

**STATEMENT**

**40th UPR Session of the Human Rights Council**

**on the human rights situation in Lithuania,**

**as delivered by Ms Jannicke Graatrud,**

**Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative.**

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**Madam President,**

**Norway notes that Lithuania has made important progress towards further ensuring protection of human rights by, among other things, establishing a victim support system, criminalising stalking, and providing additional protection for victims of domestic violence. However, there is a need to strengthen the response to domestic and gender-based violence, including violence against sexual and gender minorities.**

**Norway recommends that Lithuania**

**1) implements legal and administrative reforms to ensure non-discrimination of LGBTI people, such as providing legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, legal gender recognition, gender-affirming healthcare for transgender people and combating hate speech and hate crime;**

**2) follows up the recommendations of the [Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment] CPT to improve the functioning of the correctional services;**

**3) ratifies the Istanbul Convention to strengthen its response to domestic and gender-based violence.**

**Thank you.**