

32nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Statement of Ireland

24 January 2019

Thank you, Mr. (Vice) President.

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges the efforts of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle. In particular, we welcome the steps being taken via several strategies aimed at making education more inclusive, particularly for students from minority groups.

Ireland also appreciates the increasing recognition of the importance of the protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. However, Ireland is concerned with the lack of attention being paid to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Macedonian authorities:

1. Ireland recommends that all steps be taken to ensure that legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is fully implemented;
2. Ireland recommends that further steps are taken to ensure that the recognition of the importance of the protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression is demonstrated by the provision of a safe and secure environment for civil society activists, Human Rights Defenders and journalists to carry out their work.

We wish the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.