



**Statement of Ireland**  
**43rd session of the Human Rights Council**

---

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

**28 February 2020**

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We warmly welcome the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and we thank him for the presentation of his annual report.

Ireland believes unequivocally in the prohibition of torture without exception, whether physical or psychological, and recalls that freedom from torture is an absolute and non-derogable right under international law that must be upheld in all circumstances.

The issues addressed in the Special Rapporteur's report, including efforts to circumvent the prohibition of torture by excluding psychological torture from the definition or by whitewashing so-called "no-touch" torture methods, are deeply worrying. We agree with the Special Rapporteur that the psychological and physical aspects of torture are strongly interconnected, and we reiterate that all forms of torture are illegal under international law.

We call upon all States to combat and prevent the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment at all levels. Where torture does occur, we urge States to hold perpetrators to account and to ensure that the right of victims to redress and rehabilitation is respected.

Ireland is proud to have contributed to the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and we encourage all States to consider making a voluntary contribution.

*Mr Special Rapporteur, how can States support a victim-centred approach to rehabilitation for victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, whether physical or psychological?*

Thank you.