

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32nd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Cyprus

Statement by Australia

Australia thanks Cyprus's delegation for the presentation of its UPR report.

Australia welcomes Cyprus's progress in addressing human trafficking since 2014, including through the introduction of legislation, improved support services and training of front line officials. We note reports that trafficking persists in the north. While understanding that the north is not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus, **Australia recommends Cyprus's authorities take all necessary steps to work with representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to eliminate human trafficking.**

Women continue to be absent from senior peace and security roles in Cyprus. **Australia recommends that future reunification talks incorporate women in senior negotiating positions.**

Australia notes reports that societal discrimination against LGBTI persons is ongoing, even with anti-discrimination laws in place. **Australia recommends that Cyprus take steps to protect and enforce the rights of its LGBTI community.**

Australia notes reports of corruption and poor governance. **Australia recommends Cyprus strengthen anti-corruption laws and enact regulations and codes of conduct to govern lobbying and decision making processes.**

Acknowledging that human rights concerns are exacerbated by the division of the island, Australia supports and encourages the resumption of reunification negotiations.