**35th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Turkey**

**28 January 2020**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Christopher Grima,**

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, Madam President.

Malta welcomes the delegation of Turkey and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We have taken note of Turkey’s particular context during the period under review. We welcome the Government’s efforts to combat discrimination against LGBTI persons, especially the assistance it is affording to such persons in detention.

In this context, Malta would like to recommend to the Government of Turkey the following:

1. Condemn hate speech and hate crimes targeting LGBTI persons;
2. Consider lifting the ban on LGBTI events in Ankara and protect Pride Marches and other demonstrations;
3. Consider including LGBTI organisations and involve their civil society representatives within the government’s decision-making processes.

We wish the delegation of Turkey a successful review session.

Thank you