



AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 19th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Brunei Darussalam

Statement by Australia

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*Charge
Ruth Stone*

Australia commends Brunei on the high standard of living provided for its citizens and residents, including its commitment to health care and education.

To further strengthen Brunei's human rights framework, **Australia recommends Brunei accede to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, and the Rome Statute of the ICC.**

Australia holds serious concerns about Brunei's decision to introduce a Syariah Penal Code and the impact on freedom of religion, the status of women, and the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. **Australia recommends Brunei implements the Code in a manner consistent with international human rights standards. Australia further recommends Brunei reconsider the use of corporal and capital punishment under the Code.**

Australia commends Brunei's longstanding de facto moratorium on the death penalty, but is concerned that the introduction of the Code may see executions resume.

Australia recommends Brunei maintain a moratorium and ultimately move to abolish the death penalty in law.

Australia is concerned about limitations on freedom of expression and freedom of association in Brunei. **Australia recommends reforms to Bruneian laws and policies, such as the Sedition Act, to ensure consistency with international standards.**

