

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

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| **WG UPR 34 – Italy**  ***Belgian intervention***  4th of November 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Italy and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third UPR. We congratulate Italy with the progress made since its previous UPR. Notwithstanding these achievements, there is still room for further progress.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Italy to:

**R1.** Ensure that all individuals are held accountable and are sanctioned for the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and other violations of article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

**R2.** Encourage women to report all incidents of violence, especially domestic and sexual violence, to law enforcement bodies by destigmatizing victims, sensitizing the police and the judiciary, raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts and ensuring that women have effective access to civil courts to obtain restraining orders against abusive partners.

**R3.** Include sexual orientation as a ground for protection against hate speech.

Thank you, Mr. President.