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14th Session of the UPR- PakistanStatement by Ireland

Thank you Madam President,

Ireland welcomes the distinguished delegation of Pakistan, and welcomes the progress that has been made in the protection and promotion of human rights since Pakistan's first Universal Periodic Review. In particular, Ireland commends Pakistan for the creation of a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as recommended by Ireland in the last review.

1. Ireland is concerned at reports of discriminatory teaching practices in the Pakistani education system. Ireland recommends that Pakistan take all appropriate measures to combat and prevent discrimination ~~and negative societal attitudes~~ and mobilize ~~political, religious and community leaders to support efforts to eradicate~~ discrimination against children belonging to religious or other minority groups, including by removing material which could serve to perpetuate discrimination towards religious minorities.
2. Ireland notes reports concerning the continued prevalence of bonded labour in many parts of Pakistan. The right to just, humane working conditions is guaranteed under both the Pakistani Constitution and by the government, which is a signatory to thirty-four International Labour Organisation conventions. ~~The right to just and favourable conditions of work is also enshrined in article 7 of~~ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ~~which Pakistan has ratified~~. While bonded labour has been outlawed for nineteen years in Pakistan, it is reported that the phenomenon persists because of an absence of effective implementation measures. Ireland recommends that the Pakistani government develop a clear implementation and monitoring plan for the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1992, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Rules, 1995 and the National Policy and Plan of Action for the Abolition of Bonded Labour, 2001.

Thank you, Madam President.