

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO DOMINICA**

### **GERMANY**

- Germany acknowledges efforts made by the Government of Dominica to combat violence against women and children and encourages it to build on the progress made. In this context, we would like to ask whether the Government plans to increase budgetary and staff allocations for the Ministry of Social Services, Community Development and Gender Services to further strengthen prevention and victim protection efforts?
- Germany is concerned about the continued legislative existence of the death penalty. In its last review the Government of Dominica accepted a recommendation that would have led it to ‘consider a moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty, as a step towards completely abolishing it’. What activities has the Government of Dominica undertaken in order to implement this accepted recommendation and make good on its commitment?

### **MEXICO**

- What mechanisms exist in order to guarantee freedom of expression, as set forth by the Constitution, and how are they accessible to journalists and ordinary citizens?
- What specific measures are taken in order to guarantee an equal access to employment, education, and general services by members of ethnic minorities such as the Caribs?
- How is the Dominican Government working to promote a greater representation of women in the National Parliament?

### **NETHERLANDS**

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands is concerned by reports of human rights defender groups advocating equal rights for LGBT in Dominica who are forced to operate underground because of fear that their members will be victimized. What measures can be taken by Dominica in order to facilitate a safer environment for human rights defenders groups that advocate equal right for LGBT?
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands commends Dominica for the signing of a non-binding joint statement in 2011 “Ending acts of violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity” presented before the UNGA. Can Dominica indicate how it will follow up (with what measures) on this intention?
- What measures will the government take in order to stop the criminalization of sexual relations of consenting adults of the same sex?

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the tremendous efforts of the government of Dominica regarding the advancement and promotion of women's rights and the overall empowerment of women through the Domestic Violence Act of 2001, the National Gender Policy of 2007 and the amendment of the Registration Act. What other significant progress has been made in this area since the last UPR of 2009?
- Is the Government of Dominica planning to fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC and to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts, and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC)?

## **SLOVENIA**

- While Dominica has shown some progress in the recognition of LGBT rights (the signing a declaration at the HRC, March 22nd, 2011), Slovenia would like to ask what normative actions it may plan to fight discrimination and prejudice against LGBTIs. In this regard, we would be particularly interested in learning about the possibility of modifying the 1998 Sexual Abuse Act that criminalizes same sex relations.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society in Dominica played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
- Could you please elaborate on the progress of tackling violence against women?
- What progress has the Government of Dominica made since signing the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities on 30 March 2007, including on the provision of education to children with disabilities?
- We would be grateful to know of any progress on the repealing of all provisions that discriminate against people on the grounds of their sexual orientation, including in the Sexual Offences Act, thereby protecting the rights of LGBTI persons.