



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ

Representing 22 Peak Ukrainian Organisations in Australia
Member of Ukrainian World Congress

March 12, 2021

**Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra 2600**

Dear Minister

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) supports the Parliamentary Human Rights Sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade's recommendation to enact a world-leading law to apply targeted sanctions to perpetrators of serious human rights abuse and corruption aligned to the international Magnitsky legislation which exists in a range of countries.

As outlined by the Chair of the subcommittee, the Hon. Kevin Andrews, in its report, the Magnitsky-style targeted sanctions will align Australia with a global movement seeking to limit opportunities for human rights abusers, corrupt officials, and beneficiaries to enjoy the proceeds of their abuses.

The report states that these recommendations would see Australia strengthen its commitment to protecting people's human rights worldwide. The report's recommendations would see Australia implement a world-leading version of Magnitsky legislation.

The AFUO supports the Committee's recommendation that Australian legislation closely follows :

- A broad definition of human rights and corruption to ensure 'the most significant number of potential abuses' fall within the scope of the legislation;
- Individuals (and their immediate family and direct beneficiaries), corporate entities, state and non-state organisations can be subject to sanctions;
- Creation of an independent body to publicly receive, consider and make recommendations regarding imposition of sanctions, which the Minister for Foreign Affairs would have to believe in their decision-making;
- Right of reply and review of decisions by the Minister on request of a targeted or sanctioned person;
- Publication of names of sanctioned people, the reason for their listing and an annual report on sanctions by the Foreign Minister.

Australia has an opportunity to become a leader in addressing human rights abuse and corruption and should do so at the first opportunity.

Cooperating with like-minded nations strengthen our resolve in combatting human and national rights abuse, corruption and interference from international

Attached is a Discussion Paper prepared by the AFUO and the Australian Institute of Ukrainian Affairs, a new body initiated by the AFUO on the Magnitsky issue. We would be keen to support any further steps in advocating in this matter.

Please do not hesitate to call me on 0419531255 if you require any further information.

Stefan Romaniw OAM

**Co-Chair, Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations
1st Vice President, Ukrainian World Congress**