

## **Recommendations made by Iceland to Colombia 16th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

Iceland would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Colombia and thank for its comprehensive national report which illustrates a high level of commitment in many areas.

Iceland notes Colombia's commitment to trade unionism and measures taken to provide protection for trade unionists and human rights defenders as well as measures taken to end impunity and guarantee trade-union freedom. Iceland is nevertheless concerned about reports of continued violence against trade unionists, journalists, judges, lawyers and human rights defenders, in particular the specific targeting of women's organisations and women human rights defenders. What measures is Colombia taking to ensure accountability for violations of the human rights of the aforementioned individuals and groups as well as providing them with protection against discrimination and violence?

Iceland is concerned over the reported increase in sexual violence against women and girls, the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and the endemic impunity for committing such acts of violence. What measures is Colombia taking to address violence against women and girls as well as ensuring that such crimes are duly investigated and prosecuted?

Iceland welcomes the decisions handed out by the Colombian Constitutional Court which recognizes the rights of same-sex couples and recommends that Colombia further recognizes the rights of same-sex couples by legalizing same-sex marriage and adoption. Iceland further encourages Colombia to pass a law on gender identity that guarantee the rights of the transgender community and to take action to end discrimination and intolerance towards LGBT persons.

**I thank you.**