



**Universal Periodic Review of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis  
11 November 2015  
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis to the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the UPR. We thank St. Kitts and Nevis for the national report and for the additional information shared with us today.

We positively note that this report has been prepared as a result of engagement with civil society and various other stakeholders. In that respect, we encourage St. Kitts and Nevis to continue to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with civil society.

We note regretfully that St Kitts and Nevis has not made progress in implementing previous cycle's recommendations.

We encourage St. Kitts and Nevis to increase efforts to become part of the main international human rights instruments and fully cooperate with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as with treaty bodies, including by issuing the standing invitation.

Estonia recognizes St. Kitts and Nevis for their commitment to freedom of expression. We note that journalists and media professionals work in a safe environment and that media self-regulatory mechanisms existed in Saint Kitts and Nevis through the Association of Caribbean Media Workers. However we call the Government to decriminalize defamation, that should be placed within a civil code in accordance with international standards.

We also note that women still face gender base obstacles and invite the Government to attach more attention to gender equality issues by developing a national gender policy.

We positively note that children's rights issues have received more attention, the Government has made efforts to strengthen child protection systems with the implementation of a child protection protocol and has conducted programs to raise public awareness of children's rights and of abuse and violence against children.

Estonia would like to **recommend** to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis:

- to ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (**OP-CRC-AC, OP-CRC-SC**), at the earliest possible time.
- to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home.
- To ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights.

We would like to wish the delegation of St Kitts and Nevis a successful review meeting.

Thank you!