

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 31st Session

Universal Periodic Review of Mexico

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes progress made by Mexico enacting and amending laws to improve the enjoyment of human rights by all individuals, and to protect victims of violence. Nonetheless, Australia is concerned that in practice human rights violations remain widespread and routinely go unpunished.

While acknowledging Mexico's efforts to reform its criminal justice system, Australia is concerned about the lack of prosecutorial independence at all levels, which contributes to corruption and impunity. **Australia recommends that Mexico establish an independent Attorney General's Office for conducting impartial investigations, and to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.**

In the UPR second cycle, Australia noted concerns about abuse of journalists and human rights defenders in Mexico. This problem persists, with violence against these individuals commonplace. **Australia recommends Mexico prioritise effective protection of journalists and human rights defenders, and guarantee sufficient resources to the *Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists*.**

Australia is concerned with continuing high levels of family, intimate-partner and gender-based violence in Mexico. **Australia recommends that Mexico fully operationalise all measures to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women, girls and LGBTI persons.**

184 Words