



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

23 May 2014

Mr Nathan Kennedy
President
Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
P O Box A147
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Mr Kennedy

Thank you for the letter dated 5 May 2014 from yourself and 11 co-signatories to Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and the Attorney General Senator George Brandis regarding the Australian Government's position on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the Optional Protocol). I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Government supports the promotion, protection and implementation of economic, social and cultural rights. Moreover, the Government is committed to implementing its international legal obligations, including under human rights treaties to which Australia is a party, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The Optional Protocol is not currently under consideration by the Government. The Government will monitor future developments with the Optional Protocol.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Moyle', written in a cursive style.

Sally Moyle
Assistant Secretary
Human Rights & Gender Equality Branch