**Statement of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**The 38th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

**The Kingdom of Denmark**

**Geneva, 6th May 2021**

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Denmark and wishes it all success in its review.

We commend Denmark’s efforts to prevent hate speech, to combat violence against women and to strengthen the integration process for newly arrived foreigners.

Yet, my delegation is concerned about the persistence of hate and intolerant speech against some religious minorities, the high rate of sexual violence against women and the lack of reunification proceedings for asylum seekers.

In this context, we recommend that Denmark:

1. Ensure non-discriminatory treatment off all religious communities and encourage interreligious and ‘interconviction’ dialogues;
2. Adopt an effective action plan to combat violence against women;
3. Allow refugees and asylum seekers to reunite with their family without a waiting period.

Thank you, Madam President