



Statement of Ireland
41st session of the UPR Working Group

Review of South Africa

16 November 2022

Ireland thanks the delegation of South Africa for its presentation today.

Ireland welcomes progress made by South Africa since the last UPR cycle, especially the establishment of the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP).

While Ireland welcomes the important legislation passed in 2022 to strengthen action against GBVF, we remain concerned about the lack of implementation of the NSP by line Ministries.

Additionally, Ireland is concerned about attacks against Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) especially women HRDs, and whistle-blowers as well as the rise in reports of xenophobia, including heightened xenophobic political rhetoric.

Ireland recommends that South Africa:

1. Accelerate the establishment of a National Council for the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide, and ensure the allocation of adequate funding to Ministries to implement the NSP.
2. Review laws restricting work of HRDs and ensure prompt, independent and impartial investigations into all attacks against HRDs.

We wish South Africa every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.