**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 30th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Uzbekistan**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the demonstrated commitment of Uzbekistan to improve the protection and promotion of human rights for all people in Uzbekistan.

Australia commends Uzbekistan for its steps to progress the implementation of human rights and protect freedom of expression. **Australia recommends Uzbekistan release all persons imprisoned based on their political affiliation and cease the use of criminal code Article 221 to extend prison sentences without justification.**

Australia also commends Uzbekistan’s decree against forced labour. **Australia recommends Uzbekistan fully implement government decrees banning the forced mobilisation of public sector workers and students and provide access for independent nongovernmental organisations to conduct monitoring of labour rights.**

Australiawelcomes Uzbekistan’s steps to improve the human rights of detainees and strengthen protections against ill-treatment and torture. **Australia recommends Uzbekistan close the Jaslyk prison colony, facilitate full and unhindered access for International Committee of the Red Cross monitoring, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**

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