**UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review – 46th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Slovakia**

**6 May 2024**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President].

Australia welcomes Slovakia’s release of the National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma.

Australia is concerned by recent legislative amendments that abolish the Special Prosecutor’s Office and attempt to weaken whistleblower protections and reduce penalties and the statute of limitations for murder, rape and corruption. Australia is also concerned by threats to the safety of journalists and LGBTQIA+ persons.

Australia recommends **Slovakia**:

1. **Strengthen anti-corruption laws and uphold state protections for journalists and whistleblowers.**
2. **Adopt a National Action Plan for LGBTI Equality and strengthen the accessibility of gender-affirming health services and legal gender recognition.**
3. **Complete legislative procedures to ensure the National Centre for Human Rights is compliant with the Paris Principles.**

[118 words]