

Human Rights Council – 33rd Regular Session

Half-Day Panel Discussion on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls Australian Statement 20 September 2016

Australia welcomes this Council discussion on violence against indigenous women.

We are pleased that Dr Hannah McGlade, an Indigenous Australian human rights lawyer, is participating as a panellist.

Violence against women and girls is a scourge that plagues communities around the world.

Australia is committed to actively confronting both violent acts and the drivers of violence, particularly against women and girls, including those with disabilities.

Indigenous Australian women and their children are more likely to experience violence than other Australians.

Australia's National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children includes actions to support Indigenous Australian communities develop local solutions to end violence against women and girls.

Australia is providing better resources to ensure justice responses are culturally appropriate, accessible and appropriate to the needs of Indigenous Australian women and girls, including those with a disability. We are also supporting health workers and police to better respond to calls for help in remote Indigenous communities.

Australia is committed to achieving tangible improvements in the overall wellbeing and safety of Indigenous Australian women and girls, including through effective redress mechanisms, improved access to employment and education, and support to feel safer in their homes.

We would appreciate the panel's views on how to improve the partnerships between governments and Indigenous communities that are vital to addressing violence against indigenous women.