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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

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

6 March 2023

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his update.

The systematic regression in women and girls' enjoyment of human rights at the hands of the Taliban is abhorrent. As you note, the cumulative impact of the Taliban's discrimination against women may amount to gender persecution, a crime against humanity.

We condemn in the strongest terms the latest decisions of the Taliban that exclude Afghan women from public life, prevent women from working for NGOs, and exclude girls from second-level education and women from universities. Women's full, equal and meaningful participation in public life is their right and it is vital to ensure sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.

Ireland deplores threats and attacks suffered by ethnic and religious minorities. We urge the Taliban to prevent discrimination and violence against minorities, and to investigate attacks against ethnic and religious minorities in accordance with international standards.

Ireland condemns the ongoing violence and discrimination faced by the LGBTI+ community in Afghanistan. We are also concerned regarding difficulties faced by gender non-conforming Afghans in obtaining humanitarian assistance.

Impunity for human rights violations must not be tolerated, and in this regard Ireland supports the efforts of the Special Rapporteur, the International Criminal Court and UNAMA.

Special Rapporteur, how can the international community, including UN agencies, work better to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population, in particular women, girls and gender non-conforming people?