



Statement of Ireland

77th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Mr. Richard BENNETT

26 October 2022

Chair,

Ireland thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report and his work.

We are deeply alarmed by the continued egregious human rights abuses taking place in Afghanistan at the hands of the Taliban.

The staggering regression in women and girls' enjoyment of human rights since the Taliban took power, particularly the exclusion of girls from secondary school education, remains foremost in our minds. We recognise the bravery of women protesters calling for the upholding of their rights and the reopening of girls' secondary schools, and are disturbed about reports of peaceful protesters being subject to beatings, arrests, detentions, and abduction.

Ireland is deeply concerned at the threats faced by persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI+ persons, human rights defenders, journalists and other media workers. Ireland is further concerned at the situation in Panjshir, and recalls that collective punishment is a violation of international humanitarian law.

Ireland condemns the recent attack on the Kaaj Educational Centre in Kabul, and continues to call on the Taliban authorities to protect at-risk minorities, including the Hazara and Shia, and to uphold their rights, including to safe access to education and worship. Ireland supports the call of the Special Rapporteur for an international inquiry into attacks on ethnic and religious communities in Afghanistan that appear to be systematic in nature.

Special Rapporteur, how can the UN membership support international monitoring of the situation of LGBTI+ persons in Afghanistan?