

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Bhutan

Statement by Australia

8 May 2019

Thank you [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes Bhutan's successful conduct of national elections in 2018 and its continued efforts to bolster promotion and protection of human rights.

Australia commends progress in the areas of disability and gender, including the achievement of gender parity in primary education.]

Australia recommends that **Bhutan**:

1. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.
2. Continue to implement legislative reforms to decriminalise consensual same-sex sexual conduct.
3. Continue progress towards ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. Give favourable consideration to the return of Nepali-Bhutanese refugees from Nepal, particularly those with urgent humanitarian needs.
5. Continue efforts to increase the representation of women in the labour force and improve literacy and numeracy rates for women.

127 Words