



2 March 2015

Julie Bishop MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House ACT 2600

Dear Minister

On behalf of Australian Quakers I write to congratulate you and your Department for the important contribution made by Australia during its two years on the United Nations Security Council.

We are especially pleased that Australia's diplomats, led by Gary Quinlan, were seen by other Security Council members as giving a lead on a number of issues. From our perspective, we are glad for the emphasis that was given to the following:

- The place of women in peacemaking
- The control of small arms and light weapons
- The strengthening of international peacebuilding and peacekeeping capacity
- The focus on humanitarian assistance in crisis situations, especially Syria
- The need for human rights to be a priority for the Council.

We hope that the Australian Government will continue to build upon its work on the Security Council in promoting the role of the United Nations and other multilateral agencies in advancing the cause of peace around the world. In this regard we trust that the Department will ensure that the resources needed to make our role in UN bodies even more effective are adequate.

Finally, we support your intention to press for Australia to have a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council from 2017.

In peace

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julian Robertson".

Julian Robertson  
Presiding Clerk  
Australia Yearly Meeting

**Australia Yearly Meeting**

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