

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

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| **WG UPR 38 – Latvia**  ***Belgian intervention***  11th of May 2021 |

Madam President,

Belgium welcomes the progress made by Latvia since its previous UPR. Notwithstanding these achievements, there is still room for progress, in particular regarding gender-based violence and trafficking.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Latvia to:

**R1.** Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;

**R2.** Continue efforts to prevent and combat gender-based violence, both in law and in practice and ensure that all competent authorities have the necessary capacity to investigate, prosecute and penalize this type of violence;

**R3.** Put into place a comprehensive mechanism to refer victims of trafficking to social service providers, and facilitate cooperation between public authorities and these service providers to this end.

Thank you, Madam President.