

Aoife Lyons
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Barbados UPR 15- Ireland's Intervention

Thank you Mr President,

Ireland welcomes the distinguished delegation of Barbados and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report.

Ireland commends the increased efforts of Barbados to implement its international treaty obligations by revising its Constitution and streamlining legislation. In particular, Ireland welcomes measures taken thus far, and encourages continuing efforts by Barbados, to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is reflected in all relevant legislation, policies and programmes in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Also, Ireland welcomes efforts by the Bureau of Gender Affairs to sensitise the public to the role of discrimination and stigma in the contraction, spreading and treatment of HIV.

Ireland notes that consensual same-sex conduct continues to be criminalised in Barbados.

Ireland recommends that Barbados decriminalise consensual same-sex conduct and take all necessary steps to protect LGBT ^{community} ~~people~~ from all forms of discrimination.

Ireland commends the technical and funding assistance provided by the Bureau of Gender Affairs to NGOs, thereby strengthening their capacity. Ireland also welcomes continuing efforts to address domestic violence, particularly in light of reports from the current UN High Commissioner for Human Rights about the continuing prevalence of domestic violence and rape in Barbados.

Ireland recommends that Barbados implement recommendations made by the national reform committee tasked with reviewing the Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act, continue work on developing a National Action Plan on Domestic Violence, train police on domestic violence issues and seek to expedite criminal trials, where appropriate.

I thank you.