



Statement of Ireland
41st session of the Human Rights Council

Clustered interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity and the Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers

24 June 2019

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We welcome both the Independent Expert and the Special Rapporteur and reaffirm our continuing support for their mandates. We wish to thank them both for their presentations today.

Ireland will address this statement to the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity and, in doing so, we would like to state our support for the renewal of this important mandate at this Council session.

We thank the Independent Expert for highlighting the importance of proper data collection and management in addressing violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

In this context, we are concerned at reports of the data of LGBTI individuals being used for the purposes of surveillance, harassment, entrapment, arrest and persecution by government officials. We are also worried by reports that the public exposure of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity could lead to social exclusion and harassment.

We welcome the recommendations made by the Independent Expert and reiterate our call to States to repeal laws that criminalise consensual same-sex relations, or gender identity or expression. We further call on them to take steps to protect LGBTI persons from violence, discrimination and marginalisation.

Ireland joins the Independent Expert in applauding civil society for the crucial role it has played in collecting information about violence and discrimination against LGBTI individuals. We support his recommendation that States ensure the removal of legal obstacles to the functioning of civil society organisations.

Mr Madrigal- Borloz, what can the international community do to further facilitate the efforts of civil society organisations working towards the protection and promotion of LGBTI rights?

Thank you.