



38

PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

STATEMENT

UPR of Yemen 29 January 2014. Norwegian statement.

Norway would like to thank the delegation of Yemen for the national report of November 2013 and the presentation here today. A challenging period of transition has taken place in Yemen since the last UPR session in 2009. Norway welcomes the recently concluded work of the National Dialogue Conference, and commends the great number of women and youth having participated. We hope that human rights will be a vital element of the upcoming elections and the work for a new Yemeni constitution.

Among issues of concern in Yemen are the frequent reports of discrimination and violence against women and children.

A law proposing a minimum marital age has been put forward, but is still to be ratified by the Parliament. We recommend that the new law is adopted as a matter of urgency and that forced marriages are prohibited in all cases. We also recommend that Yemen refrains from sentencing minors to death, in accordance with their international treaty obligations, and ultimately abolishes death penalty all together.

Norway believes that the work performed by human rights defenders is crucial and we are concerned with the slow progress in creating a legal framework that effectively protects them. We continue to receive reports of harassment and intimidation against human rights defenders, as well as against people expressing their views in peaceful demonstrations or in the media.

Norway recommends that Yemeni Authorities adopt appropriate measures to disseminate widely and ensure full observance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

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