**The response of the Republic of Lithuania to the call for inputs of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression Ms. Iren Khan.**

In the Republic of Lithuania, The Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men prohibits discrimination based exclusively on sex, and the Law on Equal Treatment prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, beliefs or opinions, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity and religion. The Law on Equal Opportunities contains an exhaustive list of prohibited grounds for discrimination.

It should be noted that the provisions of the Law on Equal Treatment apply to the subjects expressly listed in this Law, such as the following (within their competence): State and municipal institutions and authorities; educational institutions, other educational providers as well as research and educational institutions; employers; sellers or producers of goods or a service provider. The Law on Equal Treatment also prohibits discrimination on the grounds of belief and religion with regard to membership of and participation in an organisation of employees or employers, or an organisation (association) whose members pursue a particular profession, including the benefits provided by such organisations (associations).

The implementation of the Law on Equal Treatment of the Republic of Lithuania and the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Republic of Lithuania is supervised by the Ombudsman for Equal Opportunities. The Ombudsperson’s Office is an independent State institution; its mandate is to be proactive and raise awareness of equal opportunities regardless of gender or other grounds of non-discrimination. Therefore, the Office provides consultations, trainings for all institutions (public and private) with the purpose of helping them to ensure non-discrimination policy in their daily activities, regardless of gender and other characteristics of a person's identity.