



CSO Strategy Workshop on Implementation of UPR Recommendations, 18-20 June 2015, Lilongwe, Malawi

Outcome Charter

Malawi's human rights record was reviewed for the second time on 5 May 2015 at the United Nations in Geneva, during the Universal Periodic Review. The State of Malawi received 199 recommendations and will have until the next UPR to implement them.

Within the UPR framework, it is encouraged to include civil society in the implementation of UPR recommendations. The success of CSOs' engagement in the UPR ultimately depends on their ability to follow up on UPR obligations and to form partnerships with their government.

In order to explore possibilities of cooperation among the different stakeholders involved in the UPR process, Malawian civil society organisations (see annex 1) met during 3 days to constructively discuss how to collaborate with the Government and other stakeholders to implement UPR recommendations.

As a result of this 3 day workshop, and based on the analysis of all the recommendations received by Malawi, the Civil Society Organisations have agreed to advocate for and to prioritise the following objectives:

- **To empower women in order to increase the percentage of women in leadership positions and decision making processes from 23% to 50% by 2019;**
- **To advocate for the Establishment of national action plan on the trafficking act by 2019;**
- **To pass the bill on the right to safe abortion by July 2017;**
- **To strengthen the implementation of the Marriage act by August 2016;**
- **To reduce the number of people living below the poverty line by 2019;**
- **To increase citizenry human rights awareness to 70% by 2019;**
- **To increase the independence and efficiency of the National Human Rights Institutions;**
- **To bring to justice all perpetrators of harassment and intimidation of journalists and human rights defenders;**
- **To repeal the defamation criminal laws;**
- **To operationalise and to provide resources to an independent Police Complaints Commission to track and investigate complaints, in line with section 128's Police Act;**

- **To develop a clear policy to ensure equal protection and increased access to justice for people with albinism by 2016;**
- **To decriminalise and repeal all laws that target the SOGI persons and advocate for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against SOGI communities;**
- **To increase access to health services for LGBTI persons by 2020 according to the Malawi HIV National Strategic Plan;**
- **To advocate for disability friendly services both in public and private sector for people with disabilities by 2017;**
- **The witchcraft Act should be discussed and reviewed by 2018.**

With this outcome charter, the signatories commit to continue working on the implementation of UPR recommendations, together with all relevant stakeholders, and to meet regularly in order to facilitate the discussion and provide updates on the statute of their activities.

Lilongwe, 20 June 2015