

Universal Periodic Review 18

UPR of New Zealand

Intervention by Ireland

27 January 2014

Ireland welcomes the delegation of New Zealand and thanks it for its national report and its presentation today. Ireland welcomes the favourable response to many of the recommendations made during the first cycle.

Ireland applauds New Zealand's long-standing and positive leadership on gender equality, while noting with concern that one in four New Zealand women experiences sexual violence or violence by a partner at least once in their lifetime. We also note concerns expressed by a number of treaty bodies that provisions of the 1972 Equal Pay Act fall short of New Zealand's international commitments, as well as concerns about the situation of disadvantaged groups of women. Ireland **recommends** that New Zealand develop, in partnership with civil society, a national action plan for women with defined targets, to address issues such as violence against women, pay inequality, the situation of Maori and Pacific women, and women with disabilities.

Ireland welcomes reports that New Zealand has made significant strides in advancing the rights of Maori people, as well as initiatives taken to address the disproportionately high rates of criminal charges, conviction and imprisonment of members of the Maori and Pasifika communities. Ireland **recommends** that New Zealand, in consultation with Maori and Pasifika communities, step up efforts to address and prevent discrimination against members of the Maori and Pasifika communities in the criminal justice system and, in particular, the high rates of incarceration.