**UPR 26, November 2, 2016**

**Recommendations by Canada for Lithuania’s UPR**

Canada welcomes legislation passed by Lithuania that safeguard fundamental freedoms, including the Law on Equal Treatment and the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

Canada recommends that Lithuania:

1. Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles, with a mandate and resources to investigate complaints of human rights violations;
2. Raise public awareness of hate speech and hate crimes on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religious affiliation, disability or ethnic identity; encourage reporting to authorities; and develop procedures to ensure such crimes are effectively investigated;
3. Redouble efforts to combat gender-based violence by criminalizing marital rape, thoroughly investigating and prosecuting acts of violence against women, and issuing guidelines for and providing training to law enforcement and judicial officials on handling domestic violence cases in all regions;
4. Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence against Women and Domestic Violence; and
5. Accelerate and strengthen migrant integration into Lithuanian society, including by developing awareness campaigns and educational programs as well as preventing and investigating manifestations of hatred.

**Observations**

Canada welcomes and stresses the importance of Lithuania’s continuing efforts to fully implement legislation that combats anti-Semitism and that promotes and enforces human rights safeguards for children and persons with disabilities.