

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO UZBEKISTAN

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process? Can you give us some examples of NGOs which were consulted?
- We note that only two active independent human rights groups have been registered in Uzbekistan. Can you elaborate on plans for the reform of the registration processes for independent domestic human rights NGOs? In light of the closure of Human Rights Watch's office in Uzbekistan in 2011, could you further inform us of steps Uzbekistan is taking to facilitate the registration of international human rights NGOs?
- We note the measures detailed in your report that deal with the reform of the prison system. We would be grateful for further information on the steps Uzbekistan is taking to address the continuing allegations of torture and mistreatment in the criminal justice system.
- Please could you provide an update on the situation of the following human rights defenders who are in detention in Uzbekistan: Solijon Abdurakhmanov, Azam Formonov, Isroiljon Holdarov, Nosim Isakov, Gaibullo Jalilov, Abdurasul Khudoinazarov, Ganihon Mamatkhanov, Zafarjon Rahimov, Yuldash Rasulov, Dilmurod Saidov, Erkin Musaev, Muhammad Bekjanov and Akzam Turgunov?
- We note that there remains a large number of blocked websites in Uzbekistan, including international news media sites which put forward opposing views to those of the government, and human rights websites. What is the government doing to liberalise the online media space in line with international standards?
- A law adopted in December 2008 establishes the Chamber of Lawyers as Uzbekistan's professional lawyers' organisation. Independent lawyers' associations were disbanded following the adoption of this law. What plans does the government of Uzbekistan have to allow the establishment of independent legal organisations?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What measures have been undertaken by the Government of Uzbekistan in order to facilitate the activities of non-governmental organizations and to limit undue restrictions and interference in their work?
- How does Uzbekistan ensure implementation of new legislation on judicial control of detention (habeas corpus) and effective investigation of alleged cases of torture?
- What specific actions have been undertaken by the Government of Uzbekistan to prevent trafficking in persons, including forced prostitution and forced labour and to protect and assist victims of trafficking? What specific actions have been taken to prosecute the perpetrators of these criminal acts?

NETHERLANDS

- Human rights defenders (HRD). Is Uzbekistan still willing to accept visits of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, as expressed in the agreement of principle? If so, when will it allow the Special Rapporteur to visit the country?
- Women's rights. Can Uzbekistan summarize what actions it is undertaking, or plans to undertake, to eradicate traditional practices such as polygamy, forced and early marriage and bride abduction, especially in rural areas?
- LGBT rights. Does Uzbekistan, as during the last UPR, hold the view that the prohibition of voluntary sexual intercourse between two male individuals (article 120 of its criminal code) is compatible with its international obligations under the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights? How does Uzbekistan, as a party to this Convention, assess the Human Rights Committee's conclusion in *Toonen v. Australia* (CCPR/C/50/D/488/1992) that Articles 2 (1) and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibit discrimination, apply equally to sexual orientation?
- Freedom of Religion and Belief. How does Uzbekistan respond to the allegations of suppression and persecution of religious groups registered legally under the 1998 Religion Law, as laid out in various reports by human rights organisations? Could such practices, if they occur, amount to an infringement of the right to freedom of religion or belief as laid down in Uzbekistan's constitution?

SLOVENIA

- What religious affiliation is currently considered as acceptable grounds for conscientious objectors? How many persons have been accepted into civilian service as an alternative to military service since the last review?
- What measures have been put in place or are envisaged for the implementation of the recommendations of the UN system (treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR) with regard to ensuring full respect for the rights of detainees, the right to a fair trial and the right not to be subjected to torture or other forms of ill-treatment?
- Bearing in mind that education levels of the Roma population in Uzbekistan are reportedly considerably lower than the nation's average, we would also be interested to hear about steps taken to protect the Roma from discrimination, in particular in the area of education.

GERMANY

- Germany is interested to know how the government of Uzbekistan plans to further protect and ensure a free working environment for independent civil society organizations and NGOs.

- Germany would like to know what measures the government of Uzbekistan foresees to address reports on wide spread forced and child labour during cotton harvest periods.

SWEDEN

- While Uzbek authorities have supported recommendations earlier to establish a national independent mechanism to monitor all places of detention, such a mechanism has not until recently been established. Could the government clarify as to how and when the national independent mechanism will be established?
- Sweden asks the government to elaborate on which measures are being taken to consolidate the process against child labour?
- Following the presentation by the president of a new media concept, the government is asked to elaborate on the contents of the laws under consideration and to give an assessment as to when new media laws will be ready for approvals.

MEXICO

- Does the government have an internal procedure to identify torture treatment in prisons?
- How does the government ensure the right of information and freedom of choice in reproductive rights of women and men?
- How does the government ensure that exit visas requirements do not violate the right of freedom of movement?

IRELAND

- Ireland notes reports from Uzbek civil society that Uzbekistan promotes the sterilisation of women as a form of contraception where women have two or more children in accordance with a State Program on Compulsory Sterilization of Women. Does Uzbekistan have such a programme? Does Uzbekistan encourage medical professionals to meet quotas in relation to sterilisation? Where sterilisation does occur, does Uzbekistan ensure that the full, free and informed consent of all women who undergo sterilisation is obtained?