



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

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Statement by Norway:

UPR of France

Thank you Mr. President,

Norway welcomes the presentation of the National Report by the delegation of France. We commend the achievements made since the last UPR, including as regards women's rights and France's work for LGBT rights both domestically and abroad.

However, we note with concern reports of what appears to be an increase in violence and discrimination against French Muslims and French citizens of North African descent. The lack of adequate statistics on this matter could make it more difficult to find corresponding solutions. While recognizing the historical reasons for avoiding distinguishing ethnic criteria relating to French citizens, we **recommend** that measures be taken to produce data adequate for combating discrimination and violence against minorities more efficiently.

Moreover, although the penal code of 2009 has improved prison conditions in France, we note that great challenges remain regarding the mental and physical health of many prisoners. We also note with concern the use of tasers (electroshock weapons), and of full body searches, when other measures would be equally efficient and more humane. We **recommend** that France consider ending the use of tasers and full body searches in prisons. Furthermore, regarding migrants and asylum seekers, we **recommend** France to limit the use of detention, especially when families with young children are concerned.

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