**Statement of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**The 35th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

**Spain**

**Delivered by:**

**Mr. Husain Makhlooq**

**Counsellor**

**Geneva, 22th January 2020**

**Universal Periodic Review, 35th Session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Spain, 22 January 2020**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of Bahrain**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the delegation of Spain headed by H.E Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fernando Marzo, and thanks him for his comprehensive presentation.

We **welcome** Spain’s efforts in addressing violence against women and creating the post ”*Ambassador-at-Large* ” for the Promotion of Gender Equality. We **commend as well** the measures taken so far to ensure freedom of religion and international protection for asylum seekers.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Bahraihn offers the following **recommendations**:

1. *To take furher steps aiming at the empowerment of women.*
2. *To continue* the positive steps ensuring freedom of religion and the protection of ethnic minorities.

The Kingdom of Bahrain wishes Spain a successful review.

Thank you.