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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 19th Session
Universal Periodic Review of Norway
Statement by Australia

Australia commends Norway on its long-standing commitment to the protection and advancement of human rights. Norway's Universal Periodic Review report highlights the Government's consistent promotion of human rights and democratic principles, which are a cornerstone of its domestic, foreign and aid policy.

Australia welcomes the Norwegian Government's continued pursuit of equality and notes that four new anti-discrimination acts entered into force in January 2014, covering sexual orientation, gender equality, ethnicity, and persons with a disability. **Australia recommends that Norway continue to take steps to ensure the rights of these persons are protected, including through implementation of these laws.**

Australia notes that the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) has been downgraded to B status in accordance with the Paris Principles. We acknowledge the Norwegian Government is working towards a new National Human Rights Institute that will meet international standards. **Australia recommends that Norway moves quickly to establish its new National Human Rights Institute in full compliance with the Paris Principles.**

Speaker Ms Lauren Stasinowsky