



**Statement of Ireland**  
**35th session of the UPR Working Group**

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Review of the Kyrgyz Republic

**20 January 2020**

Thank you, Mr (Vice) President.

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic and thanks them for their presentation.

Ireland acknowledges Kyrgyzstan's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle including the creation of new safeguards in the Criminal Procedure Code of 2019. The adoption of the National Gender Action Plan in 2018 and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March 2019 are also welcome developments.

Nonetheless, Ireland remains concerned by allegations that the legal and constitutional framework in Kyrgyzstan has been used to legitimise severe restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and religion or belief.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Kyrgyz authorities:

1. Enhance protections for civil society, journalists and human rights defenders to ensure they are able to carry out their work in a safe environment free from intimidation, harassment and attacks. Ireland calls on Kyrgyzstan to fully implement the UN Human Rights Committee decision of March 2016 regarding the detention of Azimjan Askarov. Ireland strongly supports the many calls from international bodies for his release.
2. Introduce legislation, in full compliance with international standards, which protects women and LGBTI persons from all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence.

We wish Kyrgyzstan every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.