



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

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Eighteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group January and February 2014

Statement from Norway:

UPR of Afghanistan

Norway would like to thank Afghanistan's delegation for the presentation of their National Report.

Norway notes that Afghanistan has started the important work to review its legislation in light of international human rights law. There are, however, still a number of discrepancies that need to be addressed. **Norway recommends that Afghanistan further strengthens its efforts to review its legislative framework and makes necessary adjustments to it in order to ensure that it is in conformity with Afghanistan's international human rights obligations.**

Norway commends Afghanistan on its effort over the last decade to improve the situation of women. However, we are concerned about the number of women who are victims of violence and the authorities' failure to investigate properly all such cases and to bring the responsible to justice within the formal justice system. **Norway recommends that Afghanistan adopts measures in order to strengthen the knowledge of the EAW-law within the police and the judiciary in order to guarantee effective implementation of the law.**

Norway finds that the criminalizing of sexual practices between consenting adults of the same sex is in breach with international legal guarantees of privacy and non-discrimination. Arrests on this basis also breach the guarantee against arbitrary detention. **Norway recommends that Afghanistan ensures non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and repeals the provisions of the penal code which criminalise sexual relation between consenting adults of the same sex.**

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