**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 44th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Cuba**

**15 November 2023**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes Cuba’s progress on the protection of LGBTQIA+ rights within its Family Code.

Australia is concerned by the human rights situation in Cuba, which has deteriorated following the Cuban Government’s heavy-handed response to peaceful protests in 2021.

Cuba’s new penal code has placed further limits on freedom of expression and association.

Australia recommends **Cuba:**

1. **Continue its moratorium on the death penalty and take positive steps towards formal abolition.**
2. **Pass a comprehensive law against gender-based violence.**
3. **Take steps to promote the human rights of women and girls through the passage of a comprehensive law against gender-based violence.**

[104 words]