

(n° 6)

UPR: Turkey
United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva. 22nd September 2010

Mr. President,

We commend Turkey for accepting recommendation 102.10 made by the Czech Republic to *review compliance of its national legislation with the principle of non-discrimination, in particular with regard to women and persons of minority ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legal framework specifically protecting against discrimination on these grounds, and lead long-term awareness-raising campaign on these issues among the public.*

We would like to ask the Turkish delegation to clarify how and in what timeframe the Turkish government will provide anti-discrimination protection and will setup an awareness-raising campaign?

Whilst implementing these measures we urge Turkey to involve civil society organisations in the development, execution and evaluation of relevant programs and policies.

Norway, Canada, Ireland and the Netherlands recommended Turkey to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. We call upon Turkey to include sexual orientation and gender identity explicitly as grounds of non-discrimination in the draft law on non-discrimination and the development of an equality board, as to comply with international standards.

In its reply on recommendation 11 Turkey responded that individuals are enabled to use their right of the freedom of association, also when it relates to their sexual identity. Despite this claim, several associations working on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people were ordered to close down by local courts in recent years. We thus strongly urge Turkey to bring the judiciary system in compliance with these claims.

Whilst Turkey in responding to questions noted that hate crimes are unacceptable, we wish to draw attention ongoing hate-crimes targeted at transgender people. Last Monday, a trans woman was stabbed 12 times to death. Unfortunately the victim is only one out of a dozen of victims this year. Many of the violent attacks towards the trans community remain unpunished or uninvestigated. We call on Turkey to duly investigate such crimes and to conduct trial and punish the perpetrators.

Thank you Mr. President.