

**31st session of the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Review of Belize**  
**Statement of Ireland**  
**12th November 2018**

Thank you, Mr. (Vice) President.

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Belize and thanks it for its presentation today.

We congratulate Belize on progress made since the last UPR cycle, including its accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We would now urge Belize to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Ireland welcomes steps taken by the Government of Belize to advance the protection of women's rights, including through its National Policy on Gender Equality and National Women's Commission. We express concern however about ongoing reports of discrimination and violence against women. We therefore recommend that Belize strengthen measures to address gender violence, including by fully implementing its Domestic Violence Act and National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action.

Ireland is concerned about the level of unreported cases of discrimination and violence, including police intimidation, against members of the LGBT community. Taking note of Section 6(1) of the Belize Constitution, we recommend that Belize develop and implement training programmes for state authorities, including law enforcement and judicial officials, to ensure non-discrimination and protection of LGBT persons.

We wish Belize every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.