

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

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Continue efforts to review and, where applicable, amend laws and policies that may discriminate against women and girls and ensure that they conform with international law and standards.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report highlights the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030, aimed at promoting gender equality. However, personal status laws still contain discriminatory provisions regarding marriage, divorce, and inheritance, which do not fully align with international standards. Comprehensive reform is needed to eliminate these discriminatory laws and ensure equal rights for women and girls in all aspects of life.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should amend personal status laws to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, ensuring alignment with international standards. The government should implement monitoring mechanisms to assess the impact of legal reforms on gender equality.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What specific legal reforms has Egypt implemented to remove discriminatory provisions against women and girls?
- How does Egypt monitor and evaluate the impact of its National Strategy for Women's Empowerment on gender equality?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Consider reducing the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report asserts that the death penalty is applied with procedural safeguards as per the Constitution. However, Egypt remains one of the leading countries in terms of executions, and the number of crimes carrying the death penalty has not been reduced. Limiting the scope of capital punishment to only the most serious crimes would align Egypt's practices with international recommendations.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should review its Penal Code to reduce the scope of crimes punishable by the death penalty, limiting its use to only the most serious offenses. The government should establish a review process to ensure fair trial standards are met in capital cases.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken steps to review and reduce the list of crimes punishable by the death penalty?
- What mechanisms does Egypt use to ensure fair trial standards in capital cases?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Continue efforts aimed at ensuring respect for freedom of religion or belief in law and in practice, in full conformity with international standards.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report mentions initiatives to promote religious tolerance. However, religious minorities continue to face restrictions, particularly regarding places of worship and recognition of religious identity. Implementing legal reforms and ensuring local authorities respect religious freedom would enhance Egypt's adherence to international standards on freedom of religion or belief.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should strengthen protections for religious freedom by ensuring that local authorities respect the rights of religious minorities. The government should implement legal reforms that guarantee equal rights for all religious communities, including removing restrictions on places of worship.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What actions has Egypt taken to ensure freedom of religion for all, especially for religious minorities?
- How does Egypt address local-level restrictions on religious practices and the building of places of worship?

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Conclusion

Malta's 2019 recommendations encouraged Egypt to eliminate gender-based discrimination, limit the scope of capital punishment, and uphold religious freedom. While Egypt's National Report outlines general progress, more targeted reforms are necessary to fully align with international standards. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize legislative updates, transparency, and protections for minority rights.

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