

26 June 2015

UPR Kuwait

Sudwind regrets to see that Kuwait provided the related respond to all recommendations only today; prohibiting the UPR session being effective and accurate.

We are disappointed to note that Kuwait rejected the ratification of ILO convention 189 concerning the domestic workers, the recommendations abandoning the Kafala sponsorship system and adopting specific legislation criminalizing domestic and sexual violence including marital rape. The recommendations to establish a formal moratorium on the use of death penalty has been refused as it were in the first cycle, which is worrisome.

We note that Kuwait's efforts in combating trafficking are far from sufficient and still a large number of Iranian girls and women in Kuwait are being subjected to trafficking and prostitution.

Kuwait has rejected to recognize and respect the right to nationality set forth in the universal Declaration of Human rights, resulting in thousands of stateless citizens facing severe restrictions in access to employment, health care, education and state support enjoyed by Kuwaiti citizens.

The government continues to restrict freedom of expression, press and belief and criticism of the state.

At the former periodic review 2010 Kuwait accepted recommendations concerning its citizens' rights of exercising freedom of opinion through media and Internet. In May 2014 however, the National Assembly passed a new telecommunications law that will allow authorities to monitor, block, and censor online material. This is a clear violation of Kuwait's commitment to UPR.

Furthermore Sudwind is concerned that the same sex relationships are still punishable in accordance with the Penal Code in Kuwait.