

**26th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**(31 October - 11 November 2016)**

**Review of Uganda**

**Statement by Ireland**

**3 November 2016**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Uganda and thanks it for its presentation.

We acknowledge the good work and progress by the Government of Uganda in seeking to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights.

In particular, we welcome the enactment of the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture Act 2012. However, Ireland notes that acts of torture continue to be ranked as the leading human rights violation among cases reported to the Ugandan Human Rights Commission.

Ireland **recommends** that the necessary regulations are put in place to ensure the full implementation of the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture Act 2012 and that appropriate training on the Act is carried out for security services to ensure its effective application.

We are also deeply concerned by the increasingly hostile environment faced by human rights defenders and civil society organisations in Uganda. We draw your attention to the high number of breaks-ins into offices of such organisations being reported.

Ireland **recommends** that the authorities in Uganda ensure that civil society organisations and human rights defenders can operate in a safe environment and that all allegations of intimidation, harassment and violence are fully investigated.

Thank you