



## OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE 38TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Opportunity to attend the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC38)

18 June to 6 July 2018 – Geneva, Switzerland

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE Friday 16 March 2018 (17:00 AEST)**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is **seeking applications from highly-qualified individuals, academics and representatives of non-government organisations (NGOs)<sup>1</sup> to attend the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC38)**, to be held in Geneva from 18 June to 6 July 2018.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is a United Nations (UN), inter-governmental, body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. The HRC meets three times annually in Geneva (February/March, June/July and September). Its 47 seats are filled by member states elected for three-year terms.

Australia will serve as a member of the HRC for the term 2018-2020. While Australia, has been an active participant in the Council since its establishment in 2006, 2018-2020 is the first time Australia will be a member of this body. Throughout our term as a HRC member, Australia's engagement will focus on a range of issues including:

- **gender equality**
- good governance and stronger democratic institutions
- freedom of expression
- rights of indigenous peoples
- strong national human rights institutions and capacity building.
- the abolition of the death penalty
- promoting and protecting right to freedom of religion or belief
- advancing the rights of people with a disability
- **advancing the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) persons**
- **protecting civil society participation**
- and ensuring the HRC is working efficiently and to the best of its abilities.

<sup>1</sup> Including but not limited to: academics, community advocates and organisers, representatives of workers' and employers' groups.



In line with Australia's priorities for our HRC membership, DFAT is pleased to support the attendance of one Australian civil society representative at the June 2018 Council session, HRC38.

The June Session of the Council traditionally focuses on gender equality and women's rights. While Australia cannot guarantee which resolution negotiations will take place at HRC38, based on past practice we anticipate the following issues will arise:

- elimination of discrimination against women and girls
- elimination of violence against women
- protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- protection of the family
- women's equal nationality rights in law and in practice
- the right to education by every girl, and
- youth and human rights.

## ROLE DESCRIPTION

DFAT will support the successful applicant's attendance at HRC38. However, **the successful applicant will attend in their own capacity, and not as a representative of the Australian Government.** The selected applicant will be required to agree in writing to a set of specified Terms and Conditions before their attendance is confirmed.

Participation will provide individuals with a unique and valuable opportunity to observe and influence discussions at HRC38, participate in varied meetings and events, and work with a range of stakeholders.

Applicants must have expertise in, or experience working on, matters relating to gender equality, women's leadership and empowerment, human rights or other relevant fields. Experience with, and a working understanding of the HRC, or other relevant multilateral forums, would be highly advantageous.

Sponsorship by a 'Non-Government Organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC' (General, Special or Roster status) would also be highly advantageous. Lack of such sponsorship will not be a barrier for otherwise highly-qualified applicants.

Applicants should be aware that the pace of a HRC session can be intense and attendance may be a stressful experience for some people. Due to the long hours of the HRC and associated events, in order to be effective, the successful applicant may need to work long hours. The successful applicant may also need to take in complex, detailed information in a short space of time, work in an unfamiliar environment away from their normal support networks and participate in potentially emotional discussions.

### Pre-HRC38

Prior to attending HRC38 in Geneva the selected applicant will:

- Attend an in-person briefing with DFAT's Human Rights Branch to discuss their participation in, and Australia's preparations for HRC38 (to be held in Canberra).
- On request, provide advice to DFAT's Human Rights Branch on issues relating resolutions under consideration at HRC38, including civil society suggestions on language.
- Utilise networks to consult with Australian civil society on issues that are of concern and encourage awareness of the themes and activities of HRC38.
- Participate in a 'Pre-HRC38 NGO Brief' (via teleconference).

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- Provide requested information relating to their attendance at HRC38 including personal details, photographs and biographical information to DFAT’s Human Rights Branch within specified timeframes.
  - Make all travel and accommodation arrangements, and cooperate on any other logistical matters relating to their attendance at HRC38, within specified timeframes and in close consultation with DFAT’s Human Rights Branch (see below for information on travel and funding support for the successful applicant).

