

James C. O'SHEA

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Ireland's intervention – UPR of Serbia

Thank you Mr President.

Ireland welcomes the Serbian delegation and thanks it for its comprehensive presentation this afternoon.

Ireland commends Serbia for its progress on human rights issues in recent years, in particular, Serbia's continuing cooperation with the ICTY.

Ireland notes the improved mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders, including the 2009 Criminal Code. However, Ireland is concerned at reports that no cases have been initiated by the prosecutor's office under this law where the security of human rights defenders was threatened. Ireland urges Serbia to take all necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of the Criminal Code and the legal protection of all human rights defenders.

Ireland is concerned at reports of the continued prevalence of physical attacks, threats and discrimination against the LGBT community.

Ireland recommends that Serbia adopts all necessary measures to reduce prejudice and discrimination against the LGBT community, including through the training of the police, prosecutors and judges to respond effectively to violence against LGBT activists and to ensure the adequate protection of LGBT persons in the work place.

Ireland notes with concerns the observations of the UN Human Rights Committee regarding attacks and threats against journalists in Serbia. Ireland is also concerned about reports of political control of the media, including through restrictive legislation such as the Electronic Communication Law and the Law on Public Information. **Ireland recommends** that Serbia amend and where necessary repeal all legislation which restricts the ability of journalists to carry out their work freely and which impacts upon the independence of the media.

I thank you.