



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 1: Urgent Debate

18 June 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Across the world, people have been appalled by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on 25 May.

In response, we have seen a global outpouring of opposition to the scourge of racism. Irish people have joined with all those raising their voices to condemn racism in all its forms, and my Government welcomes the opportunity to do so here at the Human Rights Council.

In our debate today, we must be honest with ourselves: it is clear that events in the US and elsewhere have brought sharply into focus the need for all of us to look hard at our own societies and communities.

For our own part in Ireland, the events have triggered a renewed and critically important discussion about racial inequality and exclusion.

Quite simply, we too have much to do to tackle these issues, and to create a fairer society.

Madame President,

These debates and discussions at the national and international level have one critical common feature: the vital importance of listening to those speaking out about their own experience of racism and exclusion.

In that context, we welcome in particular the contributions of civil society to today's Council debate. The moment calls for a strong, inclusive partnership between Governments and civil society to confront racism and intolerance, collectively and pro-actively.

Thank you.