### **During HRC38**

During HRC38 the selected applicant will:

- Attend a welcome briefing with the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, including the lead Australia negotiators on any gender or related resolutions.
- At their own discretion and instigation, attend and observe the plenary, negotiations and side events sessions of HRC38.
- Meet independently with other academics and representatives of non-government organisations present in Geneva.
- Dependent on their relevant skills and areas of expertise, the applicant may be given the opportunity to present or speak at Australian sponsored HRC38 side events, or to attend informal updates with Australia negotiators. These opportunities will only be afforded at DFAT’s discretion. Consideration will be given when shortlisting candidates to each applicant’s potential and experience to fulfil these roles.

### **Post-HRC38**

Upon their return to Australia following HRC38, the selected applicant will:

- Participate in a ‘Post-HRC38 NGO Debrief’ (via teleconference).
- Provide a written report to DFAT’s Human Rights Branch, no later than 20 July 2018, on their participation and experiences at HRC38. The report will focus on their participation and achievements at HRC38, and their views on the outcomes of the session. Excerpts from the applicant’s report may be used by DFAT in a range of publicly available post-HRC38 materials.
- Share knowledge about their experiences at HRC38 with other individuals, non-government representatives and civil society organisations as appropriate, including on the resolutions adopted by HRC38 and the process and progress of promoting gender equality through the HRC’s mechanisms.
- Attend the annual DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights (February 2019) to share reflections on their experiences.

## **TIMEFRAME OF HRC38 COMMITMENT**

The chosen applicant must be available to:

- attend a pre-HRC38 briefing in Canberra in early-mid May 2018
- travel to Geneva between 18 June to 6 July 2018
- provide a written report (maximum three A4 pages) on their experience as a HRC38 applicant by 20 July 2018, and
- attend the DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights in February 2019.

The successful applicants will be publicly announced in April-May 2018.



## TRAVEL AND FUNDING SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

DFAT will fund the participation of the successful applicant at HRC38. DFAT will finance, prior to the successful applicants' official departure for Geneva, the following:

- 1x return economy class flight from their capital city to Canberra (if required)
- 1x return economy class flight from Australia to Geneva
- accommodation in Geneva, and
- meal and local transport allowance (at a rate to be determined by DFAT).

DFAT will not provide financial assistance for:

- replacement salary/income
- salary or stipends
- passports and visas
- travel insurance<sup>2</sup>
- any other personal expenses, including device/call costs and roaming fees.

In February 2019, DFAT will also finance 1x return economy class flight from their capital city to Canberra (if required) to attend the DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights.

Further details regarding the specific nature of this financial assistance will be provided to the successful applicant after selection.

Applicants should note that any financial assistance provided by the DFAT is subject to the specified Terms and Conditions for attendance. Any funding support provided will only cover periods of official travel. No personal travel, (domestic or international) will be financially supported by DFAT.

Should an applicant require an official carer, escort or support person to accompany them on any aspect of the HRC38 programme (domestic or international), this should be outlined in the application and must be agreed in writing by the DFAT at the time they are selected.

Apart from a pre-agreed (in writing) official carer, escort or support person, no other person is permitted to travel with an applicant nor benefit in any way from the funding and support provided to the applicant.

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, all applicants must enter and exit Geneva and return to Australia via the most direct and economical route and airline, as determined by DFAT.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

DFAT's Human Rights Branch will provide the successful applicant with reasonable administrative and logistical support to facilitate their attendance. No support will be provided for personal arrangements or activities that fall outside the scope of the applicant's participation in HRC38.

The selected applicant will be expected to read and understand all information provided to them by the DFAT and respond to all requests or instructions within a reasonable timeframe.

<sup>2</sup> Please note purchasing travel insurance, and providing those details to DFAT, will be a mandatory requirement for the successful applicant.

