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

**Universal Periodic Review of Serbia**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes Serbia‘s progress towards improving human rights standards since its last review.

We commend Serbia on its efforts to progress rights and protections for LGBTI people and note that the 2017 *Pride Parade* took place without incident. However, Serbia doesn't have comprehensive legislation in place that protects the rights of intersex people in terms of equality and non-discrimination. **We recommend Serbia strengthen discrimination protections for LGBTI persons, and enact legislation that includes protection from discrimination on the grounds of intersex status.**

Australia notes with concern reports of undue political influence over the media, and of intimidation, threats and physical assaults against journalists. **Australia recommends Serbia take steps to enable the exercise of freedom of expression, including by improving transparency of media ownership and financing, and investigating and prosecuting cases of intimidation and violence against journalists**.

Australia is concerned by reports that courts are susceptible to corruption and political influence, and that there are lengthy delays in the trial process. **Australia recommends Serbia put in place further measures to improve the independence, accountability and effectiveness of the justice system.**