

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 35th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Turkey

Statement by Australia

28 January 2020

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes Turkey's efforts to improve human rights since its last UPR appearance, especially as a generous host to almost four million refugees. We acknowledge the challenging security environment Turkey faces, including ongoing terrorism threats and an attempted coup in 2016.

Australia recommends that Turkey:

1. Cease the excessive use of pre-trial detention, ensure human rights defenders and critics alleged to have committed an offence are guaranteed due process and fair trial rights, and strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to operate independently.
2. Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and assembly, including by lifting bans on LGBTI public events, and ensuring relevant laws are implemented in a manner that does not curtail fundamental freedoms and ensures a proportional and legitimate response to protest activity.
3. Promote social inclusiveness by strengthening and implementing anti-discrimination laws, including for all religious and ethnic minorities.
4. Ensure the media can operate freely without interference or censorship.

[158 Words]