## LODGING AN APPLICATION

To lodge an application for this opportunity, please provide:

- your telephone, email and postal contact details
- a resume or CV (maximum two A4 pages)
- a statement addressing the selection criteria listed below (maximum one A4 page)
- a biography (for use in any media) (maximum one A4 page), and
- details of two referees who may be contacted as part of the selection process.<sup>3</sup>

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE Friday 16 March 2018 (17:00 AEST)**

Applications may be submitted by email or post to the addresses below. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Postal applications must be received by DFAT before Friday 16 March 2018 (17:00 AEST).

### Email address:

[HumanRights@dfat.gov.au](mailto:HumanRights@dfat.gov.au)

### Postal address:

Human Rights Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
R G Casey Building  
BARTON ACT 0221

DFAT's Human Rights Branch will provide confirmation of receipt of your application via email.

Queries regarding the application process should be directed to DFAT's Human Rights Branch via [HumanRights@dfat.gov.au](mailto:HumanRights@dfat.gov.au). Please note that DFAT's Human Rights Branch can only provide general advice. In the interest of running a fair and open selection process, questions relating to Australia's position on issues to be considered at HRC38, how to answer the selection criteria, etc. will not be answered.

For additional information on how NGOs can participate in the Human Rights Council please consider "*A Practical Guide for NGO Participants*" available online:

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/PracticalGuideNGO\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/PracticalGuideNGO_en.pdf).

## ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Eligible applications will be assessed through an open process by DFAT's Human Rights Branch, a panel of DFAT Senior Executives, and by the First Assistant Secretary of DFAT's Multilateral Policy Division. DFAT's processes will take into consideration the complementary skills and experience of the successful applicant and the comments of referees. Consideration will also be given to the development opportunity that attending HRC38 would provide to the individual applicants.

<sup>3</sup> Information provided to DFAT, including personal details, will be stored securely and used for official purposes only.



All applicants will be assessed based on their individual merits, and with particular consideration to fostering diversity of representatives at the HRC. DFAT encourages all individuals to apply including: all genders, gender identities and sexual orientations; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and people with disabilities.

DFAT's decision on the successful applicant is final. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of the selection process in writing. DFAT will not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must provide a statement addressing the selection criteria set out below. Each criterion carries the same weighting. Please include specific examples.

Either paragraph or bullet point format is acceptable. The statement should not exceed one A4 page, 12pt font size. Claims against the selection criteria exceeding one A4 page will be deemed ineligible.

### Essential Criteria

1. Demonstrated interest in achieving gender equality including the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls, and/or the rights of LGBTI persons.
2. Demonstrated understanding of, and ability to engage constructively on:
  - a. issues hampering the full enjoyment of equal human rights by women and girls, and/or LGBTI persons. in Australia or internationally (including the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination), and
  - b. initiatives, in Australia or internationally (including programs, policies, legislative responses, regulations, etc.), aimed at strengthening women's empowerment, promoting women's leadership, and/or increasing LGBTI person's inclusion.
3. Well-established existing networks with academics, non-government representatives and civil society organisations, in particular those working in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, LGBTI human rights or international aid and development, and the willingness and ability to engage with these individuals and organisations to understand their concerns and share experiences relating to HRC38.
4. Well-developed communication skills including:
  - a. the ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing with diverse audiences including government officials, the media, young women, and individuals with disabilities or from Indigenous or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and
  - b. an understanding of effective communication strategies, including appropriate use of social media.

### Highly Desirable Criteria

5. Demonstrated understanding of, or experience with, the UN human rights system (with a particular emphasis on the HRC), including the negotiation of UN language in human rights and related contexts.
6. Demonstrated understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supporting Goals.
7. Sponsorship by a 'Non-Government Organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC' (General, Special or Roster status) would also be highly advantageous. Lack of such sponsorship will not be a barrier for otherwise highly-qualified applicants.