



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 – 23rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Saint Lucia

Statement by Australia

Australia thanks Saint Lucia for its National Report. We commend Saint Lucia for signing the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* in 2011. Australia recommends that Saint Lucia ratify and implement the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

Australia acknowledges the positive steps Saint Lucia has taken to reduce poverty and foster economic growth. These are key ingredients of equitable and sustainable development.

However, we remain concerned by on-going sexual and gender-based violence in Saint Lucia, including against minors. We would welcome advice from the Saint Lucian Government on steps taken to address discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity since the last periodic review.

Australia calls on the Government of Saint Lucia to promote equality and non-discrimination. **Australia recommends Saint Lucia repeal all legislation which may discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.**

Australia understands the death penalty has not been imposed in Saint Lucia since 1995 but is concerned that this penalty still exists in legislation. **Australia recommends Saint Lucia establish a formal moratorium with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.**