

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

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Eliminate discrimination against women, in particular by continuing with measures aimed at addressing violence against women.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report highlights initiatives under the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030, which includes some programs aimed at addressing gender-based violence. However, comprehensive legal reforms to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, particularly in areas such as family law and gender-based violence, are still needed. Women face persistent challenges related to unequal rights in marriage, divorce, and inheritance.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should enact a unified law that criminalizes all forms of violence against women and addresses discrimination in personal status laws to ensure equal rights for women. Additionally, comprehensive support services for survivors of gender-based violence should be made widely available.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to enact laws that comprehensively address discrimination and violence against women?
- How does Egypt monitor the implementation and effectiveness of programs under the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ensure that the new NGO law guarantees the functioning of civil society organizations.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt introduced Law No. 149 of 2019 to regulate NGOs; however, the law maintains restrictions on funding, activities, and government oversight, which limit the independence and operation of civil society organizations. HRDs and NGO staff still face travel bans, asset freezes, and administrative obstacles that hinder their work.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend the NGO law to remove restrictions on funding and activities, ensuring that civil society organizations can operate independently. Protections for HRDs and NGO staff should be strengthened to prevent harassment, travel bans, and asset freezes that impede their work.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What amendments has Egypt considered to ensure the NGO law aligns with international standards?
- How does Egypt protect civil society organizations and HRDs from administrative restrictions and harassment?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Adopt concrete measures to guarantee the free exercise of the rights of expression, assembly, association, and demonstration.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report acknowledges constitutional rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association. However, restrictive laws, such as the Anti-Cyber and Information Technology Crimes Law and the Protest Law, continue to limit these freedoms. Journalists, activists, and demonstrators face arrests, harassment, and prosecution, which hinders open expression and civic participation.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should revise restrictive laws, such as the Anti-Cyber Crimes Law and Protest Law, to ensure that individuals can freely exercise their rights to expression, assembly, and association without fear of reprisal. Safeguards should be implemented to protect journalists, activists, and protesters.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to revise laws affecting freedom of expression, assembly, and association?
- How does Egypt ensure that individuals exercising these rights are protected from arrest and harassment?

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

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt has not ratified OPCAT, which would require it to establish a national mechanism for preventing torture. Although Egypt's National Report mentions adherence to humane treatment in detention, reports of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities continue, with limited transparency or independent oversight.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should ratify OPCAT and establish an independent national preventive mechanism to monitor detention facilities. This mechanism would help prevent torture and ensure accountability in cases of abuse within detention centers.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken steps toward ratifying OPCAT and establishing independent oversight in detention facilities?
- What measures does Egypt implement to ensure humane treatment and prevent torture in detention centers?

Conclusion

Spain's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to address discrimination against women, protect civil society, uphold freedoms of expression and assembly, and prevent torture. Egypt's National Report shows some commitment to these areas, but additional reforms are essential. The proposed recommendations for 2025 focus on enacting legal changes, protecting civil liberties, and ensuring independent oversight to align with international human rights obligations.

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