



## Statement of Ireland

76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

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*Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Mr Victor MADRIGAL-BORLOZ*

**26 October 2021**

Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Independent Expert for his report. We reiterate our strong support for the mandate.

This wide-ranging report is an essential contribution to our understanding of the ongoing backlash against the incorporation of gender frameworks in international human rights law.

The systematic exploration of the arguments advanced by those opposed to gender equality is welcome and valuable.

We commend the Independent Expert for cataloguing a number of deeply concerning laws and policies introduced in all regions in recent years, at the expense of the human rights of LGBT+ persons.

Ireland is a strong supporter of gender equality and of the promotion and protection of the rights of LGBT+ persons in our domestic and foreign policy.

In recent years, we have enshrined important rights in our Constitution and statutory legal framework and introduced new National Strategies. Discrimination on grounds of sexual identity is expressly prohibited in Irish law and we are in the process of developing new legislation to define and criminalise hate speech.

Dialogue and partnership with civil society is critically important. We acknowledge the Independent Expert's recognition of the pivotal role played by civil society at local, national and regional level in gathering data on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Mr Madrigal-Borloz,

You have made it very clear, and Ireland agrees, that gender is a concept enshrined in international human rights law; how can IHRL be used to vindicate the rights of LGBT+ persons whose rights are being violated at this time?

Thank you.