



# Cộng đồng Người Việt Tự Do Úc Châu Vietnamese Community in Australia

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Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness Secretariat  
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Dear Review Panel

## **Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness - VCA Submission -**

We learned of the Review only a few days ago, therefore we are unable to write a comprehensive Submission. However, I write to state that we hope to see Australia's aid follow a rights-based approach.

Currently, Australia's aid has the sole purpose of poverty alleviation. This was done in the belief that as people wean themselves from poverty, they gradually regain their human rights, including rights enshrined under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, the situation in countries such as Vietnam shows that this is a vain hope. A few decades ago, independent political parties, civil society, independent media, independent courts, free and fair elections were not allowed in Vietnam, dissidents were jailed, and corruption fighters were silenced. Today, while poverty has been partially alleviated, the same situation exists, as far as civil and political rights such as these are concerned.

We advocate for an aid program that, while still seeking to alleviate poverty, does so in a way that supports and promotes civil and political rights of peoples in the nations receiving aid.

Yours sincerely

Phong Nguyen  
Federal President