

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 34th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Statement by Australia

Wednesday 13 November 2019

Thank you (President/Vice-President).

Australia commends Bosnia and Herzegovina for progress since its last review, including work on the 2017-20 Action Plan to improve employment, housing and health care for Roma people.

However, challenges remain, including the need to adopt a revised national strategy for prosecuting war crimes, tackling intimidation and violence against journalists and combating hate speech, including against LGBTI people.

Australia recommends that **Bosnia and Herzegovina**:

1. Provides greater financial and human resources to finalise the prosecution of war crimes committed during 1992 to 1995, particularly by lower ranked perpetrators, and clarify the fate of persons still missing.
2. Addresses widespread discrimination against people with disabilities, older persons and minorities – particularly Roma people - to promote the full realisation and enjoyment of their rights.
3. Makes the necessary constitutional changes to end discrimination against minorities in exercising their right to full political participation.
4. Ceases the physical ill-treatment of people in police custody, investigate all allegations of abuse in a timely manner, and address the poor conditions in police stations and prisons.