

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

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| **WG UPR – Sri Lanka** ***Belgian intervention***31 January 2023 |

President,

Belgium appreciates efforts by the government to tackle gender-based violence. Nevertheless, many challenges remain. Therefore, Belgium recommends the government of Sri Lanka to:

**R1.** Strengthen measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women, amongst others by criminalizing marital rape

**R2.** Establish a comprehensive and victim-centered strategy on transitional justice and accountability, including an independent investigation and prosecution of international crimes committed during the civil war

**R3**. Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and release those detained under the PTA.

As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium recommends Sri Lanka at least to:

**R4.**  Establish a moratorium on executions and commute all death sentences to prison sentences.

Thank you, President.