

Mrs Ismini Panagopoulou

UPR 21st Session
(Geneva, 19-30.01.15)
Review of Sweden
Intervention by Greece

Thank you Mr President,

We would like to welcome the Swedish Delegation to the 21st UPR Session and to commend Sweden's firm engagement in the promotion of Human Rights at all levels as well as to call upon the country to continue spreading its best practices in the field.

1. We acknowledge the government's efforts to tackle discrimination due to religion and especially its initiatives for the carrying out of surveys on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, as well as the allocation of funds for the protection of the Jewish minority who have suffered anti-Semitic hate crimes. Still, more needs to be done, given the recent increase in racism oriented activities in the country. **We recommend** that Sweden amend its legislation to declare illegal and prohibit organizations promoting and inciting racial hatred, in line with article 4 (b) of the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.
2. We recognize Sweden's achievements to promote women's rights. We commend the appointment of a national coordinator for the combating of violence in intimate relations and we suggest that the Swedish government implements the recommendations contained in her final report following its swift review by the relevant authorities. **We recommend** that Sweden intensify efforts in fighting the root causes of violence against women by paying special attention to addressing alcohol and drug abuse – a common feature among most perpetrators of such instances-with specific measures involving all relevant authorities.
3. Finally, **we recommend** that Sweden take the necessary legislative measures to further enhance the rights of the Sami people and in particular to facilitate the judicial treatment of Sami claims related to their land rights and to provide them with the relevant legal assistance.

Thank you Mr President