



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4 Statement

24th September 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of France on behalf of Member States of the European Union.

We are extremely concerned at the grave human rights situation in **Afghanistan**. Women and girls must not be denied their rights, including full and equal access to education; to healthcare; to freedom of movement; and to participate fully in public life. We also strongly condemn violence and intimidation against civilians and civil society.

We remain troubled by the dire human rights and humanitarian situation on the ground in **Yemen**. We call on all parties to the conflict to refrain from using hunger as a weapon of war.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in **Tigray** and neighbouring regions of Ethiopia. We continue to be shocked by horrifying reports of gross human rights violations and abuses taking place, including systematic sexual and gender based violence. Those responsible for these violations and abuses must be held accountable.

In **Belarus**, we remain troubled by ongoing human rights violations, including restrictions on freedom of expression and the media, and on civil society.

Ireland reiterates our deep concern at ongoing settlement activities, demolitions, and evictions in the **occupied Palestinian Territory**, in contravention of international law. The humanitarian situation in Gaza is deeply worrying. We also remain concerned by continued pressure on Israeli and Palestinian civil society.

Finally, Ireland expresses abhorrence at the reports of killings, sexual assaults, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and persecution of civilians in **Myanmar** since the military seized power.

Thank you.