



Statement of Ireland

47th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with High Commissioner on Ukraine

09 July 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

Ireland welcomes the High Commissioner and thanks the Secretary General for the interim report, which is comprehensive considering the challenging circumstances. The difficulties in gathering verified information are indeed highlighted in the report itself.

Ireland restates its commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are inherently part of Ukraine, and the occupation is an illegal violation of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Ireland shares the concerns raised in the report about the human rights situation in Crimea. Access to justice and the right to a fair trial must include equality of arms, access to a lawyer of one's choice, and the right of lawyers to practice without hindrance. Arbitrary arrests and allegations of torture and ill-treatment documented by OHCHR are extremely concerning.

We call for thorough, independent investigation into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment and for perpetrators to be held to account.

We also share other concerns raised in the report, including those around freedom of religion or belief, movement and expression.

Madame High Commissioner,

We would be interested to hear your views regarding freedom of expression and assembly in Crimea, particularly on the requirement to seek advance clearance for assemblies and the impact of this.