



16th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
(22 April- 3 May 2013)

Germany

Statement of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Thursday, 25th April 2013

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Thank you Mr. President,

Bahrain welcomes the delegation of Germany to the second cycle of the UPR, and commends the developments made by the Federal Government since their first review, especially with regard to the normative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights including, *inter alia*, the adoption of a National Action Plan to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

However, many challenges remain to be tackled in an effective and constructive manner. My delegation would, therefore, like to make the following **recommendations**:

1. **Increase efforts to prevent and punish perpetrators of racially motivated acts of violence against members of the Roma/Sinti, Muslim, Jewish communities, as well as German nationals of foreign origin;**
2. **Adopt immediate and positive measures to combat all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against the Sinti and Roma communities, regarding their access to housing, education, employment and healthcare;**
3. **Adopt proactive measures to promote equal gender representation in decision-making positions, and implement non-discriminatory policies to ensure equal pay for women;**
4. **Finally, ensure that Germany's law and policies are consistent with CEDAW and ICERD by revising or revoking laws and regulations that hinder access to equal opportunities.**

Thank you Mr. President..