**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 27th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Poland**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Poland’s commitment to human rights. However, Australia is concerned that some of the UPR recommendations Poland accepted in 2012 have since been reversed.

Australia is concerned that women in Poland face difficulties in accessing safe and legal abortion. **Australia recommends Poland ensure protection of the right of women to access abortion and for women (and couples) to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children.**

We are aware of reports that domestic violence is a serious problem in Poland.  **Australia recommends Poland work to address the issue of domestic violence in Poland and also ensure support for victims.**

Australia is concerned about official data showing that hate crime and hate speech in Poland is rising, and notes this includes incidents against immigrants. In addition, the Council for the Prevention of Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which was opened following the 2012 UPR, was closed in 2016. While we acknowledge Poland’s efforts to tackle hate crime, **Australia recommends that Poland adopt further measures to address racism and support community tolerance.**

**Australia also recommends Poland accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**