

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**35th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Armenia**

Geneva*, January 2020*

Mr President,

Slovenia would like to thank the delegation of Armenia for their presentation today and notes with appreciation Armenia's engagement with the UPR mechanism.

Slovenia would like to **recommend** to Armenia:

* To ratify the Istanbul convention which will accommodate further protection of women from violence.

**Advance question:**

* When is the government planning to adopt relevant legislation to criminalise the offence of purchasing sexual services from children?

Slovenia would like to congratulate Armenia on its substantial democratic progress and pursuit of a strong reform agenda in the field o rule of law and fight against corruption, all of which is intricately related to the protection of human rights.

Members of vulnerable groups continue to face social discrimination and Slovenia believes more can be done to fight discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, identity and other personal circumstances. Adoption of relevant laws should be followed with proper implementation and efficient awareness raising campaigns.

In this vein, combating impunity for crimes against vulnerable groups, activists and human rights defenders would be a significant step forward and it would generally improve the rule of law, which is a backbone of any successful and prosperous nation.

Thank you.