

(n°5)

Maryum Safari

## 15<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council

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

#### Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Sweden

##### Mr. President

The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims and Organization for Defending Victims of Violence are deeply concerned about the increases in racially motivated crimes, racist propaganda, as well as about the situation of unaccompanied migrant children and the lengthy holding of such children in custodial centers.

It concerns the recent Increase in incidents of racism and xenophobia against minorities, asylum-seekers and migrants, as well as about incidents of Islamophobia. In some cases Muslims had been denied employment.

High levels of child abuse and Neglect and other domestic violence; continued discrimination against immigrants, refugees and minority women; the denial of access to facilities to Muslim women; unequal power relations between women and men and racist and xenophobic overtones in the public arena and discrimination against Muslims also is a matter of concern for us.

We urge the Swedish government to

- Pay more attention to the issues of Islamophobia, hatred towards Muslims, and incitement to hatred against Islam and Muslims, including through newspaper articles and caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed published by certain media under the pretext of freedom of expression, which are an affront to many Muslims throughout the world and an affront to their beliefs and are denounced by all international instruments to which Sweden is a party
- Intensify efforts intended to punish and prevent discrimination based on ethnic grounds in all areas of life, in particular in cases affecting children and women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugees and members of migrant families

Thank you,