**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 37th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Georgia**

**Statement by Australia**

**26 January 2021**

Thank you President

Australia welcomes Georgia’s efforts to advance human rights since its last UPR appearance, especially towards upholding the rights of women and girls, and improving prison conditions and police training for the management of peaceful protests.

Australia reiterates our concerns over the human rights situation in the breakaway territories ofAbkhazia and South Ossetia, including the introduction of the death penalty in Abkhazia.

**Australia recommends that Georgia:**

1. **Guarantee the protection of rights for the LGBTI community and other marginalised groups, including freedoms of expression and assembly.**
2. **Promote editorial independence in major print and online publications.**
3. **Target the root causes of child and forced marriage through education, training and public awareness campaigns and provide support services to the survivors of such marriages.**
4. **Continue to allow and safely facilitate peaceful protests without discrimination.**
5. **Strengthen the State Inspector’s Service, including by ensuring its independence in the investigation of crimes by law enforcement officials.**