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

**Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom**

**Statement by Australia**

The Government of Australia commends the United Kingdom’s (UK) strong commitment to promoting and protecting universal human rights. Noting the UK’s recent decision to leave the European Union, we are pleased the UK Government has emphasised its ongoing commitment to maintaining a strong global role in relation to human rights and complying with its international obligations.

We commend the UK’s leadership on human trafficking and modern slavery, including landmark new legislation introduced in 2015. **Australia recommends the UK monitor the implementation of the 2015 Modern Slavery legislation, including its effectiveness in combatting trafficking in women and girls.**

Australia acknowledges the UK’s efforts as part of the Stormont House Agreement to take forward investigations into outstanding trouble-related deaths in Northern Ireland. **Australia recommends the UK continue negotiations on transitional justice issues and implement transitional justice elements of the Stormont House Agreement.**

Australia encourages the UK to keep the Equality Act 2010 under review, implement outstanding provisions, and further strengthen the Act. In particular, **Australia recommends that the UK review its Equality Act in relation to gender identity and the rights of intersex persons in the context of rights to health services.**

We acknowledge the UK has introduced measures to prevent violence against women and girls, including the development of a national Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and the creation of Domestic Violence Protection Orders.