

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Dominica

Statement by Australia

9 May 2015

Thank you [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes the Dominican delegation.

Australia commends Dominica on improvements to its approach to development and human rights, and its commitment to democracy.

Australia recommends that **Dominica**:

1. Take further steps to protect the rights of women and children, especially through strengthening support services.
2. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to formalise its de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolition.
3. Take measures to reduce the societal stigma faced by LGBTI persons, including repealing provisions in national law that criminalize same sex relations, including in the Sexual Offences Act.
4. Take continuing steps to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.

123 words