



Position Paper Guidance & Example for States under Review (SuR)

Please Note: The name of your school should no longer be in the header of the position paper. The only information required is your full country name immediately above the name of the committee.

Due to the unique nature of the Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review (HRC-UPR), position papers of all delegates – both Members of the HRC and the States under Review (SuR) will be posted on the NWMUN-Portland 2018 website prior to the conference.

Formatting

Position papers should be formatted using the following specifications:

- **Font:** Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12 font
- **Line Spacing:** Single spaced
- **Page Margins:** Margins should be 0.5 inch at a minimum, but ideally 1.0 inch
- **Length:** The maximum length for your position paper should be 2 pages

Submission Process

The deadline for Position Papers is **Monday, 12 February 2018 at 11:59 pm (Pacific)**. Please submit all position papers using our online form: <https://form.jotform.com/NWMUN/nwmun-p-2018-pp>

Requirements

The position paper content and structure for delegates representing a State Under Review (SuR) at NWMUN-Portland 2018 intends to partially reflect the types of information requested by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) in its [guidance](#) provided to Member States who are taking part in the current cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. Your position paper should provide information on action taken by your country since the last time your country was reviewed in the UPR. For all three SuR at NWMUN-Portland 2018, the last review took place in 2013, thus your position paper should focus on action taken between 2013 to present.

Your position paper **should not** contain the following, unless there have been changes since 2013, because the **HRC-UPR Background Guide** already provides this basic information: (1) list of your country's core human rights treaty obligations; (2) list of your country's national human rights institutions; and (3) historical information about your country.

The purpose of the position paper is to provide updates, from your country's perspective, on developments and actions taken since the last review. Your position paper should focus on particular country priorities in terms of human rights, as well as, if possible, information on developments in the key issues addressed in the background guide.

Research Tips

- Look for documentation submitted by your country during previous UPR review cycles.
- Look for additional reports, press releases, or other related information from national-level events or conferences that have taken place since the last review cycle.
- Information and analysis from civil society organizations.
- Statements made by your country in other human rights fora, such as the General Assembly Third Committee.

Starting Resources

- **OHCHR UPR Documentation:** <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx>
- **UPR Info:** <https://www.upr-info.org/en>



Content & Structure

[Full Name of Assigned Country]

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council - Universal Periodic Review

Introduction

Please provide a short opening statement with any general comments regarding the country's human rights situation and identify any particular priorities your country has in terms of human rights issues.

National follow-up processes, institutional developments, and consultations

This section should provide a summary of any efforts undertaken at a national level to follow-up on the recommendations from the last UPR in 2013, including any changes to the national human rights institutions, consultations with civil society, etc.

Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles

This is the longest and most important portion of your position paper. In this section, you should focus on the three key issues discussed in the background guide, in addition to any other priority human rights issues that were the focus of recommendations made to your country during its last review, and provide an update on the ways in which your country has addressed these recommendations.

Human rights issue (Recommendations #-# - this is optional)

Please see the example position paper for further clarity. Delegates should look at the following resources to identify categories of human rights to focus on in your position paper (these should align with the priority issues your country has focused on):

- Report of the Working group on your country's review during the second cycle in 2013
- Matrix of recommendations to your country during the second cycle in 2013
- Summaries or further reports from civil society summarizing recommendations made during the second cycle in 2013
- Midterm reports of your country since the second cycle in 2013

These resources can be found by navigating to the websites for [OHCHR](#) or [UPR Info](#).

Example Position Paper

Australia

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review

Introduction

Australia is founded on the rule of law and has a strong tradition of respect for the rights and freedoms of every individual. Australia also has a long tradition of commitment to human rights and supporting human rights internationally. Australia continues to make progress in protecting human rights, recognizing that continued effort is required to maintain standards and to respond to existing challenges. The Australian Government is focused on advancing civil and political rights. This includes advancing measures to protect freedom of speech, freedom of religion and other common law rights and liberties that have not been given sufficient focus domestically in recent years. This complements the priority the government places on ensuring the economic empowerment of all Australians, through policies which support economic growth and specific programmes to advance individual groups (or specific community groups). The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to participate in this cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

National follow-up processes, institutional developments, and consultations

Since its review in 2011, Australia appointed a full-time Human Rights Commissioner in 2013 to ensure there is appropriate focus within the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on civil and political rights in addition to anti-discrimination work on a range of thematic issues which are discussed below. Recognizing the important role played by NGOs, the Australian Government continues to hold its annual NGO Forum on Human Rights to provide a consultation mechanism for human rights issues. This forum was particularly important in the lead up to the current review cycle.

Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles

During the first cycle of the UPR in 2011, there were 145 recommendations made to Australia, only 10% of which we have accepted (in whole or in part) and implemented. One of the primary challenges we face in our ability to implement relevant human rights recommendations is our fiscal environment which prevents us from prioritizing funding in certain areas. In particular, we have been unable to fully fund policies and programs related to Indigenous Persons due to deep cuts in social programming carried out by Parliament.

