

Angeliki
Doucas 24

AFGHANISTAN under UPR/UPR 18th Session
(Geneva, 27.01-07.02.14)

Questions-Recommendations by Greece

Thank you M. President,

Greece would like to welcome the delegation of Afghanistan to the 18th session of the UPR Working Group headed by H.E.

1. We recognize that Afghanistan adopted in 2009 a new ground-breaking Law regarding violence against women. However, women continue to face multiple forms of violence throughout the country, including forced marriages, honour killings and sale. In other words, the 2009 Law has not been properly implemented. On the contrary, even high ranking officials pose problems in the actual realisation of the Law. We recommend that the Government of Afghanistan take all possible action, as a matter of priority, to eliminate all forms of violence against women and to amend all Laws that discriminate against women.
2. Equally, we remain gravely concerned regarding child rights. Child marriages and child labor persists, child trafficking for sexual exploitation is widespread and in Afghanistan child mortality rates are of the highest in the world. We recommend that the Government of Afghanistan adopt a framework policy to protect child rights according to international standards and undertake a national campaign to promote awareness of child rights.
3. Finally, we express our concern regarding the actual situation of the Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan, a body that has been probably the most successful in promoting human rights. We recommend that the Government of Afghanistan ensure the independence of the Human Rights Commission, including through providing regular budgeting for the Commission, and proceed to the immediate appointment of its members.

Thank you M. President