

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Resolution: Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism  
Statement at action: General Comment

22 March 2019

Australian Statement

Australia condemns acts of terrorism, as well as the racism, xenophobia and intolerance that fuels them, in the strongest possible terms.

Australians share their deepest sympathies for those affected by the devastating terrorist attack in Christchurch and share the grief of Muslim communities all over the world. We utterly condemn this terrorist attack by a right-wing extremist who has taken so many lives in New Zealand.

This act of terrorism has not only rocked New Zealand, but nations around the world including Australia. We stand together to condemn the hatred and intolerance behind this attack. We will always protect and defend the Muslim community in Australia and their right to peacefully practice their religion without fear.

Australia is determined to combat and prevent terrorism in all its forms. Terrorism is a shared transnational challenge requiring sustained regional and global partnership. It is important for this Council to consider terrorism's impacts on the full enjoyment of human rights and to stress the need for States' responses to terrorism to accord with their obligations under international law.

We support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and the extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate as laid out in this resolution, and provided for by HRC resolution 31/3.

We commend the willingness and flexibility of the main sponsor of this text to include the views of other delegations, acknowledging that limits are needed to preserve the independence and integrity of the Special Rapporteur's mandate.

We look forward to working constructively with sponsors to further strengthen the text in the coming Council sessions.