

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, 2014

AFGHANISTAN

Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark thanks the delegation of Afghanistan for their presentation today. We welcome the steps taken to improve the human rights situation in the country. Still, we remain concerned about a lack of effective implementation of Afghan laws and international human rights obligations.

Denmark is seriously concerned that women and girls still lack equal opportunities, face endemic domestic violence, trafficking, so-called "honour" killings and forced and child marriages.

Denmark recommends that the Government of Afghanistan takes steps to ensure the prompt enforcement of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan, the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law and the international CEDAW obligations and reject any further attempts to water down the intentions of those measures.

Denmark strongly supports the mandate of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission to monitor, protect and promote human rights in the country.

To ensure its long term sustainability, **Denmark recommends** that the Government of Afghanistan substantially increases its allocation of funds to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Denmark recommends that Afghanistan takes steps to ensure proper and widespread enforcement of article 29 of the constitution and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

Thank you, Mr. President.