**UPR34**

**Canada’s recommendations for The Gambia’s UPR**

**5 November 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We congratulate The Gambian people for its peaceful transition to democracy and the new government for taking steps to focus attention on the protection and promotion of human rights.

Canada recommends that The Gambia:

1. Follow through on the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission so that those who are deemed responsible for human rights violations during the previous administration are held to account.
2. Implement and enforce the Domestic Violence Act of 2013, Sexual Offences Act of 2013 and Women’s Act of 2010.
3. Reform the Criminal Code to protect freedom of the press and freedom of expression.
4. Repeal all legislation that criminalizes sexual activities between consenting adults and take all necessary measures to prevent discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression.

Canada congratulates The Gambia on its recent accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and encourages The Gambia to give the National Human Rights Commission the necessary tools to act independently and effectively.