



Statement of Ireland
44 session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Azerbaijan

14 November 2023

Madam Vice-President,

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Azerbaijan and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland notes progress made to combat gender-based violence, including the adoption of a National Action Plan and training for legal professionals on combatting domestic violence.

Ireland is concerned about the plight of Karabakh Armenians who fled their homes in response to Azerbaijan's regional military operation in September. We urge that their rights, including the right to a voluntary, safe return to Nagorno Karabakh, are upheld.

Ireland recommends Azerbaijan:

1. Establish specialised rape crisis centres that provide 24/7 forensic testing for victims of sexual assault.
2. Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society actors, human rights defenders and political opponents, and repeal any legal provisions that unduly restrict their activities.

We wish Azerbaijan a successful review. Thank you.