

Universal Periodic Review working group – 19th session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Norway

28 April 2014

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

Ireland commends Norway on the progress made since its first UPR review in 2009, including efforts to strengthen human rights protection through constitutional reform.

Ireland welcomes the removal of solitary confinement for persons under the age of 18 in 2012. We note the concerns expressed by the Committee Against Torture and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on the lack of statistics related to the use of solitary confinement. Ireland therefore **recommends** that Norway ensure the compilation of detailed statistics on the use of solitary confinement.

We note that the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) at the University of Oslo has served as Norway's national human rights institution since 2001, and that in November 2012, the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights recommended that the NCHR be downgraded from A to B status. We understand that an inter-ministerial working group has considered changes to Norway's national institution, including the creation of a new institution with a different organisation and structure, and we take note of the Minister's remarks this morning in this regard. Ireland **recommends** that Norway put in place a national human rights institution which is in full compliance with the Paris Principles.