

39th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Samoa

Statement of Ireland

2 November 2021

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Samoa and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges Samoa's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle, particularly Samoa's accession to the UN Convention Against Torture in 2019.

We support Samoa's efforts to promote the participation of women in public and political life, including through mandatory minimum quotas, and welcome the increase in the number of women in senior roles.

However, Ireland is concerned about the levels of domestic and gender-based violence directed against women and girls in Samoa as well as barriers to their full participation in community life. We are also concerned by violence against children and provisions in law for the use of so-called "reasonable force" in schools.

Therefore, Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Samoan authorities:

1. Initiate a comprehensive National Strategy to work towards the eradication of domestic and gender-based violence, and ensure adequate resources are allocated.
2. Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings and circumstances
3. Take further steps to implement existing legislation to eradicate child labour and guarantee the right to education of all children.

We wish Samoa every success with this UPR cycle

Thank you.