**UPR34**

**Canada’s recommendations for Kazakhstan’s UPR**

**7 November 2019**

Thank you Mr. President.

Canada welcomes the progress made by Kazakhstan since its last UPR appearance through initiatives such as: modernising family courts to ease access for vulnerable women and children; nascent bodies to address allegations of torture and abuse; and trialling structures to curb corruption. These steps are positive, but require renewed leadership to address the underlying challenges posed to the full enjoyment of rights and freedoms in Kazakhstan.

Canada recommends that Kazakhstan:

1. Amend legislation and regulations to ease the formation, registration, and operation of independent trade unions and civil society organisations, and to protect peaceful public assembly and labour action.
2. Amend existing legislation to prohibit discrimination against women and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and to improve systems to curb and prosecute violence against women and vulnerable groups, and revoke prohibitions to fields of employment for women.
3. Improve and implement systems to increase access to education, health and judicial services for disabled children and adults, and their families.

Canada is encouraged that Kazakhstan accepted several of Canada’s recommendations in past UPRs, but notes progress is still needed to address recommendations on the fight against corruption, judicial independence, and to protect against discrimination of women and on the basis of sexual orientation.