



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

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DPR Mr. Renne Kling

21st Session of the UPR working group

Questions and recommendations by Finland to Turkey

27 January 2015

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to make the following two recommendations on freedom of expression and on non-discrimination.

Finland recommends Turkey to continue to modify and implement its legislation on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association in order to fully meet its international human rights obligations, by inter alia simplifying notification requirements for planned demonstrations in the spirit of peaceful freedom of assembly.

Finland also recommends Turkey to focus on the overall implementation of its non-discriminatory provisions and to extend them to include the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The implementation of overall anti-discrimination policies in Turkey should include all forms of discrimination.

The current humanitarian crises in Turkey's neighborhood are alarming, in particular the crisis in Syria. Finland wants to commend Turkey for its immense efforts to provide protection for the Syrian people. The international community must continue supporting Turkey in its efforts to ensure protection of the refugees.

Whilst several legal reforms regarding the freedom of expression, such as the creation of Ombudsman's office, have been made since the previous review, restrictions towards media and dissenting voices have continued to increase. We also remain concerned about numerous arrests of journalists.