



Statement of Ireland

47th session of the Human Rights Council

*Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons,
especially women and children*

28 June 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her first report to the Council, and for her tireless work throughout the last year since her appointment to this mandate.

We welcome the focus in the Special Rapporteur's report on the principle of non-punishment. We agree that the non-punishment protocol is vital for victims of human trafficking.

Special Rapporteur,

You state in your report that "the principle of non-punishment is intimately related to the obligations of States to identify and protect victims of trafficking".

In Ireland, the Government recently approved plans for a revised National Referral Mechanism to make it easier for human trafficking victims to be officially recognised as victims of human trafficking and to allow identification and protection across a range of Government Departments and agencies. In practice, the principle of non-punishment is given effect by our national police force which, through the National Referral Mechanism, directs suspected victims of human trafficking to a wide range of services provided by both the Government and NGOs.

Madame Special Rapporteur, work is now ongoing to put the new National Referral Mechanism on a statutory footing. Do you have advice for my Government as we undertake this process?

Thank you

