



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 5: Interactive dialogue on the Secretary-General's report on reprisals

30 September 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland warmly welcomes Assistant Secretary-General Kehris to her first Interactive Dialogue on this vitally important issue, we thank her and the Secretariat for the report presented to the Council this Session.

Continued meaningful, effective, and safe engagement by civil society is integral to the effective work of the Human Rights Council, and to the wider UN human rights system.

Ireland recognises the unequivocal right of everyone to access these mechanisms unhindered, and deplores the increasing acts of reprisals and intimidation that strive to obstruct genuine dialogue, as documented in your report.

The fourfold increase in cases of reprisals against women and LGBTI individuals, and the particular forms these reprisals take, is a dire reminder of the need to adopt a gender-sensitive approach while investigating, reporting, and taking steps to prevent acts of reprisals.

Ireland is deeply alarmed by the reports this year of reprisals occurring at the UN: both here at this Council, and in New York.

Ireland urges all States to take concrete steps to prevent acts of reprisal and intimidation, and to ensure that all allegations are thoroughly investigated.

Madame Assistant Secretary-General,

What concrete steps have been taken to respond to acts of reprisal and intimidation that occurred on UN premises, and what measures are in place to prevent further reoccurrence?

Thank you.