

**Human Rights Council 38<sup>th</sup> session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism,  
racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

**2nd July 2018**

**National Statement of Ireland**

Thank you Mr President.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the EU and wishes to add the following.

Ireland would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of her report.

Ireland is resolutely committed to the principle of non-discrimination as set out in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and to fully supporting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. Accordingly, we urge states who have not yet done so to respond positively to requests from the Special Rapporteur to visit.

Ireland remains deeply concerned that people in all parts of the world continue to suffer discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, descent, nationality, or ethnic origin. We firmly believe that all States share a duty to work towards achieving societies that are free of inequalities and discrimination, in accordance with their international human rights obligations.

We remain concerned at the levels of gender based discrimination that continue to exist, as highlighted by the Special Rapporteur. We would encourage states that have gender based nationality laws to follow the precedent set by others in recent years by amending discriminatory legislation. We also welcome her reference to religious discrimination. While it is not an explicitly recognised ground for racial discrimination, we are all aware of instances where individuals from a particular religious group may be discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity or race.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur to elaborate on how she intends to encourage States to amend their citizenship laws to ensure that individuals are not discriminated against on the basis of gender, religion or other grounds.

Thank you.