

Recommendations

2. Based on the above information, the submitting organisations urge reviewing States to make the following recommendations to the Kingdom of Morocco with a view of realising these recommendations until the next mid-term report:
 - I. Amend the relevant legal provisions in the Constitution, the press code and the penal code that currently restrict the exercise of freedom of expression, in order to align them with international human rights standards. In particular, legalise the following expressions:
 - Expressions undermining, insulting and/or disrespecting the King and/or the royal family
 - Expressions undermining/criticizing Islamic religion
 - Expressions related to the political situation of Western Sahara, including those advocating for self-determination
 - Expressions disrespecting national symbols such as the Moroccan flag and anthem
 - II. Adjust the regulation of surveillance measures so that surveillance measures restricting the right to freedom of expression comply with the requirements set out in Art. 19(3). In particular:
 - Make the laws on surveillance measures accessible to the public.
 - End the use of surveillance as a means to silence those exercising their right to freedom of expression.
 - III. Adjust enforcement measures to be proportionate to the offence complying with the international right to freedom of expression, and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, and the UN Rules for Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty. In particular:
 - Prohibit all informal/illegal enforcement measures.
 - Prohibit any enforcement measures against children who are sharing their views, opinions, or ideas, unless there is a direct, immediate, realistic threat of violence.
 - Prohibit the use of physical violence by the police against both adults and children in reaction to their free expression, both in law and in practice.
 - IV. Inform and train the police on how to engage with children and adults who may transgress legal limitations of the right to freedom of expression, in a manner compatible with international human rights standards.
 - V. Make explicit in law, policy and in practice that human rights research is allowed in the Kingdom of Morocco and MOWS. Do not refuse entry to researchers, journalists or human rights defenders.
 - VI. Take all possible measures to provide data, report on and subsequently protect the human rights, including children's rights, of all people in Morocco and in MOWS.
 - VII. Make a public statement to indicate that the Kingdom of Morocco is changing to a modern democracy that respects human rights, and that this includes allowing its

people to criticise the King and its government, to question religion and to openly discuss the Western Sahara conflict.

- VIII. Draft a guideline on how to have a free and open dialogue about the Western Sahara issue, that is available to all.
- IX. Provide clarity regarding what is expected of schools and teachers regarding the realisation of the child's right to freedom of expression in schools.