

**27th session of the Universal Periodic Review
(1-12 May 2017)**

Review of Poland

**Statement by Ireland
9 May 2017**

Mr President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Poland and thanks it for its national report and presentation today.

Ireland commends Poland on its progress in implementation of recommendations accepted in connection with its UPR examination in 2012. We further commend Poland for its longstanding support for UN human rights mechanisms, including regular financial support for OHCHR.

Ireland is pleased to note that Polish law prohibits discrimination in political, social and economic life, and that the Labour Code prohibits any discrimination in employment, including on grounds of sexual orientation, either direct or indirect.

Ireland **recommends** that Poland strengthen efforts to protect LGBTI persons against violence and discrimination, including through the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in hate speech provisions, to make provision in law for same-sex civil partnership or marriage; and further to make arrangements for provision to Polish citizens wishing to marry or otherwise register a same-sex relationship abroad of the necessary documentation by the relevant Polish authorities.

Ireland welcomes the steps taken by the Polish authorities to combat hate crimes and hate speech. We **recommend** that the Polish police and other public bodies responsible for victim support services be given the appropriate training to assist the victims of hate crimes.

Finally, Ireland, like Poland, attaches great importance to Ombudsman's offices and urges that the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner be adequately resourced to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities.

Thank you