



their liberty. The Sub-Committee's recommendations as a result of its visit are made confidentially to the country, which has the opportunity to respond to them.

Second, State Parties must set up independent national preventative mechanisms for the prevention of torture at the domestic level. Such mechanisms are to comprise visiting bodies that investigate the treatment of persons in detention. These national visiting bodies may make recommendations for the improvement of detention conditions.

The Optional Protocol uses education, persuasion and consultative monitoring to prevent torture in places where it is most likely to occur. It aims to secure compliance cooperatively, without public denunciation and confrontation. Australia's signature and ratification of this Optional Protocol will be a valuable step towards the protection of persons against the crime of torture.



Hilary Charlesworth



Xuelin Teo