

**Key messages:**

- **Australia needs to take more decisive and public action** to support democracy and human rights in Ukraine and to stem further violence by President Yanukovich's regime in Ukraine, including Minister-to-Minister contact. Australia has made only one public statement to date and has no permanent diplomats on the ground in Kyiv, which are both unsatisfactory.
- As a recognised international leader in human rights and diplomacy, **Australia has an obligation to speak out for human rights in Ukraine**, including in its roles on the UN Security Council and the G20..
- Australia should be aligned with its key allies and trading partners. Allies, including the EU which is Australia's second largest trading partner, consider a stable, democratic and fully sovereign Ukraine as geopolitically critical given the Putin regime's policies. **Australia should therefore follow allies in introducing travel restrictions and developing financial sanctions on those responsible for violence in Ukraine.**
- International scrutiny, including by Australia, has contributed to "concessions" by the Yanukovich regime. **Australia needs to more strongly work with the international community to: a) ensure undertakings given by the Yanukovich regime are fully delivered, including through international observers and monitors, and; b) support a return to peaceful conditions in Ukraine through the conduct of early elections, the release of political prisoners, and the withdrawal of Berkut security forces.**