



UPR 43 PRE-SESSION

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[@equality242](https://www.instagram.com/equality242)

Equality Bahamas is a feminist organization promoting women's and LGBTQI+ people's rights as human rights through advocacy, public education, and community engagement.




Equality Bahamas calls on the Government of The Bahamas to immediately criminalize marital rape by:

- **Amending Section 3 of the Sexual Offences Act** to remove the words “who is not his spouse” from the definition of rape
- including a **statutory definition of consent**
- including a **clause of non-immunity** on the basis of marriage.




We call on the government to, *this year*:

- set a **timeline** for a constitutional referendum
 - develop and execute a clear **action plan with funding**
 - engage with technical experts in civil society to design and implement a **national education campaign on nationality rights** ahead of the referendum
 - use legislation—with supporting policies—to **guarantee gender-equal nationality rights** *now*
 - expedite processing of submitted applications and **ensure that all children born in The Bahamas have a nationality**
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We call for **gender** and **sexuality** to be included in the **prohibited grounds of discrimination** in the constitution, and for a timeline, action plan, and public education campaign to be developed and executed for this purpose.

We call for **legislation on non-discrimination** to be passed following consultation with nongovernmental organizations *with expertise* on human rights, women's rights, LGBTQI+ people's rights, and migrant rights.



We call on the Government of The Bahamas to enact **legislation for non-discrimination**, with specific protection for women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people.



We call on the Government of The Bahamas to **demonstrate support of women human rights defenders** and to **condemn acts of violence** and hostility toward advocates, and to enact **legislation to protect against hate speech and hate crimes.**



We call on the Government of The Bahamas to, as matters of priority:

- establish and adequately resource an independent **National Human Rights Institution**, based on the Paris Principles
 - properly resource a **national gender machinery**
 - integrate **human rights education**, at age appropriate levels, into all school curricula and use
 - traditional and social media to **inform the public about human rights** and the mechanisms that support them
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