



Statement of Ireland

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally

21 June 2022

Mr. President, *[Mr/Madame Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her valuable report.

The agriculture sector has long been identified as a high risk sector for trafficking in persons in all States with seasonal demands for such workers. Ireland is particularly concerned by the gendered-dimension of trafficking and discriminatory gender stereotypes in the agricultural sector that often hinder the identification of men and boys as victims of trafficking. These harmful stereotypes can also render invisible women and girls' agriculture work and lead to greater gaps in identification and protection.

As your report notes, at this moment of significant change and threat in our global food system, all States must ensure that appropriate protections are in place to prevent exploitation and trafficking in persons in the agriculture sector. In Ireland, our National Referral Mechanism has been revised to improve identification and recognition of victims of trafficking and provide them with access to advice, accommodation and support.

The report also notes that migrants in undocumented or irregular situations are more vulnerable to exploitation. As part of our efforts to prevent such exploitation, we have opened a scheme to regularise thousands of long-term undocumented migrants and their families living in Ireland.

Special Rapporteur, Ireland is currently developing the next national action plan on trafficking in persons. Can you point towards particular examples of best practice in ensuring appropriate protections are in place?

Thank you.