

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

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### 1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Amend legislation to eliminate discrimination and criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls.

#### Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report references efforts to promote gender equality through the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030. However, specific legal provisions criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and marital rape, are still lacking. Discriminatory elements in personal status laws remain unaddressed, impacting women's rights in areas such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance.

#### Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

*Recommendation 1:* Egypt should amend its Penal Code to explicitly criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and remove discriminatory provisions from personal status laws. Comprehensive protections should be provided for victims of gender-based violence, and awareness programs should be introduced to reduce societal stigma.

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

- What legislative actions has Egypt taken to criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls?
- How does Egypt ensure that personal status laws do not discriminate against women?

### 2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Strengthen cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

#### Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report mentions engagement with some UN bodies, yet reports indicate limited cooperation with the Human Rights Council's special procedures, particularly regarding independent investigations and fact-finding missions. Egypt has yet to respond positively to numerous requests from special procedure mandate holders, limiting transparency in human rights monitoring.

#### Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

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*Recommendation 2:* Egypt should strengthen its cooperation with the Human Rights Council's special procedures by facilitating independent investigations and collaborating on fact-finding missions. Greater transparency in cooperation with these mechanisms would enhance Egypt's credibility on the international stage.

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

- How does Egypt plan to increase its cooperation with the Human Rights Council's special procedures?
- What measures has Egypt taken to respond to pending visit requests from special procedure mandate holders?

**3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Respond positively to pending visit requests and consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.**

**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt has not extended a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders and has been selective in responding to visit requests. By extending a standing invitation, Egypt would demonstrate its commitment to transparency and accountability regarding human rights practices and align more closely with international standards.

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 3:* Egypt should extend a standing invitation to all UN special procedure mandate holders and promptly respond to pending visit requests. This commitment would facilitate greater oversight and enhance Egypt's engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

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

- Has Egypt taken steps to extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders?
- How does Egypt ensure timely responses to visit requests from international human rights bodies?

**4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Consider the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).**

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**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt maintains reservations on certain provisions of CEDAW, particularly regarding family law matters, which limits the Convention's full applicability in Egypt. These reservations undermine efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, particularly in areas such as marriage, divorce, and family relations. Withdrawing these reservations would strengthen Egypt's commitment to gender equality.

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 4:* Egypt should consider withdrawing its reservations to CEDAW, particularly those impacting family law and women's rights in marriage and divorce. This withdrawal would demonstrate a commitment to comprehensive gender equality and alignment with international women's rights standards.

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

- Has Egypt reviewed its reservations to CEDAW, and is there a timeline for potential withdrawal?
- How does Egypt ensure compliance with CEDAW principles despite existing reservations?

**Conclusion**

Latvia's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to address gender-based violence, strengthen cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, and reconsider its reservations to CEDAW. Egypt's National Report indicates partial engagement in these areas, but critical reforms are still necessary. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize legal and policy changes to align with international standards on gender equality and transparency in human rights monitoring.

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