

Report for Canada: Egypt's 2019 UPR Recommendations and Proposed Actions for 2025

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Take steps to protect human rights defenders (HRDs) and prevent pressure against them, including by lifting travel bans and asset freezes.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report emphasizes its commitment to constitutional freedoms; however, HRDs continue to face restrictive measures such as travel bans, asset freezes, and arbitrary detention, often justified under counter-terrorism laws and NGO regulations. These limitations hinder HRDs from freely operating, especially those advocating for human rights and holding the government accountable. Independent reports indicate that these restrictive measures are routinely applied to HRDs, impacting their ability to work without fear of reprisal.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should lift arbitrary travel bans and asset freezes imposed on HRDs and amend legislation that enables these restrictions. The government should create mechanisms to ensure that HRDs can operate freely without fear of harassment or reprisal.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What actions has Egypt taken to lift travel bans and asset freezes affecting HRDs?
- How does Egypt ensure the protection of HRDs from harassment or intimidation?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ensure that legislation allows for freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of assembly and association, in line with Egypt's Constitution of 2014 and its international human rights obligations.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report asserts that the constitution guarantees freedom of expression, assembly, and association. However, several laws, including the Protest Law, the Counter-Terrorism Law, and the Anti-

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Cyber and Information Technology Crimes Law, impose significant restrictions on these freedoms. These laws have been used to prosecute individuals and restrict activities deemed critical of the government, limiting the space for free expression and civil society operations.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend restrictive laws, such as the Protest Law, Counter-Terrorism Law, and Anti-Cyber Crimes Law, to fully protect freedom of expression, assembly, and association in line with the 2014 Constitution and international human rights standards. These changes should ensure that individuals can freely express their opinions and participate in peaceful assemblies without fear of prosecution.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What legislative amendments has Egypt made to ensure freedom of opinion, expression, assembly, and association?
- How does Egypt balance security concerns with protecting citizens' rights to free expression and peaceful assembly?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Take steps to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals and ensure they are not subject to discriminatory arrest or prosecution under criminal charges of indecency or debauchery.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report does not specifically address protections for LGBTI individuals. Reports indicate that LGBTI individuals are frequently targeted under broad laws on "debauchery" and "indecency." Arrests, harassment, and detention based on sexual orientation or gender identity persist, often leading to abuse and mistreatment in detention. There are no legal protections in place for LGBTI individuals, and discrimination against them is widespread.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should decriminalize consensual same-sex relations and eliminate laws that allow for the discriminatory arrest or prosecution of LGBTI individuals under charges such as

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“indecentry” or “debauchery.” The government should implement protections to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and train law enforcement officials on LGBTI rights.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken steps to prevent the discriminatory arrest or prosecution of LGBTI individuals under charges of indecentry or debauchery?
- What protections does Egypt have in place to ensure the rights of LGBTI individuals and to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity?

Conclusion

Canada’s 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to protect HRDs from restrictive measures, uphold freedoms of expression, assembly, and association, and prevent discrimination against LGBTI individuals. While Egypt’s National Report references constitutional guarantees, independent reports show limited action in aligning legislation with international standards, particularly regarding HRD protections and LGBTI rights. The proposed recommendations for 2025 focus on legal reforms, anti-discrimination measures, and protections for fundamental freedoms.

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