

Australia unreservedly condemns sexual exploitation and abuse. Such behaviour by UN personnel exploits the vulnerability of the people they have been sent to help; it undermines the legitimacy of the UN and it disrespects the vast majority of UN personnel who serve honourably. Any allegations of exploitation and abuse need to be investigated, and any criminal acts brought to justice.

We acknowledge the efforts made in recent years to address this problem, including: the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution authorising the repatriation of UN personnel who have been sexually exploited or abused. We also support the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2015-2016 Ebola crisis in West Africa, which has identified the need for a comprehensive approach to address the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel.