**36th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Bulgaria**

**6 November 2020**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Christopher Grima,**

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, President

Malta warmly welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We congratulate Bulgaria on the progress registered since its last review and the efforts made towards combatting domestic violence, religious intolerance and hate crime. We also welcome the appointment of a focal point as part of the European Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Bulgaria:

1. Continue to provide adequate funding for shelters, counselling, legal aid and other social services for victims of domestic violence and their children;
2. Take further steps to update the National Strategy for the Child that supports the development and investment in community-based and family-based care for children.

We wish the delegation of Bulgaria a successful review session.

Thank you.