

Universal Periodic Review 19

UPR of Ethiopia

6 May 2014

Intervention by Ireland

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Ethiopia and thanks it for the presentation today.

We welcome positive efforts undertaken by Ethiopia since its first UPR.

Ireland notes that severe legislative restrictions remain in place in relation to civil society space and the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of association within Ethiopia.

Ireland **recommends** that Ethiopia allow civil society organisations to complement Government programmes in preventing violence and harmful practices against women and girls and also amend the Charities and Societies Proclamation to ensure that restrictions on freedom of association are removed, including restrictions on potential sources of funding for civil society.

Ireland **recommends** that Ethiopia review its legislation to ensure that any limitations on the right to freedom of expression, both online and offline, are in full compliance with Article 19 of the ICCPR in particular by providing for a defence of truth to all defamation cases.