



5

PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

STATEMENT

Universal Periodic Review of the Dominican Republic 5 February 2014.

Statement by Norway.

Norway thanks the delegation for the presentation of the national report. Norway notes with satisfaction the steps made by the Dominican Republic to follow up recommendations in the previous UPR cycle, and welcomes the newly created position of the Ombudsman. Norway recommends that the Dominican Republic take the appropriate measures to develop this position into an independent human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.

Norway is concerned about the situation that is currently developing as a consequence of the Sentence 068/13 by the Tribunal Court, where descendants of migrants residing in the Dominican Republic may find themselves without nationality and basic rights such as education and health care, and may be subject to expulsions. Norway recommends introducing effective measures to prevent discriminatory practices linked to the process of granting citizenship and civil status registration. Furthermore, Norway recommends that the Dominican Republic seeks the technical advice of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to identify and prevent statelessness, and protect stateless persons, to address the challenges created by the ruling of the Constitutional Court.

Norway is concerned about reported high incidences of violence toward women. While we acknowledge the Government's efforts to combat this phenomenon, Norway recommends ensuring that the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Prosecutor General and other institutions with a role in preventing and addressing cases of gender-based violence are adequately resourced.

The Dominican Republic accepted in its 2009 review recommendations to consider measures to put an end to all discrimination against gays, lesbians and transsexuals. In light of the remaining challenges Norway recommends that the Dominican Republic strengthen their efforts and establish and implement policies and measures to address discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.