



Statement of Ireland

45th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence

16 September 2020

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and wishes to thank the UN Special Rapporteur for his report.

Ireland recognises the valuable role that memorialisation can play as part of a comprehensive transitional justice process. The Irish Government is committed to supporting efforts to address the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland, recognising that it is a key building block in creating a more cohesive and fully reconciled society. Central to this work is ensuring that the suffering of victims and survivors of the conflict – known as the Troubles - is recorded, acknowledged and remembered in a way that is sensitive, inclusive and appropriate.

Through our Reconciliation Fund we have supported a range of projects which allow the experiences of those affected by the Troubles to be shared and remembered. These have included the building of a new Museum dedicated to the memory of 26 people who lost their lives during the tragic events on Bloody Sunday in 1972, an exhibition on “Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict” which tells the unique personal stories of individuals, communities and organisations affected by the conflict and an online archive of information and source material on the history of the Troubles.

Ireland supports the important role played by civil society, human rights defenders and journalists in documenting human rights violations in conflict that allow for accurate representations in memorialisation.

Special Rapporteur, what can States do to ensure that the harm of re-victimisation does not occur in memorialisation processes?

Thank you.