



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's oral update on Ukraine

30 March

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and we thank the High Commissioner for her report.

Ireland restates our firm commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are inherently part of Ukraine, and the occupation by Russia since 2014 has been an illegal violation of Ukrainian sovereignty. Ireland also recognises Donetsk and Luhansk as integral parts of Ukraine.

We unequivocally condemn Russia's invasion as further violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and remain gravely concerned by the human rights and humanitarian situation it has caused.

This illegal and unjustified invasion has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties, destruction of critical infrastructure and wide-scale forced displacement. The situation of women and girls forced to flee is particularly worrying as they face increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence.

We are alarmed by the rapidly increasing suffering and humanitarian need across Ukraine, including adequate food, safe water, life-saving medicines and health service as well as durable shelter solutions. We urge all parties to ensure safe corridors for evacuation of civilians and delivery of vital humanitarian assistance.

Ireland commends the bravery of journalists and media workers who continue to report in such dangerous circumstances, despite the very real threat to their lives.

Madame High Commissioner, in your view, how can the international community best address serious human rights concerns in the midst of the terrible war in Ukraine?