

## Universal Periodic Review working group – 19<sup>th</sup> session

### Statement by Ireland on the review of Albania

28 April 2014

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

Ireland welcomes the efforts by Albania to bolster domestic human rights law, as outlined in its national report, including the measures enacted by Albania to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. We note that recommendations in this area accepted during the first cycle included the provision of human rights education to police forces on issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity; we would appreciate an update on the implementation of this particular recommendation.

Ireland notes the efforts of Albania to combat gender-based violence and commends the criminalisation of marital rape. However, we share the concern of the Human Rights Committee at reports of ineffective investigations into complaints of gender-based violence. While noting the comments made by the Albanian delegation today, we urge the government to intensify efforts to prevent and address violence against women in all its forms. Ireland **recommends** the establishment of appropriate shelters and social services for the victims of domestic violence, as well as a system of victim compensation and reintegration.

Finally, Ireland welcomes the progress made by Albania in strengthening its legislative and institutional framework in the area of human trafficking. We share the serious concern of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights about the enduring prevalence of instances of trafficking in persons. Ireland therefore **recommends** that Albania further reinforce its legislation to combat internal and cross-border trafficking in persons, by revising the Criminal Code in order to adequately sanction the perpetrators of trafficking and exploitation of the victims of trafficking.