

**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Session**

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**Review of Finland**

**Intervention made by Egypt**  
**23 May 2012**

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes H.E.....and his accompanying delegation and appreciates the elaborate presentation of Finland's national report.

My delegation takes note of the first Finnish National Human Rights Action Plan and the establishment of a national human rights infrastructure.

We appreciate the attention Finland pays to achieving equality between women and men. We also recognise the steps aimed at combating violence against women. However, my delegation remains concerned about the prevalent high rates of such violence. We recommend the Finnish government to strengthen the relevant legislative and implementation frameworks. My delegation also notes steps taken to eliminate the wage gap between men and women and recommend Finland to accelerate steps to ensure equal pay for the same or equivalent work.

We would like to inquire further on national measures to address domestic abuse of and violence against children, particularly as a result of substance and alcohol abuse and the effectiveness of those measures.

My delegation appreciates the respect for the right to freedom of expression in Finland. It remains concerned however about the rise in hate speech and other manifestations of racism and xenophobia, including on the internet. Hence, we recommend Finland to implement strict measures, including in the area of legislation, to combat such manifestations, in line with the obligations under articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR.

My delegation also recommends more stringent monitoring mechanisms to address the rise in racist and racially-motivated crimes and xenophobic acts, and to ensure effective detection, investigation, prosecution, and punishment.

Another area of particular attention is ensuring the enjoyment by migrants, including irregular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as well as persons belonging to national, ethnic or religious minorities of their human rights, including the rights to health and education and combating discrimination against them.

While taking note of the information provided on Finland's position regarding the ratification of relevant international instruments, my delegation reiterates its previous recommendation to Finland to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

I thank you.