



## **OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSIONS IN 2019**

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**Opportunity to attend a session of the United Nations  
Human Rights Council, in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2019**

**40<sup>th</sup> Session (HRC40) – 25 February - 22 March**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Session (HRC41) – 24 June - 12 July**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Session (HRC42) – 9 - 27 September**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE Friday 30 November 2018 (17:00 AEST)**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is **seeking applications from highly-qualified individuals and representatives of non-government organisations (NGOs)<sup>1</sup> to attend sessions of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2019.**

The HRC is an inter-governmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. The HRC meets three times annually in Geneva (February/March, June/July and September). Its 47 seats are filled by UN member states elected for three-year terms.

While Australia has been an active participant in the HRC since its establishment in 2006, in 2018-2020 Australia is serving as a member of this body for the first time. Throughout our term as a HRC member, Australia's engagement will be guided by the following priority human rights issues:

- gender equality
- good governance and stronger democratic institutions
- freedom of expression
- rights of indigenous peoples
- strong national human rights institutions and capacity building
- the abolition of the death penalty
- promoting and protecting freedom of religion or belief
- supporting equal human rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) persons
- advancing the rights of people with a disability, and
- protecting and enhancing civil society participation in the UN human rights system.

<sup>1</sup> Including but not limited to: academics, human rights defenders, community advocates and organisers, representatives of workers' or employers' groups.



In line with the priorities of Australia's HRC membership, DFAT is pleased to support the attendance of two Australian civil society representatives at each HRC session in 2019 – HRC40, HRC41 and HRC42.

Each session of the HRC incorporates: negotiation of a range of country and thematic resolutions; reports from relevant international experts; and events, statements and presentations by UN member states, National Human Rights Institutions and global civil society.

While there are no formal 'themes' for each HRC session, certain issues are clustered across the year. DFAT cannot guarantee which issues will be considered at any session. However, the lists below provide a snapshot of anticipated topics for 2019, based on past practice. These are not definitive lists.

#### **HRC40:**

- Rights of the Child
- Human Rights Defenders
- Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Situation of human rights in Myanmar
- Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Right to Work
- The right to privacy in the digital age
- Freedom of Religion or Belief, and
- Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief.

#### **HRC41:**

- Elimination of discrimination against women and girls
- Elimination of violence against women
- Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Protection of the family
- Child, early and forced marriage
- Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl
- Youth and human rights
- Human rights and climate change
- Situation of human rights in Belarus, and
- Cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights.

#### **HRC42:**

- Human rights and indigenous peoples
- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)
- From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences
- Advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia
- Situation of human rights in Burundi
- The rights to water and sanitation
- The right to development, and
- The question of the death penalty.



## ROLE DESCRIPTION

DFAT will support each successful applicant's attendance at one session of the HRC. However, **applicants will attend in their own capacity, and not as representatives of the Australian Government.** The selected applicants will be required to agree in writing to a set of specified Terms and Conditions before their attendance is confirmed.

Participation will provide individuals with a unique and valuable opportunity to observe and influence HRC discussions, participate in varied meetings and events, and work with a wide range of stakeholders.

Applicants must have expertise in, or experience working on, human rights, international development, or Australia's priority human rights issues (see page 1). Experience with, and a working understanding of the HRC, or other relevant multilateral forums, would be highly advantageous.

Successful applicants will be primarily responsible for securing their own HRC accreditation through an NGO in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Pre-existing sponsorship by a 'Non-Government Organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC' (General, Special or Roster status) would be highly advantageous but absence of such sponsorship will not be a barrier for otherwise highly-qualified applicants.

(For further information: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/ngoparticipation.aspx>; [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/PracticalGuideNGO\\_en.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/PracticalGuideNGO_en.pdf); <http://csonet.org/>).

Applicants should be aware that the pace of a HRC session can be intense and attendance may be a stressful experience for some people. Due to the extensive schedule of the HRC and associated events, in order to be effective, the successful applicants may need to work long hours. The successful applicants may also need to take in complex, detailed information in a short space of time, work in an unfamiliar environment away from their normal support networks and participate in potentially emotional discussions.

