

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – Pakistan****Intervention by Denmark**

Madame President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the Pakistani Delegation to Geneva as well as progress made regarding democratic reforms and the strengthening of Pakistan's human rights commitments since 2008. We encourage the Pakistani Government to continue such positive developments.

**Rights of marginalised groups, including religious minorities:**

Denmark acknowledges the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to freedom of religion, but is concerned about continued reports of violent persecution, discrimination and forced conversions aimed at marginalized groups, including women, and ethnic and religious minorities, as well as ambiguity in the legal system where secular laws might be subject to Sharia law.

- Denmark recommends that the Pakistani Government amends discriminatory laws and vigilantly counters [REDACTED] discrimination against marginalized groups, including women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities, and provides a safe and just environment for all citizens in Pakistan.

**Protection of Human Rights Defenders:**

Denmark is concerned about persistent violence and threats against human rights defenders, who play an important role in promoting a culture of human rights in Pakistan.

- Denmark recommends that the Pakistani Government develops a national policy for the protection of human rights defenders and brings to justice all perpetrators of attacks on or threats against human rights defenders to combat impunity.

Thank you Madame President.