

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 31st Session

Universal Periodic Review of Malta

Statement by Australia

Australia commends Malta for its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. We welcome its continued efforts to strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks to enhance the rights of LGBTI people, including legalisation of same sex marriage in 2017.

Australia welcomes the continued increase in female participation in Malta's workforce. Australia encourages Malta to incentivise female workforce participation and to introduce and implement measures to strengthen the representation of women in leadership and managerial positions. **Australia recommends Malta ensure women's sexual and reproductive rights, including through education and family planning.**

Australia commends Malta on the establishment of a Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan and its 2018 bill on gender-based and domestic violence. **We recommend Malta fully implement legislative and practical efforts to address domestic and gender-based violence, including ensuring support for victims.**

Australia recognises Malta as an open and democratic nation. In order to protect freedom of expression, **Australia recommends Malta investigate and prosecute cases of intimidation and violence against journalists.**

Australia encourages Malta to focus on care for its elderly population. **Australia recommends Malta ensure access to services for the elderly is dignified, affordable and readily available.**

**Words 188**