



**Statement of Ireland**  
**40th session of the UPR Working Group**

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**Review of Iceland**

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Iceland and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland commends Iceland's leadership in advancing standards for the protection and promotion of human rights, and we welcome progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We particularly commend Iceland for enacting new legislation and policies to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including the 2019 ratification of the Istanbul Convention. We also welcome the improved protections for the rights of transgender and gender-neutral persons, including the 2019 Act on Gender Autonomy, enabling individuals to self-define their legal gender; and the 2021 amendments to the Children Act to protect the rights of LGBTI+ parents. These are important advancements towards equality and non-discrimination.

Ireland recommends that Iceland:

1. Establish a national human rights institution, building on the efforts already undertaken by the government.
2. Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, in line with the recent commitment agreed by the Icelandic parliament.

We wish Iceland every success with this UPR cycle. Thank you.