



Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

New Delhi, India. London, UK. Accra, Ghana

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NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations

43rd Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 6: UPR Outcome of Fiji

Oral statement delivered by the Fiji CSO UPR Working Group and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

Thursday, 12 March 2020

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.

This statement is read in partnership with the Fiji CSO UPR Working Group.

We commend the Government's acceptance of 207 out of 242 recommendations received during the third UPR cycle.

We urge the Government to implement recommendations concerning the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC and finalising the adoption of the national action plan.

We strongly recommend that the Government develops a national strategy to address violence, discrimination and hate crimes against the LGBTQI community and increase budgetary allocation towards strengthening participation of marginalised communities, including persons with disabilities, in times of natural disasters.

We want a Fiji that guarantees fundamental freedoms and respect for journalists and human rights defenders. This includes recasting all laws restricting freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association such as the Media Industry Development Act, Public Order (Amendment) Act and sedition provisions under the Crimes Act.

We want the Government to commit to mitigating the impacts of extractive mining through monitoring policy implementation, specifically the Environmental Impact Assessment. This effectively provides environmental, social and economic safeguards for impacted communities.

The Government has reaffirmed its support to create a national mechanism for reporting, implementation and follow-up of human rights recommendations and we anticipate civil society involvement in doing the same. We look forward to the Government's commitment to implement the accepted recommendations.

Thank you.