

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Costa Rica

Statement by Australia

13 May 2019

Thank you [President/Vice President]

Australia recognises Costa Rica's efforts to improve its national framework for advancing human rights, making it a regional leader in this regard. While we commend progress since Costa Rica's second cycle review, further action is needed.

Australia recommends that **Costa Rica**:

1. Systematically address gender-based violence and expand the provision of legal aid and shelters for women and girls in need.
2. Take further measures to increase representation of women in the labour force.
3. Increase efforts to reduce the societal stigma faced by LGBTI people and eradicate involuntary surgical procedures to 'normalise' the bodies of intersex people.
4. Address ongoing racial inequality, particularly for indigenous and afro-Costa Rican communities, and adopt a coordinated strategy to combat child labour and sexual abuse among disadvantaged and migrant communities.

126 words