



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Norway - 28 April 2014

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Norway to the UPR Working Group.

We take note of the developments in Norway since its first UPR, and the progress made, especially in the area of children's rights.

However, we would like to highlight some areas where there is potential for further improvement:

Gender inequality is a challenge that needs to be addressed by the Government of Norway especially in relation to education and employment. Sri Lanka notes with concern that higher education programmes are highly gender-divided and women earn lower wages than men.

The high unemployment rate among immigrants and the lower participation rate of immigrant women in the labour market are challenges that need attention. We recognize that the Government is taking targeted measures to address these challenges, including through the Job Chance Programme.

We also note that in the recent years, there has been an increase in the incidents of domestic violence, including intimate partner homicide, which is a persistent social problem in Norway. We are encouraged to note that the Government is giving high priority to its efforts to combat violence in close relationships.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Norway:

1. Enhance measures to encourage participation of women in the labour market without gender discrimination, including by reducing the wage gap between men and women.
2. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
3. Strengthen measures to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence and provide assistance to women and child victims of violence, in particular social rehabilitation.

We wish Norway success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.