**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR38 - Belgium**

Madam President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Belgium and efforts to promote and protect human rights, in particular LGBTI+ rights.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT.

2. Continue its efforts to raise awareness among the public, the police, the judicial authorities and social workers at support centres on all forms of violence against women and on the mechanisms available for victims.

3. Effectively implement the Act of 22 April 2012 aimed at reducing the wage gap between men and women.

4. Continue to promote increased representation of women at all levels of the public administration, particularly in decision-making positions.

I wish Belgium all success for its review.

I thank you