

Human Rights Council – 41st Session

Resolution: Sexual orientation and gender identity – tabled amendment L.33

12 July 2019

Australian Statement: Explanation of Vote

We reject amendment L.33. The international human rights framework was established to hold states accountable for the protection and fulfilment of individuals' human rights. A state's national laws do not override their obligations under international human rights law.

Recognition of cultural and religious differences is important in the work of this Council, and in society at large. This diversity is a natural part of society, and, like all forms of diversity, should be respected and celebrated. However, the protection of human rights transcends culture. Cultural or religious values do not exempt states from upholding their international human rights obligations.

Australia will vote against amendment L.33 and we urge all members of the Council to do the same.

117 Words