**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 29th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of The Bahamas**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends The Bahamas on its recent steps to progress human rights, including to promote gender equality through a Constitutional amendment. However, Australia remains concerned at the scale of violence – particularly sexual violence – perpetrated against women. With this in mind, **Australia recommends that The Bahamas accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.**

**Australia also recommends The Bahamas introduce laws to provide redress to people subject to discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity**.

Australia is concerned by reports of poor prison conditions for juveniles. **Australia recommends The Bahamas establish a system to administer juvenile justice in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

While acknowledging that no executions have taken place since 2000, **Australia recommends The Bahamas establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards complete abolition of this practice.**

Australia commends the Bahamas for its efforts to address gaps in nationality laws that give rise to statelessness and **recommends The Bahamas continue the process of Constitutional Reform to remove gender discrimination in nationality provisions and introduce safeguards to prevent statelessness.**