

Human Rights Council – 41st session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls

27 June 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks both Special Rapporteurs for their presentations and their reports.

As identified by the Special Rapporteur's report on trafficking, we must address the long-term needs of victims and survivors, including support measures and challenges to social inclusion. Survivors need assistance to re-enable their economic, social, cultural and political participation in their communities.

Australia is committed to combating human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices – domestically and internationally. Our efforts go beyond short-term interventions. For example, the Bali Process Government and Business Forum, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, has adopted recommendations on how governments and businesses can contribute to the eradication of trafficking, including victim redress mechanisms.

Australia supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of violence against women, and the role of UN Special Procedures and independent monitoring mechanisms in reinforcing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other agendas that support the rights of women and girls.

Australia is committed to implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, and we welcome the report's recommendation for closer engagement on this. We are developing our second Australian National Action Plan on WPS, to be launched later this year.

We ask your views on how member states can further collaborate and engage with UN mechanisms on eliminating violence against women in the context of the WPS agenda. It is critical that responses to gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations reflect the complexity of its underlying causes and effects.

[240] Words