

Issues' Analysis

- Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Session 1-5

Introduction

This issue is raised quite often within the context of the Universal Periodic Review. Out of over 5000 recommendations in total over 5 sessions, 137 recommendations focussed on the freedom of opinion and expression.¹ In total, 65 advance questions concerned this issue. The recommendations and questions covered a broad range of issues. On the legal level, recommendations concerned for instance the implementation of Article 19 ICCPR, national laws on freedom of expression, and prosecution on the basis of national laws. Furthermore, recommendations also addressed issues such as access to information, government criticism and public discussion. Several recommendations also addressed specific issues such as political prisoners, defamation and journalists and human rights defenders.

Top 5 countries making recommendations on this issue

1. Canada (20 recommendations)
2. Norway (11 recommendations)
3. Sweden (10 recommendations)
4. Czech Republic (9 recommendations)
5. France (8 recommendations)

Top 5 States under Review receiving recommendations on this issue

1. Viet Nam (15 recommendations)
2. Turkmenistan (8 recommendations)
Cuba (8 recommendations)
4. Uzbekistan (7 recommendations)
Yemen (7 recommendations)

Top 5 countries posing advance written questions on this issue

1. Sweden (13 questions)
2. Ireland (11 questions)
United Kingdom (11 questions)
4. Denmark (8 questions)
5. Netherlands (6 questions)

Top 5 States under Review receiving advance written questions on this issue

1. Afghanistan (7 questions)
2. China (6 questions)
3. Cuba (5 questions)
Senegal (5 questions)
5. Azerbaijan (4 questions)

¹ For more detailed data, see the table.