



Statement of Ireland
44th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

7 July 2020

Madam President, *[Mr/Madam Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report and we note with appreciation the extensive list of recommendations made to States. In particular we note the recommendation to ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention. Ireland recently took the first steps towards ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention by commencing consultations between relevant Government Departments to assess the Convention in light of domestic law.

We encourage all UN Member States to take on board the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur to ensure the safety of women journalists and to protect them from violence and harassment, in whatever form that may take.

Special Rapporteur,

Ireland ratified the Istanbul Convention in 2019. You note in your report the requirement under this Convention to actively encourage the media to contribute to the prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence against women.

In response to increased incidences of domestic violence in Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government launched a major campaign across TV, radio and social media to reach out to victims of domestic abuse and to reassure victims that services were still available to them.

We would be interested to hear of other examples of initiatives carried out by countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the unacceptable increase in gender-based violence and domestic violence against women.

Thank you.

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