**Universal Periodic Review, 42h session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Ghana, 24th January 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

**Maksimal længde: 900 tegn med mellemrum**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation and commends Ghana for its progress on important human rights matters, including the National Strategic framework on Ending Child Marriage.

However, Denmark is concerned that discrimination, hateful rhetoric and harassment against LGBT+ persons has intensified. Further criminalization of LGBT+ persons can be expected if the so-called “Family Bill” is passed in its current form.

Furthermore, safety of journalists, free media and freedom of speech in Ghana is under pressure, illustrated by the drop of 30 places on the 2022 World Press Freedom Index.

*Denmark recommends that* Ghana:

1. Undertakes a review of all current and future legislation passed in parliament to ensure compliance with Ghana’s commitments under International Human Rights and protection of all its citizens, irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity.
2. Develops a National Action Plan to prevent attacks on journalists and to promote media freedom.

We wish Ghana a successful review.

Thank you.