

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR 46  – Slovakia** ***Belgian intervention*** 6 May 2024 |

President,

Belgium welcomes the efforts and positive steps made by Slovakia since its previous UPR. Notwithstanding these efforts, important challenges remain, in particular regarding women’s rights, LGBTQI+ rights and media freedom and the protection of journalists.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Slovakia to:

**R1.** Foster societal awareness-raising to overcome discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and develop legal provisions and policies to ensure protection from hate speech and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

**R2.** Take effective measures to ensure women’s access to safe abortion, including by removing the requirement of mandatory waiting periods and third-party authorization.

**R3.** Adopt legislative measures aiming at increasing safety of journalists and ensuring media freedom.

Thank you.