

**27th Session of the UPR working group**

**Recommendations by Finland to the United Kingdom**

**9th of May 2017**

Mr. President,

Finland appreciates the possibility to engage in a dialogue with Poland during its review. The experiences of Poland in 1989 showed how individuals’ empowerment can make a historical difference.

Finland wishes to make the following two recommendations:

1. **Firstly, Finland recommends that Poland amends its anti-discrimination law in order to ensure that discrimination on any grounds is prohibited in all areas of life.**
2. **Secondly, Finland recommends that Poland takes concrete steps to enhance the broad and full participation of civil society in all political and societal life, by ensuring transparent distribution of NGO funding and by safeguarding that the freedoms of expression and association can, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, be exercised in practice, including by taking further steps to ensure prompt investigations of physical attacks and/or threats against civil society actors.**

Combating discrimination and ensuring full participation of civil society are challenges faced by many countries, also Finland. Finland encourages Poland to take steps towards a positive progress in this context and strengthen the rights of all individuals, including minorities. A vibrant civil society is a guarantee for dialogue that benefits the whole society.

Thank you.