



**Statement of Ireland**  
**43<sup>rd</sup> session of the UPR Working Group**

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Review of the Kingdom of Tonga

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

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

- Ireland acknowledges the Kingdom of Tonga's efforts to advance human rights domestically and notes progress made since the last UPR cycle.
- We commend the establishment of the Family Protection Legal Aid Centre for domestic violence and gender-based violence survivors.
- We also welcome progress made in relation to addressing human trafficking and we encourage Tonga to continue its efforts
- Ireland is concerned that there has been no progress in the recommendations made in the previous UPR cycle on decriminalisation of same sex relations, and that only one recommendation out of 41 has been implemented in repealing regulations that sanction and discriminate against minority groups.

**Recommendations**

Ireland recommends the Kingdom of Tonga:

1. Make every effort to ratify core International Human Rights Treaties and Optional Protocols and fulfil its reporting obligations under Conventions that it has ratified. Amend regulations, including the Criminal Offences Act, and take necessary measures to provide sufficient protection for all persons against rape and related sexual offences.

We wish the Kingdom of Tonga every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.