



Statement of Ireland

53rd session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Afghanistan - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

19 June 2023

Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur and the Working Group for their report, and the panellists for their statements.

Despite assurances to the contrary, the Taliban authorities continue to flagrantly violate the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan. Systematic violations of women's and girls' rights constitute, as the panellists report, gender persecution.

Ireland is gravely concerned that the recent discriminatory edicts banning women from working in NGOs and the United Nations risk compounding the country's humanitarian and economic crises further. The international community's response to such measures must be guided by our principles and international law.

Ireland is resolute in our commitment to advocating for the education of women and girls in Afghanistan; the Taliban authorities must ensure education for all children, including girls above Grade 6 and women seeking tertiary education.

We call on the Taliban authorities to deliver on their commitments to the Afghan people, in accordance with international human rights treaties signed by the state, and reverse all decisions and practices restricting women's and girls' exercise of their rights.

Panellists, how can the international community prevent child, early and forced marriage, as well as the sale of children in Afghanistan?