

UPR 25th Session

(Geneva, 2-13 May 2016)

Review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Intervention by Greece

Thank you Mr President,

We would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the 25th UPR Session and to note with appreciation the progress achieved in the socio-economic as well as in the political field. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has managed to improve its foreign-trade performance and diversify its economy, favoring tourist indicators and society's living standards. We would like to commend Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its considerable efforts towards sustaining the Millennium Development Goals.

As it is evident from the National Report, we are pleased to highlight further progress achieved in the field of domestic violence. In particular, in May 2015, the **Parliament passed the Domestic Violence Act**, which replaces the respective 1995 Domestic Violence Act. The new act provides not only further protection for victims of domestic violence, but also broadens the definition of domestic violence and strengthens all mechanisms related to child protection, focusing on mandatory reporting of cases of child abuses and mistreatments.

Moreover, Greece would like to welcome the governmental decision to open the first **Crisis Centre of domestic violence in 2013**, under the auspices of the Ministry of National Mobilization. This institution basically operates as a shelter for survivors of domestic violence.

We would like to submit the following recommendation:

-to step up efforts towards the adoption of legislation fully in line with the principle of gender equality and furthermore we encourage the government to enact a comprehensive strategy in order that the rights of children are further protected and widened.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish to the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines delegation all the best for the implementation of the recommendations that they will receive today and their overall effort to enhance the protection of human rights in their country.

Thank you Mr President