

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 35th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Kuwait

Statement by Australia

29 January 2020

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Kuwait's recent efforts to work towards a comprehensive solution to the legal status of the Bidoon (stateless). Australia also commends Kuwait's domestic tradition of open political discourse, noting, however, that restrictions on public gatherings remain in place. Notwithstanding the pause in the implementation of prisoner executions since January 2017, Australia is concerned that defendants are still being sentenced to death.

Australia recommends that Kuwait:

1. Finalise development of, and implement, a comprehensive solution to the legal status of the Bidoon (stateless) that conforms to international law.
2. Ensure equality between all citizens, both in law and practice, regardless of gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.
3. Fully operationalise its national human rights institution (Human Rights Diwan) to ensure it complies with the Paris Principles, and continue to engage meaningfully with civil society.
4. Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

[159 Words]