

28th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

(6-17 November 2017)

Review of Ghana

Statement of Ireland

7 November 2017

Thank you, Mr Vice President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Ghana and thanks it for its presentation of its third national report.

Ireland welcomes the progress being made in many areas since the last UPR.

Ireland recognises the developments being made to combat FGM. However, in line with concerns expressed by various treaty bodies, Ireland remains concerned about its persistence due to a lack of effective implementation and monitoring mechanisms. Ireland **recommends** that the authorities in Ghana take further measures to strengthen the legislative framework on FGM, whilst also ensuring effective implementation, monitoring and investigation.

Ireland welcomes the positive steps being taken in the field on the promotion and protection of the human rights of the LGBTI community. However, Ireland is concerned by the ambiguous nature of some legislation in the criminal code. Ireland thus **recommends** that Ghana take the steps necessary to protect LGBTI persons from violence and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Ireland would also urge the government to protect the human rights defenders defending this community.

Thank you.