



Statement of Ireland
41st session of the Human Rights Council

Clustered interactive dialogue with the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women and the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

27 June 2019

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

Mr President,

Ireland welcomes both the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women and the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. We wish to thank them both for their presentations today.

The promotion of gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women remain critical priorities for Ireland. We are therefore deeply concerned at the findings of the report by the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice. We agree with the Working Group that the arbitrary and discriminatory deprivation of liberty of women is a violation of human rights law and support its recommendations in this regard.

We would like to thank the Working Group for drawing attention to the fact that women continue to face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. What can the international community do to address intersectionality in women's deprivation of liberty?

Ireland also welcomes the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. We are worried by the findings of the report concerning the disproportionate impact of business activity on women and girls, as well as the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and gender-based violence in all walks of life.

Ireland is committed to the full and effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which is why we launched our National Plan on Business and Human Rights in 2017. We believe that the impact of business activity on human rights needs to be addressed effectively, with a view to ensuring equal dignity for all, with no discrimination.

Could the Working Group elaborate on ways in which States can ensure that the gendered impact of business activity on human rights is addressed effectively in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles?