

Statement at 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 2: General Debate with the High Commissioner

Thank you Mr President.

High Commissioner, as you said, impunity for human rights violations fuels further and often more widespread and systematic violations.

Too often, this Council and its member States acquiesce in such impunity, despite pledges to apply objective criteria to country situations or to ensure the Council fulfils its prevention mandate, including through accountability for past or ongoing violations.

To those States which espouse a commitment to women's rights and the protection of civil society, **show some courage** by holding **Saudia Arabia** accountable for the arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of women human rights defenders.

To those States which prioritise combating racial and religious discrimination, **show some principle** by holding **China** accountable for potential crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang and elsewhere.

To those States which decry extrajudicial killings and support human rights defenders, **show some resolve** by strongly supporting and matching the leadership shown by Iceland in addressing situations such as the **Philippines**.

To those States which promote a preventative approach, or the business and human rights agenda, **show some integrity** by legislating for human rights due diligence by companies and by preventing the development or sale of weapons and surveillance technologies which enable these violations.

And finally, to those States which call for cooperation and dialogue, **show some consistency** by cooperating fully and in good faith with the UN human rights mechanisms, providing unfettered access to places like Xinjiang, desisting from reprisals, and cooperating with Special Procedures rather than supporting initiatives to restrict their effectiveness.

Thank you.