



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on truth, justice and reparation

16 September 2021

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Ireland strongly believes in the need to ensure accountability, one of the three guiding principles of our term on the Security Council. Only by combatting impunity can we prevent the recurrence of violations of international law and provide justice for victims.

We therefore share your concern about the UK Government proposal to introduce a Statute of Limitations that would see an end to criminal investigations and prosecutions in relation to Troubles related offences committed during the 30-year period of conflict in Northern Ireland, and introduce a bar on all related coronial inquests and civil cases. It is our strong view that only a collective approach, and one that is in line with international human rights law, will be sustainable and can deliver for victims and all of society in Northern Ireland.

As you attest to in your report, a comprehensive transitional justice framework must be built on the pillars of truth, justice and reconciliation. This was the model of the Stormont House Agreement, reached by the Irish and UK Governments, together with the political parties in Northern Ireland, in 2014. In our view, it offers us a path forward, and where there are issues with its implementation, they must be addressed collectively. This is what we are seeking to do in ongoing dialogue.

Special Rapporteur, in this context could you give your views on the relevant lessons from experience of transitional justice processes internationally?

Thank you.