

Universal Periodic Review – 21st Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Guyana

28 January 2015

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

We welcome the positive efforts undertaken by Guyana since its first UPR, including ratification of a number of core human rights conventions and appointment of an Ombudsman.

Ireland strongly encourages Guyana both to extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate holders and to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles. We note that following its last UPR, Guyana undertook to hold public consultations on the possible abolition of the death penalty. We urge Guyana to commence this process and to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition.

Ireland is gravely concerned that consensual adult same-sex relations are criminalised in Guyana. Ireland **recommends** that Guyana repeal all provisions that discriminate against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, particularly those which criminalise consensual adult same-sex relations.

Ireland shares the concerns expressed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child with respect to under-five child mortality rates. Ireland **recommends** that Guyana take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the “Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age”, A/HRC/27/31.