

26th session of the Universal Periodic Review

(31 October - 11 November 2016)

Review of Lithuania

Statement by Ireland

2 November 2016

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Ireland thanks the delegation of Lithuania for the presentation and welcomes the positive actions taken by Lithuania since the First Cycle.

We welcome the engagement in the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) but wish to reiterate our call for the establishment of an independent NHRI, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Ireland welcomes the adoption of the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2014-2020).

Ireland **recommends** that Lithuania strengthen its legislation and assistance to victims of gender-based violence to ensure that the rights of all victims, including former spouses or long-term partners who did not live in a common household, are recognised and that they receive equal treatment.

We share the concerns of the Human Rights Committee regarding increasing negative attitudes and actions directed at members of the LGBTI community.

Ireland **recommends** that Lithuania strengthen its efforts to address discrimination relating to sexual orientation and gender identity, ensure that all allegations of human rights violations against LGBTI persons are investigated and that effective remedies are made available to victims.

Thank you.