



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

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

**9 March 2020**

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union. Ireland thanks the members of the Commission for their report.

Ireland is gravely concerned about the impact of the continued assault by Syrian government forces and their allies in northwest Syria. The report documents flagrant breaches of international humanitarian law perpetrated with complete impunity. Attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, are particularly reprehensible. Ireland condemns this military action, which has caused enormous displacement and unacceptable human suffering, in the strongest possible terms. We remind the government of Syria and its allies of their obligations under international law including the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols, and Security Council Resolution 2286.

Ireland notes with concern the references in the report to detentions, abductions and killings perpetrated against the Kurdish community, as well as instances of gender-based violations against Kurdish women, and looting and appropriation of Kurdish properties, in both Afrin and northeast Syria.

Ireland once again stresses the importance of accountability, particularly in light of the abhorrent violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in northwest Syria. We reiterate our support for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism and call again for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court. Ireland calls on all parties to maintain a cessation of military activities in Syria, and urges engagement with the UN-led peace process.

*Madam President, Ireland would like to ask what the international community can do to protect Kurdish people in Syria?*

Thank you.