

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 35th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Armenia

Statement by Australia

23 January 2020

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Armenia's commitment to uphold human rights and the progress made since its last Universal Periodic Review. This includes reducing instances of corruption, increasing media freedom and ensuring that the definition of torture in its Criminal Code is in line with the Convention Against Torture.

Australia recommends that **Armenia**:

1. **Work to prevent and address gender-based violence and domestic violence, including by building upon existing legislation to effectively protect survivors and prosecute perpetrators of all forms of violence against women, offering appropriate support services to survivors, and providing gender-sensitive training to law enforcement personnel.**
2. **Specifically include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected ground within the 2018 Draft Law "On Ensuring Equality", and take immediate steps to pass the legislation through parliament.**
3. **End the culture of impunity for attacks against human rights defenders by carrying out prompt, impartial and effective investigations and prosecutions of threats and violence against them.**
4. **Cease the use of torture and introduce legislation to criminalise cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment in line with obligations under the Convention Against Torture.**

[184 Words]