



**UN Human Rights Council
UPR 24th Session
Statement made by the United Arab Emirates in the Interactive Dialogue
with Latvia**

*Delivered by H.E. Obaid Salem AL ZAABI,
Ambassador/Permanent Representative of UAE
Geneva, 26 January 2016*

Mr. President,

We would like to express our appreciation to the delegation of Latvia for its presentation. We recognize Latvia's commitment to human rights and its many achievements. In particular, we praise measures taken to promote society integration and combating trafficking in human beings.

We are concerned at reports of religious and racial discrimination, racially motivated crimes, hate speech and Islamophobia.

The UAE recommends that Latvia:

1. Implement public awareness campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and to counter prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, racism, and Islamophobia;
2. Strengthen the implementation of criminal law provisions aimed at combating racially motivated crimes;
3. Strengthen measures to counter the use of racist discourse in politics and in the media.

Thank you Mr. President

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