

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 34th Session

Universal Periodic Review of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Statement by Australia

Wednesday 13 November 2019

Thank you, Mr President

Australia commends the Arab Republic of Egypt's efforts to improve women's rights such as the 2017 National Strategy on Women's Empowerment and the Constitutional mandate for 25 percent of Parliamentarians to be women. However, Australia is concerned that the protection of human rights overall has deteriorated in Egypt since its last Universal Periodic Review in 2014.

Australia recommends that **Egypt:**

1. Releases all persons detained as a result of peacefully exercising their right to freedom of opinion, expression, and assembly, and amend the Protest Law, Counterterrorism Law, Media Law, and Cybercrime Law to bring them into conformity with international human rights law, including by repealing Law 10 of 1914 on assembly.
2. Criminalises all forms of sexual violence against women, including marital rape, and revises the personal status law to allow for civil marriages and divorce.
3. Ensures pre-trial detention and all court proceedings fully comply with article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including by ending the use of mass trials.
4. Establishes a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its complete abolition and amend the Child Law to prevent those who were children at the time of alleged offences from being tried on capital offences.