**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR35 - Turkey**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Turkey and makes the following recommendations:

1. Guarantee the freedom of thought and religion, and the rights to freedom of information and freedom of expression and ensure that human rights defenders and journalists can carry out their legitimate and peaceful activities without fear of attack or reprisal.
2. Condemn hate speech and hate crimes towards LGBTI individuals, effectively investigate and prosecute such cases and lift the ban on LGBTI events and pride marches.
3. Strengthen the rule of law and ensure the independence of the judiciary and prohibit executive branch interference with or attempts to exert influence over the judiciary.
4. Develop an evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education curriculum based on human rights principles.

I wish Turkey all success for its review.

I thank you