

FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE



AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION  
GENEVA

1 December 2022

Ms Beatriz Balbin  
Chief, Special Procedures Branch  
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Delivery via email [ohchr-registry@un.org](mailto:ohchr-registry@un.org)

Dear Ms Balbin

On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to express appreciation for Communication UA AUS 4/2022 of 26 September 2022. I have the honour of responding in relation to the matters raised in this Communication.

In October 2022, the Australian Government repatriated four Australian women and their 13 Australian children from an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Syria, consistent with our commitment to find effective, long-term solutions in the interests of all Australians. These families will be supported by a full range of services to assist them with returning to life in Australia.

Australia previously repatriated eight Australian children from an IDP camp in Syria in 2019. All Australian repatriations from Syria are voluntary and are undertaken with the informed consent of the individuals.

Australia will continue to take a managed approach to repatriations from Syria, considering national security advice together with diplomatic, community and welfare factors. We continue to monitor the situation in IDP camps in Syria, including through regular engagement between Australian officials, Kurdish authorities and humanitarian partners operating in North-East Syria.

As set out in our response to AL AUS 1/2022 and UA AUS 2/2022, the Australian Government takes all reports regarding the welfare of Australians and Australia-linked individuals very seriously and thanks organisations on the ground for their assistance in this challenging environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Gorely'.

Amanda Gorely  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations  
Australian Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament