



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children*

*Theme: Refugee protection, internal displacement and statelessness*

28 June 2023

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

We welcome the report's focus on the links between displacement and heightened risk of trafficking in persons.

Ireland echoes the Special Rapporteur's call on all States to uphold their international obligations to protect the human rights of victims and survivors of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking. We are concerned by your findings that refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons face heightened risks of trafficking, particularly women and children.

To address the specific needs of victims of trafficking in the international protection system, since February 2021, all persons who make an application for international protection in Ireland are offered a vulnerability assessment, and in 2022, the Vulnerability Assessment Pilot Programme Policy was launched. In line with EU and Irish law, consideration as to whether an applicant is a victim of human trafficking is included as a specific vulnerability in these assessments.

A victim-centred and human-rights-based approach to combatting and preventing human trafficking is essential. This includes tackling existing vulnerabilities to exploitation, including poverty, gender inequality and discrimination, and putting in place mechanisms to make it easier for victims to come forward and access support.

*Special Rapporteur, how can we address the particular risks that LGBTI+ persons or persons of diverse gender identities face in the context of trafficking in persons?*