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

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| **WG UPR 48 – Italy**  ***Belgian intervention***  20 January 2025 |

President,

Belgium commends Italy for its efforts and notable progress since its previous UPR, particularly in strengthening its legislative and institutional framework on gender equality, and combatting gender-based violence.

Notwithstanding these efforts, room for improvement remains, particularly regarding the high prevalence of gender-based violence, hate speech towards the LGBTQI+ community, and the fight against all forms of discrimination.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Italy to:

**R1.** Strengthen the anti-discrimination legal framework by adopting a clear definition of racial discrimination incorporating all grounds specified in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

**R2.** Amend the definition of rape for it to be based on lack of consent in line with the obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)

**R3.** Amend the criminal code to include sexual orientation and gender identity as a ground for protection against hate speech and crime.

Thank you.