

## Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 31st Session

### Universal Periodic Review of Mauritius

#### Statement by Australia

Australia thanks the Government of Mauritius for its report and welcomes efforts to strengthen its human rights framework through adoption of the Equal Opportunities Act and implementation of disability inclusive policies.

While Mauritius has established an independent commission to investigate complaints made against the police, we are concerned by reports of beatings, lengthy investigations and imprisonment without trial. **Australia recommends Mauritius take steps to prevent abuse by police and ensure investigations progress in a timely manner.**

Australia remains concerned that Mauritian legislation continues to criminalise homosexuality. **Australia recommends Mauritius repeal the sections of its criminal code that criminalise same-sex relationships between consenting adults and strengthen efforts to address inequality and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.**

The Mauritian constitution retains an exception that could allow reintroduction of the death penalty. **Australia recommends Mauritius accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to prevent reintroduction of the death penalty.**

Australia notes that significant barriers to gender equality remain in Mauritius. **Australia recommends Mauritius continue to promote gender equality and work to end violence against women and remove barriers to women's active participation across all spheres of life.**

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