



Statement of Ireland

77th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against children, Dr Najat Maalla M'jid

7 October 2022

Thank you chair.

My name is Jessica Gill and I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of Ireland as a UN Youth Delegate.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report and welcome her active consultation with children and her advocacy for the inclusion of children from diverse backgrounds in decision-making.

To elevate the voices of children in Ireland, the Ombudsman for Children's Office established a Youth Advisory Panel that published a Children's Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, a new National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making was launched in 2021.

We recognise that global barriers to children's participation remain, especially for girls. In times of conflict, girls are increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, child marriage and child sexual exploitation. Ireland, therefore, recognises the need to integrate age and gender-responsive protection and violence prevention into all peace and security policy frameworks.

Special Rapporteur,

What are the key measures States and international organisations can take to include children in decision-making processes regarding age and gender-responsive protection and violence prevention?