



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **54<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*Situation of human rights in Afghanistan - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

**12 September 2023**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the High Commissioner for his report.

Ireland condemns in the strongest terms the more than 50 edicts, orders, and restrictions directed towards women and girls that have been introduced by the Taliban, banishing half the population to a life behind closed doors. The systematic exclusion of women and girls from work, education and public life is a gross abuse of their rights.

Ireland further condemns the ongoing violence and discrimination faced by LGBTI+ persons in Afghanistan and calls for the full protection of the rights of LGBTI+ persons.

We regret that the Taliban have steadily dismantled institutional protections for human rights and eroded the rule of law, despite the international human rights obligations that continue to bind Afghanistan as a State. We call on the Taliban authorities to deliver on their commitments to the Afghan people, in accordance with international human rights treaties.

Impunity must not be allowed to prevail. Ireland strongly supports the Special Rapporteur, the International Criminal Court, UNAMA and the Office for all efforts to advance accountability and commends the tireless efforts of Afghan human rights defenders and civil society leaders advocating for their rights.

*High Commissioner, what actions can be taken by the international community to ensure the full restoration of human rights for all persons, in particular, women and girls and LGBTI+ persons in Afghanistan?*