44th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Bangladesh

Recommendations by Sweden

13 November 2023

Delivered by: Mr. Fredrik Nivaeus, Deputy Permanent Representative

President,

Sweden acknowledges that Bangladesh has made progress on a number of gender equality indicators. However, concerns remain, inter alia regarding the prevalence of child marriage, violence against women and girls and freedom of expression.

Sweden would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Review laws and procedures, especially those aimed at governing digital space, to ensure alignment with international standards guaranteeing freedom of expression and to reduce the scope of judicial harassment.
2. Amend and restrict the “Special Provision” of the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017) article 19 in order to decrease the rate of child marriages.
3. Ensure the criminalization of all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Thank you.