**Universal Periodic Review, 30th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of the Russian Federation, 14 May 2018**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of the Russian Federation and thanks it for its presentation today.

We are alarmed about the continuously shrinking space for freedom of expression in the Russian media and for the freedom of assembly and association.

*Denmark recommends the Government of the Russian Federation to end its routines of excessively banning public assemblies and imposing excessive conditions regarding the place, time and manner of their conduct.*

We also remain concerned about the continuing discrimination of the LGBT population in the Russian Federation.

*Denmark recommends the Government of the Russian Federation to repeal the Federal Law No. 135-FZ, dated 29 June 2013, by means of which “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships” is a criminal offence.*

Furthermore, the total ban of adherents of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia is very concerning.

*Denmark recommends the Government of the Russian Federation to respect its international obligations and amend its legislation to ensure the right to peaceful enjoyment of freedom of religion and belief for adherents of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia.*

*Finally, Denmark recommends the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (OPCAT).*

I thank you.