

2nd cycle UPR Review of LEBANON
02/11/2015

Statement by Austria

We welcome the delegation of Lebanon and thank them for their report.

Lebanon deserves high praise for sheltering some 1,5 million refugees in the country, an impressive sign of commitment to the core Human Rights value of the dignity and sanctity of human life.

Nevertheless, the situation of refugees and migrants in Lebanon still is precarious in many ways and we would like to offer two recommendations in this regard:

Recommendation 1: Take legal and administrative steps to ensure that every refugee child born in Lebanon is properly registered by the authorities and issued with the documents to prove it, without prejudice to the question of permanent residency or the acquisition of Lebanese citizenship.

Recommendation 2: Improve the situation of migrant workers

Regarding the high number of alleged cases of torture and ill-treatment by security forces, we submit **Recommendation 3:** Adopt a law on the general prohibition of torture based on a comprehensive definition of torture in conformity with CAT and providing for adequate assistance to victims as well as for victims' access to redress and compensation.

With a view to the deplorable situation of LGBTI persons in Lebanon, we offer **Recommendation 4:** Reform existing laws that can be used to discriminate against LGBTI persons, including Art. 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code criminalising "sexual acts against nature", and adopt measures to ensure non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Our **Recommendation 5** is to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Finally, we would like to ask a question relating to Lebanon's admirable religious and cultural diversity: Does the government have plans to introduce legislation giving all couples of mixed religion access to civil marriage?

Thank you!