



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **40th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation  
of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*

**11 March 2019**

Mr. President,

Ireland would like to thank Special Rapporteur Rehman for his detailed report and presentation on the human rights situation in Iran.

Ireland welcomes the significant drop in drug-related executions in Iran as a result of the amendments made to the drug-trafficking law in November 2017. However, we remain extremely concerned at the continued use of the death penalty in Iran, in particular for juvenile defenders. Ireland is opposed to the use of the death penalty in all cases and in all circumstances. We call on the Iranian Government to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Ireland is deeply concerned at the continued arrest, detention, and harassment of various groups, including journalists, labour activists, lawyers and human rights defenders, as a consequence of engaging in peaceful protests. Ireland calls on Iran to ensure full respect for international human rights obligations, in particular those specified in Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the international Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

Ireland urges the Government of Iran to take further measures to ensure women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights and to prohibit all forms of child, early and forced marriages. Ireland strongly supports the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child that the minimum age of marriage of 13 years for girls and 15 years for boys should be increased to 18 years.

Ireland also notes with deep concern the Special Rapporteur's reporting on the discrimination in the administration of justice, illustrated by the disproportionate number of arrests and convictions, faced by minority groups including the Baha'i, Azerbaijani Turkish, Kurdish and Baloch communities. Ireland calls upon Iran to address all forms of discrimination against all persons belonging to religious and ethnic minorities.

We call upon the Iranian authorities to fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur including the facilitation of a country visit.

Thank you.