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UPR of Switzerland – 25 October 2012

Oral recommendation by Ireland

Read by
Ms. Aileen Roche

Thank you Madam President

Ireland welcomes the Swiss delegation and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report this morning. Ireland commends Switzerland on its long-standing commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and on the progress achieved in implementing commitments made during the first Universal Periodic Review held in May 2008.

Ireland welcomes the positive measures that Switzerland has taken to strengthen gender equality and women's rights and commends Switzerland on the recent introduction of a specific provision penalising female genital mutilation in the Criminal Code. Ireland commends Switzerland's progress in the fight against human trafficking through the creation of a bilateral task force between Switzerland and Romania. In particular Ireland wishes to acknowledge Switzerland's agreement to ratify the Council of Europe convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

1. Ireland welcomes the efforts made towards the implementation of a racism monitoring system at the national level in Switzerland. Ireland recommends that the Swiss authorities pursue their efforts to combat xenophobia and to train police officers, prosecutors, judges and future legal professionals in the scope and application of the relevant legal framework.
2. Ireland commends Switzerland on the efforts made both domestically and internationally to promote and protect the rights of LGBT persons. Ireland notes however, the lack of explicit legal protection against discrimination of LGBT minorities at the national level. Ireland recommends that Switzerland introduces legislation, uniformly across the Confederation, that explicitly protects LGBT persons from discrimination and that the issues faced by LGBT persons are taken into account when creating a general act on equal treatment.

Thank you Madam President.