



Statement of Ireland

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Health: Violence and its impact on the right to health

20 June 2022

Thank you Mr. Vice-President

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

We welcome the key findings in your report, which highlight the importance of adopting a non-binary approach to gender and gender-based violence in order to ensure the right of every individual to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Women, girls and LGBTI+ persons, in particular, face ongoing violence, structural inequalities and discriminatory practices that, as your report highlights, result in negative health outcomes that disproportionately impact their quality of life and life expectancy.

Ireland is firmly against all forms of sexual and gender based violence, including violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We note with concern the impact that the recent COVID-19 lockdowns had on increasing risk to domestic violence worldwide. We also acknowledge the need to improve the sexual and reproductive healthcare needs of LGBTI+ persons.

Ireland will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to improve the lives of all persons, including women, children and LGBTI+ persons. Health is a key priority across our third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, National Youth Strategy, and National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy.

Special Rapporteur, how can the Council incorporate a non-binary approach to gender with regards to the right to health for all in its work?

Thank you.