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**44 Session of the UPR working group**

**Recommendations by Finland to Bangladesh**

**13 November 2023**

Mr. President,

Finland welcomes the engagement of Bangladesh in the UPR. We welcome the decision on November 2022 to amend the Evidence Act by repelling the gender-discriminatory provisions with respect to rape survivors’ court hearings. Finland recommends:

1. First, to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances,
2. Second, to strive for full compliance with CEDAW and withdraw the reservations to Article 2 and Article 16(1)(c) of the Convention within a specifically defined timeframe
3. Third, to protect human rights defenders, including women’s rights defenders, including by enhanced training and awareness raising within the law enforcement structures

Thank you.