

25th session of the Universal Periodic Review (2 – 13 May 2016)

**Review of Greece
Statement by Ireland
3 May 2016**

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

We are pleased by positive progress since the first cycle including ratification of human rights instruments and development of a National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child.

Ireland appreciates the immense challenges Greece faces in responding to the humanitarian needs of the unprecedented number of migrants and refugees arriving in recent times. The scale of this crisis requires close cooperation with the EU, UN and civil society to ensure international human rights and refugee law, including *non-refoulement*, are fully respected in our collective response.

Ireland **recommends** that Greece accelerates efforts to provide effective structures for identification, care and accommodation to protect and support vulnerable migrant and refugee arrivals, including victims of torture, unaccompanied minors, and persons with disabilities.

While recognising efforts underway, Ireland shares the concerns of the Committee against Torture regarding reports of ill-treatment by law enforcement officials.

Ireland **recommends** that Greece ensure the mechanism for handling allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement officials of members of marginalised groups, such as migrants, asylum-seekers and Roma, is made operational as soon as possible, and that its investigations are carried out in a prompt, thorough and impartial manner.

Thank you