

# **Report for Australia: Egypt's 2019 UPR Recommendations and Proposed Actions for 2025**

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**Report for Australia: Egypt's 2019 UPR Recommendations and Proposed Actions for 2025****1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Criminalize all forms of sexual violence against women, including marital rape, and revise the personal status law to allow for civil marriages and divorce.****Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report outlines its commitment to advancing women's rights, citing the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030. However, there have been no amendments to the Penal Code or personal status laws to criminalize marital rape or expand civil marriage and divorce options. Discriminatory elements in the personal status laws continue to limit women's rights within marriage and family relations, and no specific laws address marital rape or other forms of sexual violence comprehensively.

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 1:* Egypt should amend its Penal Code to criminalize all forms of sexual violence, including marital rape, and revise personal status laws to permit civil marriage and divorce. The government should ensure equal rights for women in family law to align with international standards on gender equality.

**Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:**

- What legislative measures has Egypt taken to criminalize marital rape and strengthen protections against sexual violence?
- Are there plans to reform personal status laws to provide for civil marriage and divorce options?

**2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ensure pretrial detention and all court proceedings comply with Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including by ending the use of mass trials.****Geneva office:**

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**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report states that the judiciary adheres to fair trial standards. However, reports indicate that mass trials and prolonged pretrial detention remain prevalent, especially in politically sensitive cases. Access to legal representation is often limited, and fair trial guarantees are inconsistently upheld, raising concerns about compliance with ICCPR Article 14, which mandates fair and transparent legal processes.

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 2:* Egypt should ensure that pretrial detention and court proceedings fully comply with ICCPR Article 14, ending the practice of mass trials. The government should guarantee timely access to legal representation and uphold fair trial standards in all cases.

**Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:**

- What steps has Egypt taken to end the use of mass trials and ensure compliance with ICCPR Article 14?
- How does Egypt address concerns regarding prolonged pretrial detention and access to legal representation?

**3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Release all persons detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of opinion, expression, and assembly, and amend protest, counter-terrorism, media, and cybercrime laws to align with international human rights standards, including repealing Law 10 of 1914 on assembly.****Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report emphasizes its commitment to freedom of expression and assembly. However, restrictive laws, including Law 10 of 1914 on assembly and recent counter-terrorism, media, and cybercrime laws, continue to limit these freedoms. Reports indicate that individuals detained for peaceful protests, social media activity, and journalistic work remain in detention, often facing charges under these laws.

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**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 3:* Egypt should release all individuals detained for peaceful expression and amend restrictive laws—including the protest, counter-terrorism, media, and cybercrime laws—to conform with international human rights standards. The government should repeal Law 10 of 1914 on assembly to fully protect freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

**Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:**

- What measures has Egypt taken to release individuals detained for peaceful expression and to revise restrictive laws to align with international standards?
- Is there a timeline for repealing Law 10 of 1914 on assembly?

**4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step toward its complete abolition.****Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report defends the death penalty as constitutionally grounded, with safeguards in place. However, Egypt continues to issue and carry out a high number of death sentences, including in cases with political undertones. Despite international calls for a moratorium, there has been no indication of a shift towards reducing or abolishing the death penalty in Egypt.

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 4:* Egypt should establish a moratorium on executions as a preliminary step towards the complete abolition of the death penalty. The government should review all death penalty cases, especially those with political implications, to ensure they meet international fair trial standards.

**Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:**

- Has Egypt considered establishing a moratorium on the death penalty, and is there a timeline for this transition?
- What mechanisms are in place to review death penalty cases for compliance with international fair trial standards?

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## Conclusion

Australia's 2019 recommendations to Egypt focused on strengthening protections for women against sexual violence, ensuring fair trial standards, safeguarding civil liberties, and moving towards the abolition of the death penalty. While Egypt's National Report highlights some reform efforts, substantial gaps remain, particularly in criminalizing marital rape, upholding fair trial standards, and protecting freedom of expression and assembly. The proposed recommendations for 2025 aim to address these gaps and encourage Egypt to implement meaningful reforms in line with international human rights obligations.

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