

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR 36 – Bulgaria** ***Belgian intervention***5th of November 2020 |

Madam President,

Belgium welcomes the progress made by Bulgaria since its previous UPR. Notwithstanding these achievements, there is still room for progress, in particular with regard to gender-based violence, discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the protection of unaccompanied minors.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Bulgaria to:

**R1.** Amend its legislation to recognize all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and facilitate access to justice to ensure that such violence can be prosecuted and perpetrators brought to justice;

**R2.** Amend relevant legislation, and the Criminal Code, to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as hate motives and grounds of discrimination and ensure that such hate crimes are effectively investigated and prosecuted;

**R3.** Ensure that all unaccompanied minors are provided with a qualified legal guardian, and strengthen adequate social services for all migrant children, including the capacity and coordination in the national child protection  system.

Thank you, Madam President.