



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Cyprus

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, February 4, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes Cyprus to the UPR and thanks it for presenting its national report.

In an economic crisis there is a growing risk of inequality as the crisis hits the most vulnerable hardest. There have been reports of non-respect of HR-rights of migrants and refugees/asylum seekers in Cyprus.

How does Cyprus ensure that basic human rights for migrants and refugees/asylum seekers are followed by local agencies and the police?

Cyprus has a high amount of guest workers. These persons have an increased risk of falling victims of labor exploitation and sexual abuse. Sweden asked in one of its advance questions ~~on~~ how Cyprus provides the necessary protection of guest workers e.g. legal protection, labor protection, victim protection etc

Sweden would like to make the following two recommendations

1. Labor exploitation is reported on the increase, the Cypriot authorities should conceive measures to address this phenomenon such as alerting migrant workers, informing migrant workers about their legal rights and give training to professionals in contact with potential victims.

2. Cyprus is a source and destination country for men and women who are subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Cyprus should improve efforts to prosecute, convict and sentence trafficking offenders.

Thank you, Mr President