



Statement of Ireland
44th session of the Human Rights Council

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

14 July 2020

Madam President, *[Mr/Madam Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the members of the Commission for their update, and share their dismay and alarm about the scale of human rights violations in Syria.

We remain gravely concerned about the continuing impact of the conflict, particularly in the context of COVID-19. Hundreds of thousands of people rely on aid to survive. It is deeply regrettable that the Security Council resolution of 11 July authorises only one crossing point for humanitarian assistance. It is imperative that a nationwide ceasefire is declared, and we urge all parties to engage seriously with the UN-facilitated process, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

Ireland notes with concern the effect of the conflict on children, who have suffered multiple violations of their basic human rights, including arbitrary detention, ill treatment and abuse. Ireland calls on all parties to investigate and prosecute those responsible, and to recognise the specific protection needs of children, including displaced children

Ireland stresses the need for accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses during the conflict. We welcome calls for accountability during the Brussels Conference on Syria. We reiterate our support for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism and call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

[Madam President,]

How can the international community promote the protection of children's rights in Syria, especially in conflict-affected areas and areas where schools are closed?

Thank you.

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