**UPR 26, November 3, 2016**

**Recommendations by Canada for the Republic of Uganda’s UPR**

Canada welcomes the positive steps taken by Uganda to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including adopting laws that criminalize female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and trafficking in persons.

Canada recommends that Uganda:

1. Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct, starting with the repeal of laws governing unnatural offences and indecent practices, and investigate and prosecute cases of discrimination, intimidation and attacks on LGBTI persons and organizations;
2. Amend section 44 of the *Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016,* to ensure its compliance with the national constitutional requirement that every criminal offence be well defined, and adopt NGO Act regulations to enable and protect the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, both online and offline; and
3. Implement meaningful electoral reform to ensure the transparency and independence of the Electoral Commission and its adherence to democratic principles, and prevent the misuse of state resources for campaign financing.

**Observations**

Canada remains concerned by growing reports of the shrinking space for civil society, opposition parties, and the media, including the trend to blackout social media platforms in Uganda.

Canada commends Uganda for having one of the most progressive legal and policy frameworks governing the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Africa. We encourage the government to continue to adopt measures to increase access to basic services such as employment, health care and educational opportunities, in particular for refugee women, children, and youth.