UPR 29, January 15, 2018
Recommendations by Canada for Tonga’s UPR

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada commends the Kingdom of Tonga for implementing measures to address discrimination and violence against women and girls, such as the launch of a centre providing free legal advice and support to survivors of domestic violence.

Canada recommends that Tonga:

1. Repeal legislation that criminalizes same-sex sexual practices between consenting adults and increase efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination that target individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.
2. Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT), and take steps to raise social awareness and understanding of these instruments.
3. Abolish the death penalty, considering its *de facto* moratorium since 1982.
4. Take measures to reinforce protections for freedom of expression, including guaranteeing the freedom and independence of public and private media.

Canada commends Tonga for holding fair and peaceful national elections last November and takes note of the increased number of female parliamentarians. Canada invites Tonga to consider measures to further foster women’s participation in the next national election.