

***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office***

 ***and other International Organizations in Geneva***

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Universal Periodic Review

Norway

28.04.2014

Intervention by Brazil

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to commend Norway’s promotion of tolerance and equality regarding migrants and asylum seekers from several cultural backgrounds. The enactment of the right to obtain information about other employees’ pay if one suspects pay discrimination is noteworthy as well as the amendment of the Penal Code to curb public hate speech and the Working Group to combat racism and anti-Semitism in schools.

 The policies on gender equality, religious tolerance and access to the local social security system by foreign residents should also be praised.

 Nonetheless, there is still room for improvement on protection of the rights of the child. The consideration of the best interests of the child in all immigration matters requires immediate action, particularly the right to the enjoyment of family life and not to be arbitrarily separated from their family environment.

The situation of the rights of migrants, regardless of their legal status, in particular with respect to access to necessary health services is a matter of concern. Lengthy procedures for obtaining local personal documents for newly arrived foreign residents are also disquieting, since they impede the exercise of basic rights, such as adequate housing.

 Brazil would like to recommend that Norway:

(i) Continue and strengthen efforts to ensure respect for the best interest of children when enforcing public policies on the rights of migrants. A specific step could be the review of disaggregated data concerning children deprived of their parents’ custody by public authorities, in order to strengthen national policies and accountability in relation to the protection of the right of children to family life and not to be arbitrarily separated from their family environment.

(i) Further support existing initiatives aimed at collecting and generating disaggregated data on racism and discrimination, such as the actions being taken by Statistics Norway, the Action Plan to Promote Equality and Prevent Ethnic Discrimination, and the Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities.

I thank you, Mr. President



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