



**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Twenty First Session**

**Review of Sweden**

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**(Geneva, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015)**

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Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the distinguished delegation of Sweden.

We welcome a number of positive developments since the last review, including measures to promote women political participation in decision making, address gender pay gap, and combat violence against women and supporting its victims. We also applaud efforts to harmonize national legislations with Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) and elaborating new national action plan on combating human trafficking.

While appreciating the Government's acknowledgement of persisting challenges; various reports regarding increasing racism and xenophobia are sources of deep concern. Discrimination and societal hostility against Roma, Muslims, and migrants, high rates of hate crimes including numerous torching of mosques, alleged racial profiling in metro campaigns in March 2013, and maintaining secret security archives of Roma citizens deserve specific attention specially with the rising popularity of neo-Nazi and racist political movements.

In this regard, Egypt recommends ensuring accountability for hate speech including racism in political discourse, prohibiting organizations promoting and inciting racial hatred in line with article 4(b) of Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), introducing a common and clear definition of hate crimes, and ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW).

On a different note, Egypt also recommends:

- 1- Establishing a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles.
- 2- Adopting a definition of torture in line with Article 1 of Convention against Torture (CAT).
- 3- Raising the age of entry into marriage to 18 years, in accordance with the definition of the child under CRC.
- 4- Providing protection for the family unit as the natural and fundamental unit of society.

I thank you.

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