



Universal Periodic Review of Belgium

20 January 2016

Intervention by the delegation of Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein welcomes the distinguished delegation of Belgium and wishes to thank for the valuable information provided in the introductory statement as well as in the national report.

Liechtenstein welcomes Belgium's efforts to make further progress toward the elimination of discrimination against women. Liechtenstein **recommends that Belgium increase the number and capacity of shelters for women who are victims of violence and ensure that all women have non-discriminatory access thereto.**

Liechtenstein welcomes Belgium's intention to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT), which Belgium has signed on 24 October 2005. Liechtenstein takes note that the ratification of the Optional Protocol entails complexities. However, Liechtenstein **recommends that Belgium ratify OPCAT as soon as possible and establish an independent National Preventive Mechanism, in compliance with OPCAT requirements.**

Liechtenstein welcomes that Belgium has undertaken various progressive measures to protect the right to privacy. Nevertheless, we note that stakeholder reports still identify some areas of concern. Therefore, Liechtenstein **recommends that Belgium ensure that the processing of personal data be conducted in compliance with national and international standards and obligations, and that any violations be investigated and redress provided to victims.**