



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia

at the
30th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Bangladesh

Geneva, 14 May 2018

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to thank the Delegation of Bangladesh for their national report, its presentation today and expressed commitment to the UPR process.

(Recognizing the heightened threat of terrorism and uncertain security situation in the country, we commend Bangladesh for the zero tolerance to terrorism and religious violent extremism. Yet, at the same time we express concern over the high rate of extrajudicial killings and reports of enforced disappearances during the past years, targeting amongst others religious minorities, foreigners, human rights activists, bloggers and academics.)

Slovenia notes the work of the government of Bangladesh in progressing and ensuring the rights of children. The eradication of child marriage is slowly occurring, however the percentage of girls that are married before the age of 18 remains alarmingly high. In this regard we would like to **recommend** to Bangladesh to step up the efforts to prevent child early and forced marriages, particularly in rural areas and slums, and to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act by introducing a minimum legal age of marriage at 18 without any exceptions.

Lastly, we would like to express our concerns over the situation of the LGBTI persons in Bangladesh, who are facing stigmatization, discrimination, harassment and attacks against them practically on a daily basis. In this regard we would like to **recommend** that Bangladesh, first and foremost, acknowledges the existence of sexual and gender minorities in the country, and furthermore that Bangladesh abolishes the section 377 of the Criminal Code and thus decriminalizes consensual sexual acts between same-sex couples.

We wish Bangladesh a successful UPR review.

Thank you.