

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 35th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Kyrgyzstan

Statement by Australia

20 January 2020

Thank you, Madame President

Australia welcomes the positive steps taken by Kyrgyzstan in January 2019 to criminalise enforced disappearances under national law.

Australia remains concerned by reports of persecution of sections of Kyrgyz society based on ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, and religion. While we welcome strengthening of domestic legislation against domestic violence and bride kidnapping, we call on Kyrgyzstan to enhance its efforts to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls.

Australia recommends that Kyrgyzstan:

1. Ensure due process and accountability in the administration of justice for victims of enforced disappearances, including by conducting open and thorough investigations into outstanding cases of disappearances.
2. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting all forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of ethnicity and sexual orientation and gender identity.
3. Implement comprehensive policy and budgetary measures to ensure that laws on gender equality and domestic violence, including bride kidnapping, are enforced effectively.