



RESOLUTION:

Saudi Arabia elected to UN Women's Rights Commission

Adopted at the YEPP Congress in Dubrovnik on 29th April 2017

Recognizing that:

- The United Nations elected Saudi Arabia as a member of its Commission on the Status of Women for the 2018-2022 term.
- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's right, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Belgium's vote in favor of appointing Saudi Arabia to the UN women's rights commission was due to a regrettable diplomatic mix-up, said PM Charles Michel, after the decision sparked a firestorm of criticism at home.
- That many countries oppose the respect of universal human rights, especially with regard to women, on the basis of different religious and cultural grounds. For instance, many Muslim majority countries violate aspects of these rights.
- That past and current Boards of UN Women's Rights Commission list among its members countries like Iran, Iraq and Turkmenistan all of those with a flawed record on human rights violations towards women.

Acknowledging that:

- UN Nations Watch Executive Director Hillel Neuer stated that “Electing Saudi Arabia to protect women’s rights is like making an arsonist into the town fire chief”.
- Saudi Arabia obtained 47 votes by secret ballots which might include votes from EU Member States.
- Saudi Arabia might use its newly elected position as a legitimisation of its degrading policies towards women and as a diminishing tool of human activists stands.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the most rigid countries when it comes to the implementation of Islamic laws, thus discriminating rights of women at an even larger scale compared to other Muslim majority states.
- No religion provides for discrimination in its essence. As such, even the Islamic religion provides for equality and rights of women in its principles. Religion can never be used as an excuse to violate basic human rights, and such religious groundings cannot be accepted by the EU.

YEPP calls on:

- The EEAS to formally condemn the election of Saudi Arabia through its Delegations to the UN in Geneva and New York. The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini to clarify the EU and its Member States position towards Saudi election.
- The EEAS to give recommendation to its Member States Missions to reconsider their votes and to privilege human rights positions over generic economic interests.
- EU Member States to veto Saudi Arabia candidatures for future positions involving women human rights without any actual progress from the State.
- The European countries to vote against any country that violates basic human rights to the UN commissions of gender equality and human rights.
- The UN bodies to enact comprehensive reforms in order to ensure that countries with flawed records on human rights and democracy are not elected to positions as such mentioned