

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32nd Session
Universal Periodic Review of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay
Statement by Australia

Australia commends Uruguay for its success in reducing levels of poverty and recognises its regional leadership on human rights issues.

Australia also commends Uruguay for implementing measures to strengthen human rights programs, institutions and services through a combination of legislative and policy reforms since its 2014 review, including its recent ground-breaking *Comprehensive Law for Transgender Persons*.

Australia notes the positive steps taken through the *2016-19 Action Plan for a Life Free of Gender-Based Violence* but is concerned by continued high incidence of gender-related violence. **Australia recommends Uruguay build on the current Action Plan to end gender-based violence and further strengthen interagency coordination to prevent violence, increase access to justice, protect victims and punish perpetrators.**

Adequate resourcing is key to the effectiveness of human rights institutions and programs, and the success of Uruguay's reform agenda. **Australia recommends Uruguay ensure all human rights institutions are adequately funded, with a particular focus on the National Women's Institute.**

Australia welcomes the judicial reforms which have reduced the numbers of inmates awaiting trial or sentencing, but notes issues remain in relation to prison conditions. **Australia recommends Uruguay review prison conditions and initiate steps for improvement, particularly in relation to overcrowding and access to rehabilitation programs.**