



Statement of Ireland
42nd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on
the Syrian Arab Republic

17 September 2019

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and wishes to add the following.

Mr President,

Ireland thanks the members of the Commission for their report.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing conflict on the people of Syria. The parties to the conflict have consistently failed to meet their obligations to adequately protect civilian populations. The recent attacks by the Syrian authorities and its allies on civilian infrastructure in northwest Syria, including schools and medical facilities, are particularly abhorrent. Ireland condemns these attacks in the strongest possible terms, and reminds the government of Syria of its obligations under international humanitarian law and specifically under Security Council resolution 2286. We welcome the establishment of a UN Board of Inquiry to investigate these attacks.

Ireland notes with concern the disproportionate effect of the conflict on women and girls, and instances of sexual and gender-based violence. Ireland calls for recognition of the specific protection needs of women and girls, including displaced individuals and returnees, and urges all parties to fulfil their obligations under international law and under Security Council resolution 1325.

Ireland stresses the need for accountability for the violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses documented by the Commission. In that regard, Ireland reiterates its support for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes in Syria, and calls again for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

Ireland calls again on all parties to cease military activities in Syria, and urges engagement with the UN-led peace process.

Distinguished members of the Commission, could you elaborate on whether there is more information in relation to the reports of sexual violence against women, men and LGBTI+ individuals in government-controlled areas?

Thank you.