



Extradition and mutual assistance; human trafficking and slavery

Background Information - Extradition and mutual assistance

Extradition policy and practice in Australia contains safeguards to protect human rights. In 2012, the government reviewed and reformed extradition laws to bring the *Extradition Act* (Cth) 1988 further into line with Australia's non-refoulement obligations under CAT.

Background Information – Human trafficking and slavery

Australia's approach to combating human trafficking and slavery includes the criminalisation of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices; the provision of support to victims such as counselling, accommodation, and legal advice; and a visa framework for victims and witnesses of human trafficking and slavery.

In the period since the last UPR the government has reformed laws to fortify the prohibition of human trafficking and slavery and established new offences including forced labour, forced marriage, organ trafficking, and harbouring a victim.¹ Further reforms have extended vulnerable witness protections to adult victims of human trafficking and slavery offences.²

In 2015 the Australian Government released a *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019*.³

Key Issue

The *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019* adopts a human rights-based approach and contains several new initiatives, including measures to standardise data collection on human trafficking and slavery, and raise community awareness among vulnerable groups. The Commission commends the government's commitment to prevent and combat human trafficking and slavery. It is imperative that the government fully fund and implement all of the actions contained within the plan. The Commission also notes the need to introduce a federal victims' compensation scheme for victims of human trafficking and slavery and improve support services for victims.⁴

Recommendation

Government fully implement the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019 and introduce a federal victims' compensation scheme for victims of human trafficking and slavery.

¹ *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Act 2013* (Cth).

² *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Law Enforcement Integrity, Vulnerable Witness Protection and Other Measures) Act 2013* (Cth).

³ Australian Government, *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019* (Attorney-General's Department, 2015). At

<https://www.ag.gov.au/CrimeAndCorruption/HumanTrafficking/Pages/Australiasresponsetohumantrafficking.aspx> (viewed 26 June 2015).

⁴ Australian Human Rights Commission *Submission to the Attorney General's Department on the Exposure Draft Bill Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Bill 2012* (20 January 2012), para 2. At: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/exposure-draft-bill-crimes-legislation-amendment-slavery-slavery-like-conditions-and-people-trafficking#Heading154> (viewed 26 June 2015).