

25th session of the Universal Periodic Review (2 – 13 May 2016)

**Review of Papua New Guinea
Statement by Ireland**

6 May 2016

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Papua New Guinea and thanks it for its presentation.

We commend the progress made by Papua New Guinea since the first cycle as well as the issuance of a standing invitation to Special Procedures. We encourage Papua New Guinea to continue this engagement with international mechanisms, by responding in a timely manner to communications of Special Procedures, and submitting all overdue reports to human rights Treaty Bodies.

Ireland welcomes the efforts of Papua New Guinea to promote children's rights, including the adoption of the Child Protection Act 2015, implementation of the Universal Basic Education Plan 2010-2019 and the Tuition Fee Free Policy. However, we remain concerned that corporal punishment is not prohibited in all settings and at the under-resourcing and limited accessibility of schools especially for children living in rural areas.

Ireland **recommends** that Papua New Guinea repeal article 278 of the Criminal Code and prohibit corporal punishment in all settings including the home; and improve the accessibility and resourcing of education to all communities, especially those located in remote areas.

Ireland echoes the concerns of several Special Rapporteurs regarding domestic violence, and pervasive and severe violence related to sorcery accusations, principally targeting women. We **recommend** that Papua New Guinea implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, particularly those pertaining to domestic violence and violence related to sorcery accusations; take all necessary steps to fully implement the Sorcery National Action Plan; ensure the investigation of incidents of sorcery related violence and prosecution of alleged perpetrators; and provide adequate shelter, psycho-social, legal and other services for survivors of gender-based violence, including in rural areas.

Finally Ireland is deeply concerned by the criminalisation of consensual same-sex relations and discrimination and stigmatisation faced by LGBTI persons. We strongly urge Papua New Guinea to decriminalise consensual same-sex relations, and adopt initiatives to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of LGBTI persons.

Thank you