



UPR 21, January 28, 2015
Recommendations by Canada for Guyana's UPR

Question

Canada notes continued challenges since the first cycle to freedom of expression in Guyana, notably in the intimidation of members of the press and lack of impartial distribution of broadcast licenses. Could the Delegation of Guyana inform us of the measures Guyana is taking to address these issues, and to prevent and investigate instances of intimidation or violence against the media?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Guyana:

1. Ensure a coordinated response between police, justice, child protection, and social service officials so that women and children who are victims of violence, including sexual abuse, have access to immediate protection.
2. Provide law enforcement and judiciary members with training on addressing domestic violence and child abuse cases and build their capacity to record and track complaints ensuring that all allegations are thoroughly investigated and that all perpetrators are prosecuted.
3. Reduce the use of corporal punishment against minors in state-run institutions through awareness-raising campaigns and training in non-violent forms of discipline.
4. Amend Article 149 of the Guyana Constitution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and repeal Sections 351 to 353 of the Criminal Law Offenses Act, which criminalizes sexual activities between consenting adults of the same sex.

Observations

Canada observes with concern continuing and serious reports of police brutality. These reports, together with limited investigations and slow judicial proceedings, erode accountability. Canada regrets that the 2010 UPR recommendation for the establishment of an independent framework for oversight and accountability for human rights within law enforcement agencies has largely not been implemented.