

Pre-UPR Working Group session: model letter/email for civil society organizations to send a shadow report to the state under review

The text below can be used as the basis for a letter or email to the ministry that leads on the UPR (mostly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Justice).

Text highlighted in yellow within brackets should be replaced with the relevant name or date

***** REMEMBER TO DELETE THIS BOX *****

[DD Month YYYY]

Dear [name],

I write with reference to [country]'s review under the Universal Periodic Review by the Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council in [month year].

[Name of your civil society organization] has made a submission of information for the review in which we set out our key human rights concerns in [country] and make a number of recommendations to your government to address these. We hope that these human rights issues will be addressed in your National Report for the UPR and during the dialogue in the UPR Working Group. A copy of our submission is attached to this letter, and we would welcome your comments.

As you will be aware, the Council has emphasized the importance of follow-up and implementation of accepted recommendations in the UPR, including so that it can live up to its key objective of improving the human rights situation on the ground. With that in mind, we urge you to provide an update during the dialogue in the UPR Working Group of the state of implementation of the previous UPR recommendations and efforts to ensure their full and effective implementation.

We also encourage you to organize consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, at key stages of the review process to ensure that it is firmly anchored at the national level.

[Name of your civil society organization] believes that, if used well, the UPR can make an important contribution to promote and protect human rights in all countries and we strongly encourage your government to seize the opportunity afforded by the UPR to take effective and timely action leading to substantial progress in the implementation of [country]'s human rights obligations and commitments.

Yours sincerely,