



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Human Rights Sub Committee**

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Issued: 16 September 2011

*Chair: Hon Laurie Ferguson MP  
Deputy: Hon Philip Ruddock MP*

## Canberra hearing for human rights talks

The parliamentary Human Rights Sub-Committee is meeting with the Australian Bahá'í Community to discuss Australia's human rights dialogues with China and Vietnam.

"Australia's human rights dialogue process is now well-established with 13 rounds of talks between Australia and China and eight between Australia and Vietnam since 1997," Human Rights Sub-Committee chair Laurie Ferguson said. "This inquiry is a chance to examine the effectiveness of the dialogue process to date".

The focus of the Committee will be on:

- parliamentary participation and oversight;
- involvement of non-government organisations;
- the roles and obligations of participating agencies;
- reporting requirements and mechanisms;
- the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes including an assessment of whether any human rights reforms within those countries have been obtained;
- whether this dialogue mechanism should be adopted with other countries;
- exploring options for alternative human rights mechanisms.

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

**Tuesday, 20 September 2011  
1.05 pm to 1.55 pm  
Committee Room 1R4  
Parliament House, CANBERRA**

This hearing will be audio webcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For a program and more details, visit the Committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/HRdialoguechinavietnam/index.htm>

There is still an opportunity to contribute to this inquiry as the Committee will continue to accept submissions.

**For media comment:** please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP on (02) 6621 9909 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4323 (Parliament House)

**For further information:** please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, via email at [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au) or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>