

**29th session of the Universal Periodic Review
15 – 26 January 2018**

Review of Barbados

Statement of Ireland

19 January 2018

Thank you, Mr. Vice President

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

We note the progress made since the last UPR cycle.

Ireland remains concerned however, about discrimination against LGBTI persons in Barbados, in particular the criminalisation of consensual homosexual relations under provisions of the Sexual Offences Act. We again strongly encourage Barbados to decriminalise consensual same-sex conduct between adults and take all necessary steps to protect the LGBTI community from all forms of discrimination.

Since the last UPR cycle, we commend Barbados on steps taken to combat domestic violence, including the adoption of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act in 2016 and the establishment of the Family Conflict Intervention Unit in 2013. However, we share the concerns expressed by CEDAW at the high prevalence of gender-based violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence. We therefore **recommend** that Barbados accord high priority to the full implementation of legislation on gender-based violence, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished.

We regret that, despite the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty in Barbados, proposed legislation to abolish the mandatory death penalty remains pending and courts continue to sentence defendants to death. We **recommend** that Barbados enact legislation to abolish the mandatory death penalty, in line with previously accepted recommendations, and commute the sentences of all persons currently on death row to life imprisonment.

Finally, we encourage Barbados to issue a standing invitation to the UN special procedures.

We wish Barbados every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.