[Check against delivery]



# 36 Session of the UPR working group Recommendations by Finland to Bulgaria

# 6 November 2020

## Madame President,

Finland welcomes Bulgaria’s engagement in the UPR process and wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Firstly, Finland recommends that Bulgaria continues to strengthen the legislative framework and its implementation on violence against women and domestic violence, and that Bulgaria ratifies the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), and amends the national legislation to correspond to international standards.
2. Secondly, Finland recommends that Bulgaria steps up efforts to tackle hate crime, hate speech and discriminatory conduct targeting LGBTI people through amending the Criminal Code to explicitly include hate crime on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Thirdly, Finland recommends that Bulgaria intensifies efforts to ensure that Roma communities, particularly those affected by the mandatory COVID-19 -related quarantines, have access to public health services and information, adequate water and sanitation, as well as provisions of food, medicines, hygiene products and health care with specific consideration given to the needs of women and girls.

Thank you.