

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and  
Special Rapporteur on the Sale & Sexual Exploitation of Children

5 March 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteurs for their presentations.

We welcome the report of the **Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief** on the mutually reinforcing relationship between FoRB and Freedom of Expression. We join the Special Rapporteur in viewing these freedoms within a framework of universal, inalienable, indivisible, inter-dependent and inter-related rights.

We welcome the report's analysis of common limitations on expression involving religion or belief from around the world, and examination of real-life cases. These examples illustrate clearly the full impact of legislation and regulation.

As a proud multicultural nation, freedom of religion or belief is an inherent part of Australia's national identity. We continue to advocate for individuals in all countries to enjoy this fundamental human right, including by manifesting their religion, in line with international human rights law.

Noting the Special Rapporteur's comments on societal actors (para 65), how does the SR envisage religious leaders at the international level promoting understanding and countering hatred?

We thank the **Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children** for her report.

The sale and sexual exploitation of children are abhorrent crimes. Australia is deeply concerned by the examples of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in the context of sports provided by the Rapporteur. Sport should strengthen communities and be an avenue of joy for children, not trauma.

How can governments best work with sporting organisations to create safe, fair and accessible sporting environments that protect the rights of children?

*243 words (target 240)*