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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 13th Session

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Universal Periodic Review of Poland

Statement by Australia

30 May 2012

Australia commends Poland's commitment to human rights and the significant progress made since 1989. We welcome steps taken to combat discrimination since the first UPR cycle, including the adoption in December 2010 of legislation governing discrimination, differential treatment and the role of the Ombudsperson.

Australia recommends Poland ensure the Office of the Ombudsperson is sufficiently resourced to carry out anti-discrimination functions.

We remain concerned by reports of continued discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, including instances of hate speech.

Australia recommends Poland adopt regulations recognising the rights of same-sex couples and of self-defined gender of transgender persons.

We are also concerned that transgender persons continue to face obstacles in accessing appropriate health care and **recommend Poland implement reforms to ensure everyone has a right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health in Poland.**

We are aware of reports that some legislators are advocating a 'conscience clause' for Poland's pharmaceutical law to allow chemists to refuse to sell birth control pills on the basis of religious belief. **We recommend Poland ensure protection of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children.**



SPEAKER:

Robert Knight