



UPR 25, May 10, 2016
Recommendations by Canada for Swaziland's UPR

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Swaziland:

1. Repeal laws that restrict civil rights, including the Royal Decree of 1973 and components of the Suppression of Terrorism Act, and develop a legislative framework to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including rights related to forming and participating in political parties and civil society organizations.
2. Take effective measures to guarantee the impartiality and independence of the judiciary, in accordance with Swaziland's international commitments and obligations, including the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
3. Take necessary steps to prevent torture and other human rights violations by law enforcement and security forces, in accordance with Swaziland's obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including by ensuring impartial investigations of all allegations, prosecuting perpetrators, and implementing human rights training programs.
4. Take immediate and effective measures to bring conditions at all detention facilities into line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Observations

Canada acknowledges the steps taken by Swaziland to protect children's rights since its last Universal Periodic Review, notably the adoption of the Children's Welfare and Protection Act in 2012, which effectively outlaws child, early and forced marriage. We call on the Government of Swaziland to fully implement the Children's Welfare and Protection Act and to amend the Marriage Act of 1964 to harmonize the minimum age of marriage at 18 years of age.

Canada remains concerned about the lack of access to impartial justice and about inadequate protections for citizens' rights. We call upon Swaziland to take effective measures to guarantee the credibility of its legal system and to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms.