

**26th session of the Universal Periodic Review  
(31 October – 11 November 2016)  
Review of the Republic of Moldova**

**Statement by Ireland  
4 November 2016**

Ireland thanks the delegation of the Republic of Moldova for its presentation.

We welcome the progress made in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, and its engagement with European and International institutions in the pursuit of its reform agenda, such as the development of the Strategy on Inclusive Diversity (2016-2026) in partnership with the OSCE.

The adoption of the 2013 Law on combating trafficking in human beings and the 2016 Law on the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking crimes are also welcomed developments. However, we are concerned about the persistence of human trafficking in and from Moldova.

Ireland **recommends** that the Government of the Republic of Moldova implement further measures to improve its investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases and enhance the legal and social protection of victims of human trafficking.

We are also concerned about reports regarding infringements on the independence and pluralism of the media and the lack of progress in relation to introducing reforms to assure the independence and pluralism of the media.

Ireland **recommends** that all necessary measures be taken to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression for all, including the repeal or amendment of all laws restricting the activities, ownership and independence of the media.

Thank you.