

## QUICK GUIDE TO ADDRESSING SEXUAL RIGHTS ISSUES DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON QATAR

These Guides include:

- A list of issues mentioned in the National Report, the Compilation of official UN Documents and the Summary of Other Stakeholders Submissions, with references to the particular paragraphs in which they can be found.
- In those cases in which the Sexual Rights Initiative has submitted reports, we have included an Annex with our recommendations.

References in the two working languages of the Council (English and French) have been kept in their original language.

**Issues** are highlighted-References in the National Report are *in Italics*.

**Recommendations** -including those from UN treaty-monitoring bodies, are at the end of the document.

All sexual rights issues that do not relate specifically to women are referred to in this Guide. Sexual rights' issues referring specifically to women -as well as other women's issues- are referred to in the Guide on Women's Issues

ISSUE	N Report	Compilation	Summary
<b>Criminalization of same-sex consensual practices</b>			Criminal sanctions (34)
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>		Very low prevalence. General Awareness among adolescents. Lack of information about other STIs (4)	
<b>Sexual Violence</b>		Request for information on invasive body searches (52)	
<b>Sexual Violence against children</b>		Limited information. Abuse and neglect (22)	
<b>Trafficking Forced prostitution</b>	National Agency and programmes to combat trafficking. Protection to victims, sensitization of public forces, raising-awareness publications, (4.6.1) Penalization of sexual exploitation, prostitution and slavery. International competence principle (5.3)		
<b>Trafficking/sexual exploitation /violence against children</b>		National Agency, shelters (27)	Prohibited by law (5)

OP-CRC-SC (Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography) ratified.

### **Criminalization of same-sex consensual practices**

Joint Submission -JS- (ILGA; ILGA-Europe International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; ARC International) also indicated that Qatar maintains **criminal sanctions against sexual activity between consenting adults** (Para 34, Summary)

See Recommendations, JS (34), FMDVP (34)

### **HIV/AIDS**

In 2009, The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) welcomed efforts made by Qatar to protect the **health of adolescents** and promote healthy life styles. (). It took note of the **very low HIV/AIDS prevalence** and welcomed Qatar's efforts to raise **general awareness of HIV/AIDS** among adolescents. However, it noted with concern that **adolescents know little about other sexually transmitted infections** (Para 42, Compilation)

### **Sexual Violence**

In 2006, The Committee Against Torture (CAT) requested that Qatar provide, within one year, information on () **invasive and humiliating body searches**. No response has been received (Para 52, Compilation)

### **Sexual Violence against children**

In 2009, CRC expressed concern at the **limited information** on the magnitude of domestic violence, including **child abuse and neglect**. (Para 22, Compilation)

See Recommendations, CRC (22, 28)

### **Trafficking /Forced prostitution**

*L'Agence qatarie pour la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains a été créée en 2005. Elle a pour mission de proposer des politiques, de fixer les plans d'action nationaux, de renforcer les lois relatives à la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains et de superviser le **Centre qatari d'accueil et de protection humanitaires**, établi en 2003 par une décision du Conseil des ministres en vue d'apporter le soutien et la **protection nécessaires aux victimes** de la traite et assurer leur réadaptation et leur réinsertion au sein de la société. L'Agence a organisé des campagnes d'information **destinées à sensibiliser la population** à la notion de traite des êtres humains et à ses différents aspects. Ces campagnes s'adressaient à tous les groupes sociaux. L'Agence a en outre établi de nombreuses publications et organisé plusieurs réunions et entretiens. Ces activités étaient principalement destinées aux **fonctionnaires de police**. L'Agence a également lancé, avec la collaboration de la Direction du travail () des **programmes de sensibilisation** destinés à la main d'oeuvre étrangère présente au Qatar. Elle a en outre entrepris la publication en plusieurs langues du **manuel du travailleur étranger** (Para 4.6.1, NR) () Le **Code pénal qatari de 2004 a érigé en infractions pénales de nombreux actes** qui relèvent de la traite des êtres humains au sens international de cette expression, notamment **l'exploitation sexuelle, la prostitution, l'esclavage et les pratiques analogues** (). Il y a lieu de noter à cet égard que le Code pénal qatari **a adopté le principe de la compétence juridique internationale** lorsqu'il s'agit d'infractions relevant () de la traite des êtres humains () (Para 5.3, NR)*

See Recommendations, The Special Rapporteur on trafficking (46)

### **Trafficking/sexual exploitation/violence against children**

In 2009, CRC noted the steps undertaken by Qatar in combating human trafficking, including through the establishment in 2005 of the National Office to Combat Human Trafficking and the Qatari House for Lodging and Human Care. (Para 27, Compilation). Al Karama indicated that child trafficking is prohibited by Law No. 22 promulgated in 2005 (Para 5, Summary)

See Recommendations, CRC (27)

## **Suggested Questions and Recommendations**

### **CRC**

- § To strengthen support for victims of abuse and neglect in order to ensure their access to adequate services for physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (Para 22, Compilation)
- § That Qatar inter alia strengthen its procedures for the early-identification of child victims of trafficking; and seek to establish bilateral and multilateral agreements and cooperation programmes with countries of origin and transit to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children (Para 27, Compilation)
- § To strengthen appropriate legislative measures to address the issues of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation; take appropriate measures to ensure the prompt prosecution of perpetrators of sexual offences against children; ensure that child victims of sexual exploitation or abuse have access to free, child sensitive complaints mechanisms and are not criminalized or penalized; and consider launching a national communication strategy to combat all types of sexual exploitation of children (Para 28, Compilation)

### **The Special Rapporteur on trafficking**

- § To transfer any identified trafficked persons to the shelter to receive the necessary support and assistance (Para 46, Compilation)

### **Fundación Mundial Dejame Vivir en Paz (FMDVP)**

- § To stop discrimination based on sexual orientation in Qatar. (Para 34, Summary)

### **JS**

- § That the Human Rights Council urge Qatar to impose a moratorium on the death penalty and repeal all provisions which criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults. (Para 34, Summary)

### **SRI**

- § To take all necessary measures to establish a national system to receive and investigate complaints of children domestic abuse and neglect, and, when necessary, prosecute cases in a child-sensitive way.
- § To adopt the adequate legal framework to fully respect and recognize equal rights and freedoms of all people, irrespective of their sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, according with international standards.