**UPR35**

**Recommendations by Canada for Guyana’s UPR**

**29 January 2020**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes the positive steps that Guyana has taken to eliminate discrimination against women and to promote gender equality by developing a National Gender and Social inclusion policy in 2018.

Canada recommends that Guyana:

1. Expand essential services for victims of gender-based violence including the establishment of additional shelters and crisis centres to protect victims.
2. Repeal legislation criminalizing consensual same-sex practices between adults and implement the 2018 ruling of the Caribbean Court of Justice regarding the unconstitutionality of the law banning cross-dressing.
3. Build capacity of the judiciary, law enforcement, border police and social workers regarding gender-sensitive protocols to identify and support victims of human trafficking.
4. Enhance efforts to implement existing anti-discrimination legislation, particularly discrimination based on ethnicity, and strengthen mechanisms to investigate instances of discrimination.

Canada recognizes that Guyana has legislative measures in place to protect and promote human rights. Canada encourages the Government to enhance the protection of fundamental human rights of minorities by strengthening access to justice and employment opportunities for LGBTI communities.