



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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UPR of SIERRA LEONE

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Sierra Leone for their presentation and is pleased to note a number of positive developments in the country despite the severe Ebola crisis. We welcome, in particular, the ratification of ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, as per our past recommendation, and the adoption of national action plans on women, peace and security and on gender-based violence.

A number of concerns, however, remain. Among them, deep-rooted patriarchal stereotypes, high rates of domestic and sexual violence coupled with limited access to justice for women, harmful practices and high incidence of teenage pregnancies. More efficient measures are also needed to prevent child labour, discrimination against LGBTI persons, and torture and ill treatment of detainees.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

- take concrete measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice, also by accelerating the constitutional review in the area of gender equality;
- explicitly prohibit all harmful practices against women of all ages, including FGM, CEFM and practices inflicted on elderly women in relation to allegations of witchcraft, and take all necessary measures to enforce the prohibition;
- take all necessary measures to ensure that girls are protected against any discrimination and violence in schools, and that pregnant teenagers enjoy equal access to education.

Thank you.