

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

|  |
| --- |
| **WG UPR – Fiji**  ***Belgian intervention***  6 November 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Fiji and congratulates the government with its remarkable progress in ratifying international human rights treaties since its last UPR. However, Belgium is convinced that more can be achieved, especially regarding women’s rights.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Fiji to:

**R1.** Strengthen and fully implement legislation punishing domestic violence, and ensure that traditional apologies are under no circumstances accepted as a mitigating factor.

**R2.** Enforce the prohibition of child marriage, prohibit all forms of pressure on victims of rape to marry perpetrators and increase efforts to prosecute and punish perpetrators and accomplices in cases of child marriage.

**R3.** Review legislation that affects freedom of speech, particularly the Crimes Act, the Media Industry Development Decree and the Public Order Amendment Act, to bring them in compliance with Fiji’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.