

Check against delivery

**22nd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of MALAWI
Statement by AUSTRIA**

5th May 2015

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Malawi and thanks them for their presentation and the national report.

Austria welcomes some positive steps towards fulfilment of gender equality such as the adoption of a Gender Equality Act in 2013.

Austria is seriously concerned about the surge in violent attacks against people with albinism since the beginning of the year. We welcome the strong statement by the President condemning these attacks as well as the government's recently adopted five-point plan of action to improve the security and well-being of people with albinism. However, we want to remind the government that all efforts by police forces to investigate these attacks against people with albinism strictly have to be in line with international human rights standards.

Following up on the first UPR, we have noted that prison conditions have not improved since the last review. We also want to reiterate our concern - already expressed in the first UPR - regarding the existence of legislation prohibiting consensual same-sex relationships.

Austria is worried about reports of harassment and intimidation of journalists and human rights defenders and reported restrictions on their rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

1. Implement without any delay the recently presented action plan to improve the security and well-being of people with albinism in line with international human rights standards;
2. Allocate financial and human resources to the implementation of the Gender Equality Act and amend all laws that discriminate against women, in particular the Citizen Act, so as to ensure that nationality provision are applied equally to men and women;
3. Take measures to improve prison conditions such as overcrowding, poor health facilities and inadequate food;
4. Take effective measures to protect LGBTI persons from violence and prosecute the perpetrators of violent attacks;
5. Fully investigate all cases of harassment and intimidation of journalists and human rights defenders with a view of bringing the perpetrators to justice.

I thank you.