



Statement of Ireland
44th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Bangladesh

13 November 2023

Ireland thanks the delegation for its presentation.

Ireland notes Bangladesh's efforts to advance human rights domestically. We commend the legal recognition of *hijras* and hope that this will further improve the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons.

Ireland is concerned that sexual and gender-based violence against women remains high and that progress has not been made on legislative provisions that impose unduly broad restrictions on freedom of expression, which are being used to harass and intimidate journalists and human rights defenders, online and offline.

Ireland recommends Bangladesh:

1. Ensure that all allegations of sexual and gender-based violence are thoroughly and effectively investigated and that enforcement of legislation on sexual and gender-based violence is strengthened.
2. Remove provisions limiting freedom of expression from the draft Cyber Security Act and ensure that, once adopted, it is compliant with international human rights law.

We wish Bangladesh every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.