

Submission No.204.....



Contact details
Elizabeth Bennet
17 St. Georges Ave.
Templestowe 3106
(h) 9846 1412
(m) 0410499837
e-mail: lizzie1@unite.com.au

Submission Concerning The Proposed Ratification of the
International Criminal Court (ICC)

We are a group of University Students who firmly believe that it is in the best interests of Australia, and humanity that the ICC Statute be ratified by Australia. We set out the following arguments in support of this position, in the hopes that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties will recommend immediate ratification.

1. Firstly, acceptance of the ICC statute will demonstrate Australian commitment to human rights, both ideologically and practically. This would allow Australia to continue its leading role in the drive for an effective international criminal court.
2. To the extent that responsibility for human rights abuses will contribute to regional stability, Australia should consider it in its best interests to ratify the ICC Statute, in hopes of increasing such stability.
3. We firmly believe that the emphasis on personal responsibility for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide will act as a significant deterrent to individuals in a position to perpetrate such crimes. Furthermore, the individual responsibility emphasised by the Statute may allay racism insofar as it lays specific and reasoned blame for atrocities, rather than placing collective responsibility on an entire race or group, irrespective of the proportion involved.
4. The ICC represents an increase in the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcement in international law currently undertaken by ad hoc tribunals. In the absence of the political will to prosecute, these tribunals are often ineffective. As such, Australia

should fully support the introduction of the ICC if we are to demonstrate to the world our serious commitment to the issues addressed by the Statute.

5. We feel it is important to note also, that due to Australia's strong judicial record, that we believe the ICC represents no great derogation from Australian Sovereignty, especially when considering the emphasis on the complementarity of the ICC with domestic jurisdictions. The ICC will be a court of last resort, and may indeed, encourage individual States to prosecute where before the political will did not allow.

In summary, we believe that the ICC represents a significant step forward for International accountability for crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. We believe it is important for Australia to fully support such initiatives, first and foremost by itself ratifying the Statute.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Troy Skaleskog tskal@student.monash.edu.au

Claire Stewart cfstwey@hotmail.com

alix alixd@hotmail.net.au

Sam seball@student.monash.edu.au

Laura Jane Maher veralidaine_innle@yahoo.com

Huw Slater huws@ozemail.com.au

Anna Carter NO_THORNS_HERE@hotmail.com

Rachel Salby rachelsalby@yahoo.com

Ian Catimour ilat1@student.monash.edu

Michael Gallacher mpgall@student.monash.edu

ash abchal@hotmail.com

Liz Bennett lizzie1@unite.com.au