

**31st session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of Malaysia  
Statement of Ireland  
8th November 2018**

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

We welcome the new Government's commitment to strengthening democracy and human rights. We warmly welcome Malaysia's commitment to ratifying the remaining core international human rights conventions as well as the recent announcement that Malaysia intends to abolish the death penalty.

We commend positive developments in the area of free speech, in particular the steps taken towards repealing the Anti-Fake News Act. Ireland recommends that Malaysia continue in these efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for the media and civil society. In this regard, Ireland reiterates its recommendation that the Printing Presses and Publication Act be repealed.

We also encourage Malaysia to make progress in the area of LGBTI rights, and note with concern the continued criminalisation of same-sex relationships and the recent public caning of a same-sex couple. We recommend that Malaysia undertake efforts to guarantee and protect the human rights of LGBTI persons in line with international obligations.

Thank you.