**UPR 38**

**Sierra Leone**

*12th May 2021*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone and thanks for its presentation of the national report.

While noting the efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and gender inequality such as establishing the *Sexual Offences Model Court* or creating the *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy*, we encourage Sierra Leone to take further steps to address this crucial challenge.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

1. We recommend to ratify CED, the Optional Protocol to CAT and the Second Optional Protocol to CCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
2. We recommend to ensure the full enjoyment of freedom of expression for all, including journalists, human rights defenders and opposition members.
3. We recommend to take further measures to eliminate gender-based violence and to ensure their effective implementation, including the total legislative ban on female genital mutilation.

Thank you.