



Mr President,

This statement is made in consultation with Equality Australia, a civil society organisation working to protect and promote the human rights of LGBTIQI people in Australia.

We express our appreciation to the eight States that raised recommendations addressing the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in Australia.

we note with concern Australia's decision to note the recommendations relating specifically to LGBTIQ+ persons. This risks leaving persistent protection gaps unaddressed, including in relation to non-discrimination, safety, bodily autonomy and equal participation. We encourage the Government to continue engaging constructively with these recommendations, particularly given its stated commitment to dignity, participation, and equal protection before the law.

While we acknowledge the Government's reference to Australia's anti-discrimination framework, important gaps remain in law and practice. Religious educational institutions and service providers are still legally permitted to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people, leaving community members without equal protection, including around one third of school students.

We are concerned that intersex children continue to lack adequate protection from non-consensual and medically unnecessary interventions in most jurisdictions. Harmful conversion practices also remain lawful in three Australian states and territories.

As a national LGBTIQ+ organisation, we know that most Australians would want these gaps addressed in line with equality, fairness and inclusion. Doing so would respond directly to concerns raised during this UPR cycle.

We welcome the Government's acceptance of recommendations on hate speech and hate crimes. This is urgent, as LGBTIQ+ Australians experience rising hate, including violent hate crimes, abuse and discrimination. Homophobia and transphobia are increasing.

We urge the Australian Government to build on its commitments by taking concrete steps to ensure equal protection for all LGBTIQ+ persons across all jurisdictions. We stand ready to work constructively with the Government towards this goal.

Thank you.