



Statement of Ireland

77th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms Mary Lawlor

13 October 2022

Madame Chair,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

We thank Special Rapporteur Lawlor for her important report, including her references to specific cases of courageous human rights defenders and the challenges they are facing.

The protection of human rights defenders is a key foreign policy priority for Ireland and we are committed to ensuring a safe, accessible and supportive environment to enable their crucial work. We note that HRDs working on migration, asylum and the rights of refugees are a diverse group, from NGO workers to those from migrant communities or working within their local neighbourhood.

Ireland is very concerned about the targeting of HRDs and supports the Special Rapporteur's call for States to abide by their international obligations to protect them. We regret the particular pressures on HRDs forced to work in secret. We also acknowledge that HRDs can be subject to multiple and intersecting forms of harassment, including on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, among other factors.

Special Rapporteur, Ireland is dedicated to working to prevent reprisals against HRDs, and we are proud to lead a JST on this subject at this GA session. What actions should states be taking to protect HRDs from reprisals?