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Manjam Safari
UPR Spain

**Joint Statement:
Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims
&
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence**

**Under Item 6: Universal Periodic Review
Spain**

Mr. President

I would like to refer to gender inequality and minority rights in Spain.

Discrimination against women in the workplace persists. Although it is prohibited by law nonetheless traditional attitudes towards women lead to inequality in hiring practices and in pay. The female rate of unemployment is about twice that of men and the average salary for women was 30% lower than that of men.

Roma minorities suffer from housing, education, and employment discrimination. In addition, a growing number of right-wing extremist attacks against minorities have been reported in recent years. Which requires the Spanish government to provide effective mechanisms for legal redress for discrimination and harassment for Roma and other minorities.

13% of the Muslims in Spain suffered discrimination last year in terms of purchase or renting property, moreover they feel most under attack in the area of legal questions and policing, 43% claimed they had been stopped by the Spanish police over the past 12 months.

A 16-year-old schoolgirl has been banned from classes in Spain after refusing to remove her Islamic headscarf, re-igniting the national debate over the Hijab.

There are no clear guidelines over the wearing of Islamic headdress in state schools, exacerbating the situation while the enforcement of dress codes is left up to individual school boards but previous cases of exclusion have been overturned by the state.

Mr. President

We urge the Spain government to :

- Adopt further measures to provide police and prison officers, and judicial authorities with human rights training with specifically focus on protection of human rights of women, children, ethnic or national minorities
- Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the Roma community, migrants and religious minorities, and take necessary measures against the perpetrators of racially motivated acts against migrants, ethnic and religious minorities