

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

**Recommendations by Finland to the United Kingdom**

**4th May 2017**

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank the United Kingdom for a comprehensive national report and for its presentation today. We are pleased to note that civil society has been openly and broadly consulted in the process.

Finland appreciates the possibility to engage in a dialogue with the United Kingdom during its Universal Periodic Review, and wishes to make the following recommendation:

1. **Finland recommends that the United Kingdom makes the necessary legal, policy and practice related changes to enable the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul convention) and that it dedicates sufficient resources to central, devolved and local authorities to ensure its effective implementation.**

Hate speech and hate crimes are unfortunately common in the European societies these days. We welcome that the UK Government has adopted an action plan to tackle hate crime. We encourage the United Kingdom to continue working to prevent the growth of intolerance and xenophobia in the society and to report on the implementation of the Action plan.

Thank you.