

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

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

**Geneva, 10th May 2016**

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**German national statement**

**Trinidad and Tobago**

Mr. President,

allow me to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and to thank them for their national report.

Germany commends Trinidad and Tobago on its achievements in the area of human rights. We welcome that there have been no executions since 1999 but note with concern tendencies to continue the promotion of the retention of the death penalty. Germany is convinced that the death penalty has no place in the 21st century and is a grave violation of human rights and does not serve as an effective deterrence.

Since equality and non-discrimination are the basis of a democratic society, Germany continues to be worried that that provisions criminalizing and discriminating LGBTI persons are still in effect.

Germany congratulates Trinidad and Tobago on the new Children’s Act and the establishment of the Children’s Authority. Still, more action needs to be taken to safeguard children against sexual and other physical abuse.

Germany therefore offers the following recommendations:

1. Initiate a national discourse about the death penalty and establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty as called for by the UN General Assembly resolution 69/186.
2. Repeal all provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex relationships or that discriminate against LGBTI persons.
3. Ensure proper investigation of child abuse.
4. Fully implement the Domestic Violence Act and develop a comprehensive policy to raise awareness of and prevent domestic violence.

Thank you, Mr. President.