

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Qatar

Statement by Australia

15 May 2019

Thank you [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes the constructive approach the State of Qatar has taken, to improve conditions for foreign migrant workers, and gender equality within the workforce.

However, significant challenges remain in the areas of worker rights, women's rights, the protection of minorities and freedom of speech.

Australia recommends that **Qatar**:

1. Continue to reform labour laws to extend current progress to workers in all sectors of the economy, including domestic workers.
2. Remove all obstacles to freedom of expression and association, including for human rights defenders, and ensure the safety of journalists through the protection of media freedoms.
3. Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
4. Develop and implement anti-discrimination laws and government policies to address discrimination, particularly against individuals within the LGBTI community and women, including through improving access to marriage, divorce and child custody rights.

158 Words