

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

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### **1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Secure access to modern family planning methods, in accordance with World Health Organization-approved standards, in all health facilities.**

#### **Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report does not provide specific details on improving access to family planning in health facilities. Reports indicate that while there have been initiatives focused on reproductive health, significant gaps remain, particularly for vulnerable populations like women in detention. Access to family planning services in detention facilities remains inadequate, with reports of medical neglect and limited reproductive health services.

#### **Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 1:* Egypt should ensure that all public health facilities, including detention centers, provide access to WHO-approved family planning methods. The government should implement training for healthcare providers to deliver these services, especially for vulnerable groups such as women in detention.

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

- What steps has Egypt taken to ensure that all health facilities, including prisons, provide modern family planning services according to WHO standards?

### **2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Effectively protect human rights defenders (HRDs) against intimidation or reprisals, including guaranteeing their right to unhindered access to international and regional human rights mechanisms.**

#### **Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report asserts that it upholds freedom of expression and association. However, independent reports indicate that HRDs continue to face significant risks, including travel bans, asset freezes, and harassment, often under counterterrorism laws and restrictive NGO regulations.

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These measures limit HRDs' access to international platforms and human rights mechanisms, with some activists facing retaliation for engaging with such forums.

#### **Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 2:* Egypt should end all forms of reprisal against HRDs and ensure they have unhindered access to international human rights mechanisms. An independent body should be established to investigate harassment cases against HRDs, ensuring accountability and providing them with protective measures.

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

- What protections has Egypt implemented to ensure HRDs can operate without fear of reprisal and have access to international human rights mechanisms?
- What mechanisms are in place to investigate cases of harassment and provide protections for HRDs?

### **3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).**

#### **Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. In its National Report, Egypt claims it has taken steps to combat torture, including establishing oversight bodies and training law enforcement on human rights standards. However, torture and ill-treatment remain widespread in detention facilities, with limited accountability for perpetrators. Ratifying OPCAT would obligate Egypt to implement additional measures for the prevention of torture, including allowing independent monitoring of detention facilities.

#### **Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 3:* Egypt should ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and implement its provisions, including establishing a national preventive mechanism to allow independent monitoring of detention facilities.

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

- What steps has Egypt taken towards ratifying OPCAT?
- What measures are in place to allow independent monitoring of detention facilities and prevent torture?

**Conclusion**

Denmark's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to improve family planning access, protect HRDs, and ratify OPCAT to prevent torture. While Egypt's National Report outlines some initiatives, there are substantial gaps, particularly concerning protections for HRDs, access to family planning in detention facilities, and the ratification of OPCAT. The proposed recommendations for 2025 aim to hold Egypt accountable for these issues and to encourage reforms that align with international human rights standards.

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