Indigenous Australians (Recommendations 24, 26, 36, 37, 102, 106, 108–113 and 118)

Australia continues to support the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a set of important guiding principles for the Government's engagement with Indigenous Australians. The Australian Government has particularly focused on: (1) ensuring children go to school; (2) getting adults into work; (3) making sure communities are safer to live in and that the rule of law is applied; and (4) achieving constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Indigenous Advancement Strategy commenced on 1 July 2014 with funding of \$4.9 billion over four years, which is in addition to universal programmes which provide assistance to Indigenous people in areas including education, health and employment services. On 4 March 2015 the Australian Government announced investment of more than \$860 million in grants, to some 964 organizations, for critical front line service delivery focused on achieving its key priorities. The Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council was established 2013 in order to provide policy advice to the Prime Minister on Indigenous Affairs, and focuses on practical changes to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. At the international level, Australia supported the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and adoption of its outcome in September 2014. Australia supports reviewing the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples consistent with the Outcome Document, including strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the Expert Mechanism, reducing duplication of work and increasing the sharing of best practice policy and programme ideas. The Australian Government endorsed the re-election of Dr Megan Davis as an independent expert to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

People with disability (Recommendations 40, 41, 46 and 49)

The Australian Government's disability reform agenda is delivering fundamental changes in our society to improve the lived experience of people with disability, their families and careers. The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020, agreed by Australian Governments in 2011, provides a national policy framework for improving the lives of Australians with disability. The Strategy seeks to drive a more inclusive approach to the design of policies, programmes and infrastructure so that people with disability can participate in all areas of Australian life. Improving access to buildings, transport, social

events, education, health care services and employment will contribute to ensuring that people with disability have the opportunity to fulfil their potential as equal citizens. The first phase of implementation, 'Laying the Groundwork 2011-2014', was designed to bring about reform in the planning and delivery of both mainstream and disability specific services across key portfolios.

Family violence (Recommendations 47, 72–74, and 76–82)

The Australian Government believes it is fundamental that women and their families are safe from violence in their homes and communities. The Second Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children was launched in Sydney on 27 June 2014 by the Prime Minister and contains 26 practical actions that all Australian governments agree are critical to improving women's safety. The Australian Government has provided more than \$100 million to support the Second Action Plan. The Prime Minister has clearly stated that reducing violence against women is a national priority, and has elevated the issue to the Council of Australian Governments. In April 2015 the Council of Australian Governments agreed to take urgent collective action to address violence against women, including the following: a national domestic violence order (DVO) scheme will be agreed; progress a national information system to share information on active DVOs; national standards will be considered to ensure perpetrators of violence against women are held to account; and strategies will be considered to tackle the use of technology to facilitate abuse against women, and to ensure women have adequate legal protections.

Human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices (Recommendations 83–87 and 134)

The Australian Government continues to implement a strong program of initiatives to combat human trafficking. In December 2014, Australia released the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-19, which sets the strategic aims of Australia's whole-of-community response to human trafficking over the next five years. In 2014, the Australian Government established a Supply Chains Working Group to examine strategies to address the use of labor exploitation in the supply chain of goods and services, including through human trafficking and slavery. Further, Australia amended its human trafficking legislation in 2013 to ensure that law enforcement authorities are well equipped to investigate and prosecute all forms of human trafficking including both sexual and labour exploitation, and to further its commitment to criminally prosecuting trafficking offenders.

Refugees and asylum seekers (Recommendations 38, 121–125, and 127–131)

Australia is one of the top three resettlement countries in the world, and has resettled more than 825,000 refugees and other humanitarian entrants since World War II through Australia's Humanitarian Programme. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring our position as one of the top three resettlement countries continues. The Government has specified the size of the Humanitarian Programme in law, with a minimum of 16,250 humanitarian visa places in 2017–18 and 18,750 humanitarian visa places in 2018–19.

Since Australia's last Universal Periodic Review in 2011, the Australian Government has implemented strong border management policies to stem the flow of illegal maritime arrivals, eliminate the people smuggling trade and prevent further loss of life at sea. Offshore processing and settlement of refugees in countries other than Australia has deterred many people from taking the dangerous sea voyage to Australia. The Australian Government signed the Regional Resettlement Arrangements with Papua New Guinea in July 2013 and Nauru on 3 August 2013. Under Memoranda of Understanding, both countries agree to treat transferees with dignity and respect in accordance with relevant human rights standards, including the principles of nonrefoulement. The Australian Government has assisted Nauru and Papua New Guinea to develop their robust refugee determination processes consistent with UNHCR guidelines. Australian Government support has also been provided to Nauru and Papua New Guinea to develop and implement their settlement support arrangements to meet the initial settlement needs of refugees. In September 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and Cambodia was signed for the voluntary and permanent resettlement of refugees from Nauru in Cambodia. A fast track assessment process has been established for eligible unauthorised maritime arrivals.

The Australian Government considers immigration detention an essential component of strong border control. People seeking to enter Australia without authority need to be assessed for any risks they may pose to the Australian community. The Government strives to reduce the number of people in detention and the length of time they are held in detention. The length and the conditions of immigration detention are subject to regular review to ensure detention continues to be lawful and appropriate. Significant headway has been made to reduce the numbers of children held in detention since the passage of the temporary protection legislation in late 2014. All children who were detained on Christmas Island were transferred to the mainland with their families by December 2014.