

**SIERRA LEONE**

**29th Session of the UPR**

**BARBADOS**

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Mr Vice-President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the Barbadian delegation to this session and thanks them for their presentation.

Sierra Leone applauds the commitment shown by the Government of Barbados since their last review in 2013. In spite of various financial challenges, Barbados has shown its commitment to promulgating human rights and fundamental freedoms nationally.

My delegation notes that Barbados engaged with OHCHR and other United Nations agencies in capacity-building and technical assistance with regard to human rights reporting, establishing national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, participation in Human Rights Council initiatives and activities relating to the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

We commend the establishment of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Amendment Act 2016 and the measures which are being implemented to address domestic violence. Also notable are the ongoing efforts on the welfare of juveniles in detention through the draft Juvenile Justice Bill.

The government should also be applauded for implementing the Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission Programme which provides 90% of HIV-mothers with anti-retroviral treatment.

Sierra Leone would however encourage Barbados to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as withdraw its reservation to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Recommendations:

1. Accede to the CAT, ICRMW and the ICPPED.
2. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility higher than 11.
3. Amend national legislation to ensure equality in nationality law and ensure that it facilitates the acquisition, changing and retention of nationality, and ensure that mothers can transfer their nationality to their offspring regardless of whether or not they are adopted.
4. Establish domestic legislation on refugees which promotes and protects their rights and is in compliance with international standards.

Sierra Leone wishes Barbados every success in this third review cycle.

Thank you, Mr Vice-President.