

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32nd Session
Universal Periodic Review of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to this UPR session.

Australia commends the commitment of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to human rights and the progress it has made since its last review in 2014, in particular support for freedom of expression and the media, as well as steps taken to strengthen the protections afforded to LGBTI persons.

Australia notes the comparatively lower indicators for health performance, education outcomes and employment for Roma people. **Australia recommends taking further concrete and effective action to improve the living conditions and social and economic rights of Roma communities, including simplifying complex civil registration procedures which disproportionately affect Roma communities.**

Australia remains concerned by the poor conditions in prisons, allegations of mistreatment of prisoners by prison officers, and deaths of prisoners in custody. **We recommend the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia take immediate steps to improve prison conditions, directed in particular at reducing overcrowding and ensuring the safety of prisoners.**

Australia notes people with physical, intellectual and combined disabilities continue to face barriers to access health, education and employment services. **Australia recommends the former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia provide adequate and affordable support to ensure that people with disabilities are able to access health, education and employment services and participate fully in society.**