### Pre-HRC Session

Prior to attending a HRC session in Geneva the selected applicants will:

- Attend an in-person briefing in Canberra with DFAT's Human Rights Branch to discuss their participation in, and Australia's preparations for, the upcoming HRC session.
- On request, provide advice to DFAT's Human Rights Branch on issues under consideration at the upcoming HRC session, including suggestions on language for resolutions.
- Utilise networks to consult with Australian civil society on issues of concern and encourage awareness of the themes and activities of the upcoming HRC session.
- Participate in a 'Pre-HRC NGO Brief' (via teleconference).
- Provide information relating to their attendance at the HRC – including personal details, photographs and biographical information – as requested by DFAT's Human Rights Branch, and within specified timeframes.
- In close consultation with DFAT's Human Rights Branch, make all travel and accommodation arrangements, and cooperate on any other logistical matters relating to their attendance at the HRC, within specified timeframes (see below for information on travel and funding support).

## During the HRC Session

During the HRC session the selected applicants will:

- Attend a welcome briefing with the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva.
- At their own discretion and instigation, attend and observe the HRC plenary, negotiations and side events.
- Meet independently with other experts, academics and representatives of non-government organisations and civil society present in Geneva.
- Dependent on relevant skills and areas of expertise, successful applicants **may** be given the opportunity to present or speak at Australian sponsored events, or to attend informal updates with Australian negotiators. These opportunities will only be afforded at DFAT's discretion. When shortlisting candidates, consideration will be given to each applicant's potential and experience to fulfil these roles.

## Post-HRC Session

Upon their return to Australia, the selected applicants will:

- Participate in a 'Post-HRC NGO Debrief' (via teleconference).
- No later than 28 days after returning to Australia, provide a written report to DFAT's Human Rights Branch on their participation and experiences at the HRC. The report will focus on their participation and achievements at the HRC, and their views on the outcomes of the session. Excerpts from the applicant's report may be used by DFAT in a range of publicity materials.
- Share knowledge about their experiences at the HRC with other individuals, non-government representatives and civil society organisations as appropriate, including on resolutions adopted by HRC, and on the process and progress of promoting Australia's priority human rights issues through the HRC's mechanisms.
- Attend the annual DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights (February 2020) to share reflections on their experiences.

## TIMEFRAME OF COMMITMENT

### HRC40:

The chosen applicants must be available to:

- attend a pre-HRC40 briefing in Canberra in February 2019
- travel to Geneva for the period 25 February – 22 March
- provide a written report (three-four A4 pages, plus a one page summary) on their experience at HRC40 within 28 days of returning to Australia, and
- attend the DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights in February 2020.

### HRC41:

The chosen applicant must be available to:

- attend a pre-HRC41 briefing in Canberra in May 2019
- travel to Geneva for the period 24 June – 12 July
- provide a written report (three-four A4 pages, plus a one page summary ) on their experience at HRC41 within 28 days of returning to Australia, and
- attend the DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights in February 2020.



## HRC42:

The chosen applicant must be available to:

- attend a pre-HRC42 briefing in Canberra in August 2019
- travel to Geneva for the period 9 – 27 September
- provide a written report (three-four A4 pages, plus a one page summary) on their experience at HRC42 within 28 days of returning to Australia, and
- attend the DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights in February 2020.



## TRAVEL AND FUNDING SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

DFAT will fund each successful applicant's participation at the HRC in Geneva. DFAT will finance, prior to the successful applicants' official departure for Geneva, the following:

- 1x return economy class trip from their Australian place residence to Canberra (if required)
- 1x return economy class trip from their Australian place residence to Geneva
- accommodation in Geneva, and
- meal and local transport allowance (at a rate to be determined by DFAT).

In February 2020, DFAT will also finance 1x return economy class trip from each successful applicant's Australian place residence to Canberra (if required) to attend the DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights.

The successful applicants will be provided with travel insurance for the duration of any official travel. However, some applicants may be required to purchase additional cover as a condition of their participation.

DFAT will not provide financial assistance for:

- replacement salary/income
- salary or stipends
- passports and visas
- any other personal expenses, including device/call costs and roaming fees.

Further details regarding the specific nature of this financial assistance will be provided to the successful applicants after selection.

Applicants should note that any financial assistance provided by the DFAT is subject to the specified Terms and Conditions for attendance. Any funding support provided will only cover periods of official travel. No personal travel (domestic or international) will be financially supported by DFAT.

Should an applicant require an official carer, escort or support person to accompany them on any aspect of the HRC programme (domestic or international), this should be outlined in the application and must be agreed in writing by the DFAT at the time they are selected. Apart from a pre-agreed (in writing) official carer, escort or support person, no other person is permitted to travel with an applicant nor benefit in any way from the funding and support provided to the applicant.

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, all applicants must enter and exit Geneva and return to Australia via the most direct and economical route and airline, as determined by DFAT.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

DFAT's Human Rights Branch will provide the successful applicants with reasonable administrative and logistical support to facilitate their attendance at the HRC. No support will be provided for personal arrangements or activities that fall outside the scope of applicants' participation in the HRC.

