



**Statement of Ireland**  
**45th session of the UPR Working Group**

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Review of Malta

**31 January 2024**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Malta and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland welcomes Malta's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle. In particular, we welcome the criminalisation of FGM, forced sterilisation, forced marriage and virginity testing. Ireland welcomes the increased dialogue on reproductive rights and notes Criminal Code amendments allowing the termination of pregnancy in limited circumstances.

Ireland regrets the lack of progress on establishing a National Human Rights Institution in full conformity with the Paris Principles. We also urge Malta to take further steps to assist the victims of trafficking, especially children.

Ireland recommends Malta:

1. Broaden criteria under which abortions are legally permitted, including where there is a serious threat to health.
2. Ensure comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education within the mandatory school curriculum.
3. Implement robust measures to improve media safety in line with the full recommendations of the 2021 independent public inquiry.

We wish Malta every success with this UPR cycle. Thank you.