



Index: EUR 18/4783/2021

30 September 2021

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**ORAL STATEMENT**  
**Item 6:**  
**Consideration of UPR reports: Denmark**

UN Human Rights Council  
48<sup>th</sup> session  
13 September – 8 October 2021

Madam President,

Amnesty International welcomes Denmark's engagement with the UPR and its acceptance of 202 out of 288 recommendations.<sup>1</sup> We wish to highlight the need to strictly monitor Denmark's implementation of accepted recommendations.

In the area of business and human rights, Denmark has accepted recommendations<sup>2</sup> to introduce legislation requiring companies and investors to respect human rights and prevent environmental harm, including by establishing corporate liability for harm. It is crucial that this legislation is properly aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Madam President,

Denmark has also accepted recommendations to undertake further efforts to ensure refugees and asylum seekers are afforded due protection and support. We disagree with Denmark's comment that this is already happening. In reality, Denmark has been going in the opposite direction. For example, Denmark continues to pressure Syrian citizens to return to Syria, despite the risk that they may face gross human rights abuses there. Rather than concocting new ways to violate or circumvent the principle of non-refoulement, Denmark should instead strengthen protection for people in need and with a right to the same.

Denmark also accepted recommendations to review its social housing policies. These reviews must not be limited to cosmetic changes – such as the removal of the term 'ghetto' – but must also

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<sup>1</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Denmark, UN Doc. A/HRC/48/10, 14 July 2021 and its addendum, UN Doc. A/HRC/48/10/Add.1, 16 July 2021.

<sup>2</sup> UN Doc. A/HRC/48/10, Recommendations 60.116– 119 (State of Palestine, Togo, Malawi, Zambia) and Recommendation 60.121 (Finland)

recognize that it is discriminatory to place a limit on residents with a “non-western background”. Amnesty International therefore calls on Denmark to repeal Law L38.<sup>3</sup>

Madam President,

We are deeply disappointed that Denmark did not accept recommendations regarding immigrant detention. Amnesty International urges the government to address issues of well-being, including access to health services and medical screenings for foreign nationals detained at the Ellebæk Centre. We urge Denmark to ensure detention conditions conform to international standards and to end the use of solitary confinement as punishment.

We encourage the Danish government to implement accepted recommendations as soon as possible and to establish a transparent and effective follow-up process that actively engages with civil society.

Thank you.

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<sup>3</sup> In 2018, the Danish Parliament adopted a law amending the Act on Social Housing, the Act on Renting Social Housing, and the Act on Rent - named L38 or the “ghetto package”. The law was intended to change the composition of residents in areas divided into three broad categories: “vulnerable areas”, “ghettos” or “hard ghettos”. For further information, see Amnesty International, *Denmark: Human Rights must be ensured for all*, 15 October 2020, Index: EUR 18/3229/2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur18/3229/2020/en/>