

Human Rights Council - 26th session
(10th June – 27th June 2014)

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in
Eritrea**

18 June 2014

Statement by Ireland

Ireland warmly welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Eritrea and would like to thank her for her ongoing and important work.

We remain concerned about the fact that the Government of Eritrea continues to refuse to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and permit access to the country. We reiterate the call of the European Union for the Government of Eritrea to respond positively to the requests of the Special Rapporteur for information and visits.

Preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women is an essential part of Ireland's development cooperation programme, Irish Aid. Ireland's policy on international development, One World, One Future, describes gender-based violence as "a major abuse of human rights, which can have serious impacts on women's health, well-being and livelihood". Ireland is concerned that women and children remain vulnerable in Eritrea and calls on the Government of Eritrea to especially consider those issues raised by the Special Rapporteur as they pertain to the treatment of women and children in national service and in detention.

Special Rapporteur Keetharuth,

We thank you for highlighting the many practical examples of the vulnerability of women in Eritrea and the recommendations contained in your report and would like to ask how the Government could best be encouraged to accord priority to the adoption of comprehensive measure to combat violence against women?