The selected applicants will be expected to read and understand all information provided to them by DFAT and respond to all requests or instructions within a reasonable timeframe.

## LOGGING AN APPLICATION

To lodge an application for this opportunity, please provide:

- your telephone, email and postal contact details
- a resume or CV (maximum two A4 pages)
- a statement addressing the selection criteria listed below (maximum one A4 page)
- a biography (for use in any media) (maximum one A4 page), and
- details of two referees who may be contacted as part of the selection process.<sup>2</sup>

APPLICATIONS CLOSE Friday 30 November 2018 (17:00 AEST)

Applications may be submitted by email or post to the addresses below. **DFAT will not accept applications that are late, incomplete, or exceed the specified page limits.** Postal applications must be received by DFAT before Friday 30 November 2018 (17:00 AEST).

**Email address:**

[HumanRights@dfat.gov.au](mailto:HumanRights@dfat.gov.au)

**Postal address:**

Human Rights Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
R G Casey Building  
BARTON ACT 0221

DFAT's Human Rights Branch will provide confirmation of receipt of your application via email.

Queries regarding the application process should be directed to DFAT's Human Rights Branch via [HumanRights@dfat.gov.au](mailto:HumanRights@dfat.gov.au). Please note that DFAT's Human Rights Branch can only provide general advice. In the interest of running a fair and open selection process, questions relating to Australia's position on relevant human rights issues or situations, how to answer the selection criteria, etc. will not be answered.

For additional information on how NGOs can participate in the Human Rights Council please consider "*A Practical Guide for NGO Participants*" available online:  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/PracticalGuideNGO\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/PracticalGuideNGO_en.pdf).

## ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Eligible applications will be assessed through an open process by DFAT's Human Rights Branch, a panel of DFAT Senior Executives, and by the First Assistant Secretary of DFAT's Multilateral Policy Division. DFAT's processes will take into consideration the complementary skills and experiences of the successful applicants and the comments of referees. Consideration will also be given to the development opportunity that attending a HRC session would provide to the individual applicants.

<sup>2</sup> Information provided to DFAT, including personal details, will be stored securely and used for official purposes only.



All applicants will be assessed based on their individual merits, and with particular consideration to fostering diversity of representatives at the HRC. **DFAT encourages all individuals to apply including: all genders, gender identities and sexual orientations; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and people with disabilities.**

The successful applicants will be publicly announced by early-January 2019. DFAT's decisions on the successful applicants are final. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of the selection process in writing. DFAT will not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must provide a statement addressing the selection criteria set out below. Each criterion carries the same weighting. Please include specific examples.

Either paragraph or bullet point format is acceptable. The statement should not exceed one A4 page, 11pt font size. Claims against the selection criteria exceeding one A4 page will be deemed ineligible.

### Essential Criteria

1. Demonstrated interest in advancing one, or more, of Australia's priority human rights issues (see page 1).
2. Demonstrated understanding of, and ability to engage constructively on:
  - a. issues hampering the full enjoyment of equal human rights by all individuals – including women and girls, the elderly, LGBTI persons, people with disabilities, Indigenous persons, religious, ethnic or cultural minorities – in Australia or internationally (including the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination), and
  - b. initiatives (including programs, policies, legislative responses, regulations, etc.), in Australia or internationally, aimed at strengthening inclusion, equality, empowerment and fulfilment of the human rights of all individuals, regardless of any status.
3. Well-established existing networks with academics, non-government representatives and civil society organisations – in particular those working on human rights situations, international aid or development, or one of Australia's priority human rights issues – and the willingness and ability to engage with these individuals and organisations to understand their concerns and share experiences relating to the HRC.
4. Well-developed communication skills including:
  - a. the ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing with diverse audiences – including government officials, the media, youth, sex and gender minorities, individuals with disabilities, or people from Indigenous or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and
  - b. an understanding of effective communication strategies, including appropriate use of social media.

### Highly Desirable Criteria

5. Demonstrated understanding of, or experience with, the UN human rights system (with a particular emphasis on the HRC), including the negotiation of UN language in human rights and related contexts.
6. Demonstrated understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. Sponsorship by a 'Non-Government Organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC' (General, Special or Roster status) would also be highly advantageous. Lack of such sponsorship will not be a barrier for otherwise highly-qualified applicants.

### Session Preference

8. Applicants should also indicate if they have preference to attend HRC40, HRC41 or HRC42. If applicants do have a preference, they should outline the rationale for this choice.