**UPR 26, November 2, 2016**

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

Canada welcomes Zimbabwe’s constitutional court ruling outlawing Child Marriage and increasing the legal marriage age to 18, as well as the adoption in July 2013 of a new Constitution, which provides for the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights. These actions must now be paired with rigorous implementation and enforcement.

Canada recommends that Zimbabwe:

1. Ensure victims of sexual and gender-based violence have access to social and legal support, and that perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence are brought to justice;
2. Repeal the crime of sodomy as described in the Criminal Code and Reform Act, 2006, and ensure that same-sex conduct between consenting adults is not subject to criminal sanctions;
3. Prohibit discrimination against persons because of their real or imputed sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and ensure adequate protection for LGBTI persons, sex workers, and other marginalized groups; and
4. End human rights violations and abuses against civil society, the media and political opposition; repeal the ban on public demonstrations; and ensure individuals are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, free from intimidation and harassment.

**Observations**

Canada is concerned about reports of reprisals against those who have criticized the Government of Zimbabwe, publicly or privately. We stress the importance for the government to take measures to protect freedom of expression.