



# AUSTRALIA

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## Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 20th Session

### Universal Periodic Review of Iran

#### Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes President Rouhani's positive statements on freedom of expression and non-discrimination, and urges Iran to implement these commitments.

Australia is deeply concerned by the ongoing use of capital punishment for a wide range of offences in Iran, particularly those committed by juvenile offenders. **Australia recommends Iran establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, and in particular cease all planned execution of juvenile offenders and prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed by minors.**

Australia is deeply concerned by Iran's use of intimidation and arbitrary arrest. Restrictions on legitimate forms of freedom of expression, including media freedom and internet access, also continue. **Australia recommends Iran guarantee the right to legitimate freedom of expression, association and assembly, and release political prisoners, including activists, lawyers and journalists, detained solely for exercising these rights.**

Australia is concerned by reports of continued ill-treatment of minority ethnic and religious communities in Iran. **Australia recommends Iran cease all discrimination against members of religious and ethnic minorities, including Baha'is, Dervishes, Christians, Ahwazi Arabs, Balochs and Kurds, and ensure respect for freedom of religion.**

**Australia recommends Iran cooperate fully with UN human rights mechanisms, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran to the country.**