

29th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

(15-26 January 2018)

Review of The Bahamas

Statement of Ireland

17 January 2018

Thank you, Mr President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of The Bahamas and thanks it for its presentation today. We further note the progress made in many areas since the last UPR cycle.

We welcome that there has been a *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty for a number of years, but are concerned by reports that there are calls to put an end to this practice. Ireland would thus **recommend** that The Bahamas take formal steps to abolish the death penalty, including by declaring an official moratorium on its use and by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Ireland remains concerned about the protection afforded to stateless persons. Ireland thus encourages that The Bahamas accede to the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Ireland is also concerned about the continued failure of the authorities to amend domestic law and criminalise marital rape. We would therefore **recommend** that the State strengthen its legislative and policy framework to ensure women's rights are promoted and protected as a national priority, and in particular urgently consider amending the Sexual Offences Act to criminalize marital rape.

We wish The Bahamas every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.