



National Council for Human Rights

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

“Egypt: Ratifying and Lifting Reservations on International Human Rights Instruments” Cairo – Sunday & Monday, May 11–12, 2025

Speakers and participants:

The event saw a broad participation of human rights defenders and activists, civil society organizations representatives, legal professionals, media professionals and journalists, in addition to members of Parliament and state actors.

The event speakers included:

Session I: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); calling Egypt to lift reservations thereon

- Dr. Azza Kamel, Gender specialist
- Dr. Ismail Abdul Rahman, NCHR member

Session II: The Refugee Convention, 1951

- Ashraf Milad Roxy, Refugee affairs specialist
- Dr. Ayman Zohry, NCHR member

Session III: The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

- Sherif Azer, human rights defender, Program Director at the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms and Visiting Professor of International Law at various universities in Egypt and abroad



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- **Saeed Abdel Hafez, NCHR member**

**Session IV: Anti-Discrimination Commission
Law**

- **Ahmed Ragheb, human rights defender and lawyer**
- **Abdel Gawad Ahmed, NCHR member**

The event participants include a range of civil society representatives and human rights defenders which included: Negad El Borai, Mohamed Abdelaziz, Waleed Farouk, Ahmed El Sawy, Mervat Abul Teeg, Azza Kamel, Magdy Helmy, among others.

Summary of Outcomes and Recommendations

1. Establishing a central database of foreign refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt with inter-agency coordination.
2. Creating an independent national entity to oversee refugee affairs and ensure their rights.
3. Legal codification of an independent refugee agency to coordinate with national and international actors.
4. Reviewing procedures for withdrawing refugee status to align with international norms.
5. Increasing international financial and technical support to Egypt, as a major host country for refugees, and enhancing law enforcement training and translation services.
6. Amending Article 126 of the Penal Code to align with the UN Convention Against Torture's definition.
7. Enhancing police training on refugee rights and ensuring legal aid access.
8. Ratifying optional protocols to international treaties to strengthen oversight mechanisms.
9. Repealing the Terrorist Entities Law and vague security laws.
10. Criminalizing enforced disappearance explicitly under domestic law.
11. Reforming pretrial detention laws to prevent abuse and uphold the presumption of innocence.
12. Initiating a formal dialogue between the NCHR and the government on acceding to the OPCAT and adopting a national anti-torture plan.
13. Involving stakeholders in legislative development processes.



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14. Amending laws that hinder women's equal participation.
15. Enacting a unified law to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence, incorporating CSO proposals.
16. Reviewing Egypt's reservations to CEDAW and considering interpretative declarations instead, in line with Islamic law and international equality principles.
17. Implementing national dialogue recommendations, especially the establishment of an independent anti-discrimination commission.
18. Launching educational programs for religious leaders on international conventions.
19. Promoting strategic litigation to drive legal reform and treaty compliance.
20. Reforming the Personal Status Law to ensure gender equality and reflect the civil nature of the state.
21. Explicitly criminalizing child marriage as a form of gender-based violence.
22. Clarifying the legal definition of refugee status in the draft asylum law.
23. Strengthening oversight of public institutions implementing women's rights laws.
24. Establishing a national mechanism to monitor implementation of women's rights treaties, with NCHR participation.
25. Initiating a societal dialogue on reviewing capital punishment.
26. Forming a multidisciplinary national committee to reduce capital crimes and promote alternatives.
27. Publishing regular official data on executions in line with UN recommendations
28. Develop a comprehensive national strategy for aligning national legislation with Egypt's international human rights obligations, including periodic reviews of laws and practices to ensure full compliance with ratified treaties.
29. Foster a structured, inclusive dialogue with civil society organizations and independent experts when preparing state reports to international treaty bodies, ensuring transparency, broad participation, and institutional cooperation