



UPR 25, May 6, 2016
Recommendations by Canada for Tajikistan's UPR

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Tajikistan:

1. Amend the Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations to fully protect the right to freedom of religion or belief in compliance with international norms and obligations. Remove restrictions imposed over religious education and literature, activities of religious organizations, and religious dressing to promote religious tolerance.
2. Take immediate and concrete steps to fulfil the recommendations made by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture in 2012 and 2014, including the establishment of an effective national preventative mechanism.
3. Strengthen national coordination mechanisms and develop a comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plan, as recommended by the UN Secretary General in 2015, before Tajikistan's next Universal Periodic Review.

Observations

Canada acknowledges the steps taken by Tajikistan since its first Universal Periodic Review process in 2011 to address issues related to gender equality and violence against women, including through the adoption of legislation on the prevention of domestic violence.

However, we remain concerned about the human rights situation in the country, in particular the decision by Tajikistan's High Court to ban the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan calling it "an extremist and terrorist organization". This ban, along with the arrest and detention of IPRT members, restricts the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in Tajikistan.

Political parties are an important element of a functioning democracy, and Canada supports the development of representative, inclusive and sustainable pluralistic political party systems.