

Universal Periodic Review 15- France

Thank you Mr. President

Ireland thanks the delegation of France for its comprehensive presentation this morning and commends France on actions taken since its last UPR to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights and on implementation of many of the recommendations made in its first UPR.

Ireland commends France for the passage of the law on violence against women in couples in July 2010 and encourages its full implementation. Ireland further recognises the considerable progress being made on the implementation of the Inter-ministerial plan to combat violence against women (2011 – 2013). We also welcome the appointment of a Minister for the Rights of Women.

Ireland welcomes the development of a national action plan to combat racism and anti-Semitism during the period of 2012-2014. Ireland notes concerns expressed by a number of treaty bodies about patterns of de facto discrimination against minorities, in particular in the field of employment.

Ireland recommends that France's legislative framework and relevant institutional mechanisms be strengthened in order to exclude all discriminatory practices that prevent equal access to employment for persons belonging to ethnic, national or religious minorities.

On institutional and human rights infrastructure and policies, Ireland notes the establishment of the office of Defender of Rights.

Ireland recommends that every effort be made, given the importance of the office and the amalgamation of previous independent authorities, that it be given all necessary resources and powers to exercise its functions.