

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Statement by Australia

9 May 2019

Thank you [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes the DPRK delegation.

Australia calls on the DPRK to engage constructively in its Universal Periodic Review and urgently address its appalling human rights record. The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK identified human rights violations in the DPRK amounting to crimes against humanity. Five years on, there is little evidence to suggest much has changed.

Australia recommends that the **DPRK**:

1. Accept the findings of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK, and take action to implement all its recommendations, including those on the denial of due process, arbitrary detention, torture and mistreatment of prisoners, the repatriation of abductees, and the death penalty.
2. Address the systematic discrimination that underpins human rights violations, including by taking immediate action to abolish the *songbun* class system.
3. Implement measures to ensure gender equality in practice, and end impunity for violence against women and girls.
4. Prioritise the human rights of its population over military expenditure, including by dedicating resources to ensure freedom from hunger.
5. Grant unrestricted access to all UN Special Procedures mandate holders who request to visit the DPRK.

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