

Item 6 – UPR Norway

Institute for Women's Studies and Research

Mr. President,

Today the Islamic world is faced with a huge volume of attacks against its culture and religious beliefs, a phenomenon better known as Islamophobia.

This is while Human Rights Council Resolution 10/22 of 29 March 2009 on Combating Defamation of Religion, "*Expresses deep concern* at the negative stereotyping and defamation of religions and manifestations of intolerance and discrimination in matters of religion or belief still evident in Norway, which have led to intolerance against the followers of these religions,".

Islamophobia inhibits the development of a just society, characterised by social inclusion and cultural diversity. For it is a constant source of threat and distress to Muslims and implies that they do not have the same rights as other citizens. Islamophobia increases the likelihood of serious social disorder, with consequent high costs for the economy and for the justice system.

Mr. President,

As a nongovernmental organization active in women's affairs, we express our deep concern at the daily increasing spread of Islamophobia and states that in linking terror and bomb attacks to Muslims, by drawing a shocking image of Muslims, some mass media outlets in Norway are taking steps towards the destruction of global peace and stability.

We believe that only in the shadows of peace and justice and respect of the identity of other ethnic groups, can we wish for a future free of war and conflict for the world and its occupants.

This Institute also believes that the government of Norway has a fundamental and importance roll to prevent the expansion of this culture throughout Norwegian.

Thank you.