



**Statement of Ireland**  
**44<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 3: Interactive Dialogue on the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

**8 July 2020**

Madam President, *[Mr/Madam Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland thanks the Independent Expert for his report and we reiterate our strong support for his mandate. Ireland is committed to creating a safe, fair and inclusive environment where LGBTI+ people are supported to flourish and to live inclusive, healthy and fulfilling lives.

To this end, we welcome the focus of the report on so-called “conversion therapy” and we urge Member States to examine and give careful consideration to the recommendations contained therein.

Mr. Madrigal-Borloz,

The recommendation that States take urgent measures to protect children and young people from these practices is of great importance. They are particularly vulnerable to being subjected to “conversion therapies”. In some situations, their difficulties will have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, where LGBTI+ youth find themselves in lockdown in unfriendly environments.

As you note in your report, Ireland’s National LGBTI+ Youth Strategy contains a commitment to prohibit the promotion or practice of “conversion therapy” by health professionals. As part of this work, we are undertaking research to establish the extent to which “conversion therapy” is occurring in Ireland and a review of international best practice in this area.

*Mr. Madrigal-Borloz, can you expand on the practical measures that States can take to protect children and young people from so-called “conversion therapies”?*

**Word Count: 220**