

**Human Rights Council – 33rd session**  
**Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes: Tajikistan**  
**Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development**



Mr. President, Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We welcome Government's acceptance of recommendations to conduct human rights training for law enforcement agencies, including training on hate crimes, to strengthen sexual and reproductive health education, to address gender inequalities, to eliminate early and forced marriages, and to promote the rights of women. We note that efforts have been made by the Government to prevent domestic violence and provide social services to survivors, however, the legal framework in this area is insufficient nor in alignment with international human rights standards as marital rape is still not considered an offence under the law. Furthermore, the absence of data collection by the police on reported cases of domestic violence prevents policy makers from understanding the scale and scope of the violence and does not provide the necessary transparency or accountability to ensure perpetrators are being prosecuted under the law.

We are also gravely concerned by the inattention to the rights of sex workers during the review. Sex workers regularly face violence and discrimination, are subject to forced HIV testing and invasive medical procedures under the guise of crimes against morality. In addition, violence and discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity is widespread and occurs with impunity. We urge the Government to develop and implement programs to prevent hate crimes, discrimination and violence, especially against LGBTI and sex workers, including nation-wide awareness building campaigns for the general population in order to overcome prejudices that cause hatred and violence through the state media and public institutions.

Finally, we call on the Government to ensure that the development of policies and programs are conducted with the full and meaningful participation of those who will be affected, as is required under human rights law.

Thank you