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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-second session, 13 June – 01 July 2016**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

Denmark

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the decision by the Danish Parliament to remove “trans-sexualism” from the official list of diagnosable mental illnesses thereby recognizing that transgender persons are not mentally ill or unstable, but persons with a physical disorder. This is an important contribution towards strengthening respect for the rights of transgender persons to self-determination and to privacy. We also welcome Denmark’s accept of the recommendation to ensure equal access to public health for LGBTI persons.¹

Currently, Denmark’s practice in asylum cases does not allow for sufficient consideration of the best interests of the child,² including in situations where the whole family is rejected. In such situations the family is likely to experience extreme hardship in supporting itself, including the children. We therefore welcome Denmark’s accept of recommendations to ensure that the best interests of the child are fully considered in asylum cases.³

We are concerned, however, by Denmark’s rejection of several recommendations to grant expedited family reunification to refugees and urge the government to reconsider these.⁴ Despite an amendment in 2014 to the Aliens Act providing temporary protection to certain nationals fleeing widespread human rights violations -- currently granted primarily to Syrian nationals -- those granted protection as “war refugees” are only entitled to family reunification after three

¹ Rec 120.101 (Uruguay).

² Cf. article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

³ Recs 120.183 and 120.184 (Austria and Iceland).

⁴ A/HRC/WG.6/24/L.7, recommendations 121.185 (Greece), 121.186 (Guatemala), 121.187 (Portugal), 121.188 (Turkey), 121.189 (Argentina), 121.190 (Bahrain), 121.191 (Brazil), 121.192 (Ireland).

years. The separation of families, leaving one spouse and the children struggling in insecure camps while placing an unbearable strain on the spouse waiting in Denmark, is a violation of the right to family life.

Mr President,

A number of recommendations were addressed specifically to the Faroe Islands.

We welcome the Faroese government's accept of recommendations to bring the definition of rape into line with international standards and to criminalize rape in all circumstances.⁵ In drawing up this new legislation we urge Faroe Islands to also strengthen the legal protection of rape victims.

We also welcome Faroe Island's accept in principle of the recommendation to amend the Marriage Law to allow for same-sex marriage.⁶ We look forward to seeing this new law fully implemented.

Thank you, Mr. President,

⁵ Rec 120.31-120.33 (Norway, Spain, Iceland).

⁶ Rec 120.142 (Iceland).