. We would like to invite Jamaica to urgently continue making further efforts to protect and promote the rights of women.

Estonia is concerned about the high level of violence and use of corporal punishment domestically and in schools. The victims of abuse and sexual exploitation suffer from the lack of access to psychosocial support. We would like to note the high rate of crime and violence, including the gang violence and we urge Jamaica to adopt and implement a national strategy to address the above mentioned key issues and challenges.

Estonia encourages Jamaica to continue efforts to become part of all the main international human rights instruments and to actively cooperate with the special procedures of the UN HRC, as well as with treaty bodies.

Estonia would like to make **the following recommendations** to the Government of Jamaica:

- to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC)
- to actively protect gender equality and women's rights and to ensure *inter alia* that women and girls have effective access to justice, including through the provision of legal aid
- to explicitly **prohibit corporal punishment** in all settings, including the family, schools and institutions

- to establish an **official moratorium on executions** with a view to abolishing the death penalty and to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment.

We would like to wish the delegation of Jamaica a successful review meeting. Thank You!