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UPR

AUSTRALIAN NGO COALITION REPORT

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Acknowledgement of Country

The NGO UPR Report was written and researched on the lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, including the lands of Wurundjeri, Gadigal, Bidjigal and Kurna. We pay our respect to Elders both past and present.

We recognise that this land always was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land and their sovereignty has never been ceded.

We acknowledge the role of the colonial legal system in establishing, entrenching, and continuing the oppression and injustice experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and recognise the responsibility to work in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to undo this.

We also recognise the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities in advancing human rights in Australia.



Australian NGO Coalition UPR Report

- The NGO Report provides a point-in-time snapshot and assessment of many pressing human rights issues from the perspective of Australian non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- It represents the collective input of over 100 NGOs across Australia.
- Over 175 organisations across Australia have endorsed the Report.
- Full report can be downloaded here:
<https://www.hrlc.org.au/projects/universal-periodic-review-2025-26/>
- Contact: UPR@hrlc.org.au

Australia must legislate a national Human Rights Act

- Australia has ratified international human rights treaties, including
 - *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*,
 - *the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*,
 - *the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)*,
 - *the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, and
 - *the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)*.
- Promised the world we would uphold human rights, but only patchily reflected in our laws.
- There are significant gaps in domestic legislation to promoting and protecting human rights.
- The only liberal democracy in the world without a national Human Rights Act.
- A national Human Rights Act is essential to the practical realisation of human rights.
- The groundwork has already been done, and civil society organisations have been calling for a national Human Rights Act for many years now.



Externalisation of People Seeking Asylum

- Australia's asylum system continues to breach Australia international law obligations through harmful, and discriminatory practices.
- Interception and return of people seeking asylum violates non-refoulement obligations.
- UN Human Rights Committee found Australia is breach of international law for arbitrary detention in both Australia and Nauru.
- **Australia must end offshore processing and evacuate remaining refugees from its offshore processing centres to Australia, offering humane durable solutions consistent with its international obligations.**



Right to peaceful assembly & freedom of expression

- Since Australia's last UPR, six Australian jurisdictions have enacted laws restricting the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.
- People have also been subject to excessive and dangerous use of force, and crowd control weapons during protests, causing serious harm.
- Protest notification and pre-approval regimes are increasingly operating as de facto 'authorisation' systems, which runs counter to Australia's obligations under international law.
- **Australia must:**
 - *repeal or amend anti-protest laws to ensure compliance with its international obligations;*
 - *prohibit the use of explosive devices and dangerous crowd control weapons and ban police tactics like kettling at protests; and*
 - *bring notification regimes in line with its international obligations.*





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