



## Position Paper Guidance & Example

for HRC Member States who are not States under Review (SuR)

**Please Note:** The name of your school should no longer be in the header of the position paper. The only information required is your full country name immediately above the name of the committee.

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*[Full Name of Assigned Country]*

### Human Rights Council - Universal Periodic Review

#### I. Lithuania

**Paragraph #1:** Include shared international commitments between your state and the SuR, or commitments that your state has made that the SuR should adhere to. Address any specific human rights concerns and areas posing a challenge to human rights promotion and protection by the SuR. Observations about process concerns in the SuR in terms of complaint procedures, monitoring and investigation, and institutional compliance with human rights obligations. (Times New Roman, Size 10-12).

*Advance Questions to Lithuania*

- 3-5 advance questions that you would like to submit to Lithuania
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#### II. Papua New Guinea

**Paragraph #1:** Include shared international commitments between your state and the SuR, or commitments that your state has made that the SuR should adhere to. Address any specific human rights concerns and areas posing a challenge to human rights promotion and protection by the SuR. Observations about process concerns in the SuR in terms of complaint procedures, monitoring and investigation, and institutional compliance with human rights obligations. (Times New Roman, Size 10-12).

*Advance Questions to Papua New Guinea:*

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#### III. Syrian Arab Republic

**Paragraph #1:** Include shared international commitments between your state and the SuR, or commitments that your state has made that the SuR should adhere to. Address any specific human rights concerns and areas posing a challenge to human rights promotion and protection by the SuR. Observations about process concerns in the SuR in terms of complaint procedures, monitoring and investigation, and institutional compliance with human rights obligations. (Times New Roman, Size 10-12).

*Advance Questions to Syrian Arab Republic:*

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## Example Position Paper

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### *Russian Federation*

#### **Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review**

##### **I. South Africa**

Russia recognizes the vitality of human rights towards producing a functional and productive government. Although it is important to keep in mind the importance in respecting the sovereignty of countries and their ability to monitor their own internal affairs often much more efficiently than foreign involvement.

Although problems such as police brutality and marginalization persist, the international community must recognize how South Africa has made tremendous development post-Apartheid in improving human rights and becoming a productive member of the international community through the support of the South African Human Rights Council (SAHRC). To counter police brutality, Russia urges South Africa to prioritize the establishment of an internal investigations agency that would hold law enforcement accountable for breaches in the law. Currently, this lack of accountability can be traced as the root cause for many of the problems currently being discussed, but with this in mind South Africa is more well equipped to tackle this problem internally rather through foreign involvement. This sort of accountability would also have the added benefit of creating a standard for facilitating the presence of migrant workers and refugees countering ongoing outburst on migrants at both a civilian and law enforcement level.

Russia strongly urges South Africa to respect the rights of women that are severely under threat to due widespread sexual violence by establishing a mechanism focused on preventing repeat offenders and using things such as awareness campaigns to reduce stigma that would encourage incidents to be reported.

##### *Advance Questions to South Africa:*

- How will the Government insure a reliable internal investigations unit that would create a system of accountability? Has the government considered reinstatement of the South African Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) that was dissolved in 2001?
- What will the Government's role be in countering the stigma that has led to current situation of repeated attacks on migrants both with civilian vigilantes and law enforcement officers alike?
- What provisions has South Africa considered to help prosecute sexual offenders? A study reported on by the UN showed that over 25% of women admit to having been raped, while only 2-7% of such women reported sexual assaults.

##### **II. Myanmar**

Russia recognizes that there is a definitive need for improvement within the Human Rights situation in Myanmar. As previously stated it is imperative especially with regards to Myanmar that a country's sovereignty is always respected. The Civil War in Myanmar poses an obvious threat to the implementation of the efforts of this committee and should be addressed but only with the full support of Myanmar's government. Although Myanmar's political history has been tumultuous leading to instability that has been the source of human rights abuses in the past, Russia believes that Myanmar is best equipped to deal with problems of internal conflict. Further improvement can be gained through increased cooperation with distribution of Foreign aid to recover from such things as a 2015 flood that destroyed more than a million acres of rice fields. Russia urges the Government to insure that conflict is dealt with in a humane manner representative of mandates set by international law, as well as establish increased representation of women in political and domestic life.



### *Advance Questions to Myanmar:*

- What will the Government do to resolve conflicts and further steps towards stability? What help from the international community would the Government consider in assisting with resolving internal conflict?
- Will Myanmar consider improving the disparity between the rights of men and women with regards to divorce, property rights, and bans on women from marrying outside their religion?
- Will Myanmar take a more cooperative role, as opposed to hostile with regards to receiving and protecting those involved with foreign aid?

### **III. Australia**

Human rights in Australia with regards to migrants, those with disabilities, and indigenous populations are in their current state poor and in definite need of improvement. We urge immediate action to be taken against repeated unlawful actions that have systematically been used to discriminate against migrants through the Humanitarian Programme. These actions are often in violation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, where upon migrants face unlawful detention, an inability to access a timely appeals process, unsafe living conditions, and purposefully stringent and discriminatory regulations. Improvement can be made by standardizing a speedy, and reliable process for administering migrants that adheres to customary international migrant law. Although steps have been taken, Russia urges further development with equal access to economic and healthcare resources to assist in combatting the disproportionate number of indigenous peoples and disabled who represent a large portion of the impoverished within Australian society using the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### *Advance Questions to Australia:*

- Would the Government of Australia consider loosening regulations that restrict migrant access to adhere to customary international law?
- With regards to indigenous peoples, programs such as Closing the Gap have the potential to be incredibly effective but have severely weakened by a lack of funding. Would the Government consider expanding upon these programs and delegating them as funding priorities?
- Is the Government seriously considering relocating migrants to Papua New Guinea?