

30th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Cuba
Statement of Ireland
16 May 2018

Thank you, Mr. President

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

Ireland welcomes the recent visit of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons and we encourage Cuba to continue to cooperate with special procedures mandate holders.

Ireland is extremely concerned about the reports of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders, including those who sought to engage with this UPR cycle. Ireland **recommends** that Cuba ensure that civil society members, HRDs and journalists can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, including by repealing legislation relating to so-called “pre-criminal social dangerousness”.

We remain concerned about issues relating to detention and access to justice for detainees. Ireland **recommends** that Cuba guarantee that all detainees have access to a lawyer of their choice from the outset of the deprivation of liberty.

Thank you