



45

PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

STATEMENT

UPR of Uruguay 29 January 2014 – Statement by Norway

Norway praises Uruguay for its proactive and committed policies to strengthen human rights and the rule of law. We welcome efforts to end impunity and to establish identity of victims of enforced disappearances during the military rule. We note with appreciation the Uruguayan government's strong emphasis on preventing sexual and gender-based violence.

Nevertheless, the large number of reported cases of **violence against women and gender-based homicides** is worrisome. Norway recommends Uruguay to intensify prosecution and preventive measures in order to further protect women and to generate greater awareness of gender-based violence.

Norway is concerned about the **low participation of women in decision-making bodies and discrimination towards women in working environments**, particularly among the Afro-Uruguayan population. Norway recommends Uruguay to take stronger measures to ensure equal rights and opportunities, regardless of ethnicity and sex.

We applaud the improvements made in the national legal framework concerning the **rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)** by the recent adoption of the same sex marriage act. The reported discrimination on sexual orientation and gender identity, and lack of safety and proper access to justice on the part of LGBT-persons, is, however, a matter of concern. Consequently, Norway recommends Uruguay to adopt necessary legislative and administrative measures to guarantee the security of LGBT- persons and facilitate their access to justice and legal assistance.

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