

UPR Australia

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Like the moon Australia has a dark side.

Racism against the First Peoples still exists.

The Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples has no application in Australia.

The Universal Periodic Review has not seen a shift towards the rights of the Indigenous Peoples.

Closing the Gap means “closing the door, assimilate now.”

HERE ARE OUR SUGGESTIONS ...

Australia should assist First Nations to reinstate the *National Congress of Australia's First Peoples*, and increase the capacity of *Congress* to participate in cooperation with the government in the development of a national action plan to achieve the ends of the *Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Australia should implement a national *Human Rights Act* as proposed by the *Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights* and by the *Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs*.

Australia should also proceed to implement legislation and other constructive arrangements, as recommended by the *Parliamentary Committees*, which will advance the human rights of Indigenous Peoples in domestic law.

Australia should cooperate with Indigenous Peoples to consider all observations received from international human rights authorities regarding human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Australia should refer international human rights reports to the *Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights* to undertake public inquiries utilising submissions and public hearings before reporting to parliament on actions to be taken.

Australia should increase the resources and capacity of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner* and *NHRI* to recommend improvements to human rights of the First Peoples.

Australia should also assist First Peoples' human rights defenders to autonomously monitor and report on the progress of the human rights of First Peoples.

Australia should engage with First Peoples and the NHRI to discuss the utility of *ILO Convention No.169* and conclude whether ratification of the *Convention* would overall be beneficial for First Peoples and the State.

The *Australian Parliament* should agree on measures to strengthen the human rights framework by adopting a *Charter of Human Rights* and increasing the roles and resources of the *Australian Human Rights Commission* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner*.

Australia should strengthen laws on racial discrimination by defining ‘special measures’ in accordance with *General Comment 32* under the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, and to ensure rights to free, prior and informed consent as set out in the *Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples*.