

United Nations Human Rights Council  
24th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Denmark

Geneva, 21 January 2016

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. .... and the delegation of Denmark to the UPR and thanks for the submission and presentation of the national report.

We recognize the high standards – in law and in practice – that Denmark has achieved in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Austria also commends the government for its efforts undertaken to implement the recommendations received during its first review including the ratification of the OP to the CRPD.

We do however share the concern of the Council of Europe, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and other institutions with regard to recently adopted or introduced amendments to the Aliens Act as a result of the refugee situation in Europe. We are also worried about reports and surveys showing that a high number of women in Denmark having experienced physical and/or sexual violence, stalking or harassment and that only a very low number of reported cases have led to a trial or conviction.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

- to ensure that the treatment of asylum seekers remains in accordance with the international conventions and protocols that Denmark has signed up to;
- to ensure that the best interests of the child are fully considered when deciding on asylum cases;
- to develop and adopt further measures to prevent and combat sexual violence against women.
- Make all necessary efforts to allow for both parents to be able to act responsibly for the upbringing and development of the child.