

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 34th Session

Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Statement by Australia

Thursday 7 November 2019

Thank you, Madame Vice President

Australia welcomes Kazakhstan's commitment to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to the use of torture, introduction of the National Preventative Mechanism and changes to the classification of torture under Kazakhstan's criminal code. However, we note with concern the number of reported incidents indicating that the use of torture remains a systemic issue to be addressed.

Australia recommends that **Kazakhstan**:

1. Increases efforts to promote a zero-tolerance approach to torture, in particular by conducting timely, transparent and comprehensive investigations into and prosecutions of reported incidences of torture.
2. Strengthens transparency and accountability by promoting and protecting the right to freedom of expression, especially by upholding media freedom, protecting NGO activities, and amending criminal and civil codes on criminal slander and libel.
3. Adopts comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes an explicit prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Abolishes the death penalty for all crimes, noting that it has abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes, and accedes to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.