



Statement of Ireland

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's oral update on oral update on the situation in Mariupol

16 June

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and we thank the High Commissioner for her update.

Russia's military aggression against Ukraine has had grave human rights and humanitarian consequences, including in Mariupol. Ireland condemns the actions of the Russian Federation, including weeks of deliberate shelling, blockades on the delivery of humanitarian aid as well as denying civilians the possibility to leave for safer areas in Ukraine. We remain concerned by the lasting impacts of the siege of Mariupol, including limited access to even the most basic services and goods, including water, electricity and medicines.

Forcible transfers, including of children, from Mariupol to Russia are extremely worrying. We urge the immediate release and safe return of persons forcibly transferred and remind the Russian Federation of their obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

Ireland is concerned by reports of sexual and gender-based violence against civilians as well as confinement, mistreatment and disappearances of civilians. Impunity for any violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law should not and must not be tolerated. We commend the bravery of victims willing to come forward with their testimonies. The international community must follow this bravery and continue to stand firm against Russia's aggression.

Madame High Commissioner, how can the international community best support the civilian population of Mariupol and ensure those forcibly transferred to another country are safely returned?