

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**25th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 9th May 2016**

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**German national statement**

**Antigua and Barbuda**

Mr. President,

We commend Antigua and Barbuda’s achievements in the area of human rights, and especially welcome the passing of the Domestic Violence Bill and the Child Justice Bill in 2015. We remain concerned, however, about the low age of criminal responsibility and regret that Antigua and Barbuda continues to have a place for the death penalty in law. We believe that equality and non-discrimination are crucial to a democratic society and that the criminalization of LGBTI persons constrains the chances of these persons to report cases of discrimination and violence.

Finally we are very concerned that women and children are still frequently victims of sexual and physical violence and would therefore like to ask Antigua and Barbuda what concrete measures, beyond the passing of laws, it will take to combat sexual exploitation and domestic violence?

Germany offers four recommendations:

1. Lift the age of criminal responsibility as proposed in the model Child Justice Bill of the OECS from 2007.
2. Consider establishing an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty as called for by the UN General Assembly resolution 69/186.
3. Abolish all provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex relationships and adopt a national policy to promote tolerance and address discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons.
4. Improve conditions of detention and to reduce the duration of detention with faster legal proceedings and by investing into infrastructure to address prison overcrowding.

Thank you, Mr. President.