

Universal Periodic Review 18

UPR of Afghanistan

27 January 2014

Intervention by Ireland

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland welcomed Afghanistan's acceptance of recommendations at its first UPR to work actively to improve the rights of women, but is very concerned by the limited progress made in this respect. We are particularly concerned that the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women has not been effectively applied, implemented or enforced.

Ireland **recommends** that Afghanistan put in place within six months a concrete plan, covering the next two-year period, to improve implementation of the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, including the measures recommended to Afghanistan by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in July 2013.

While we commend the recent appointment of Colonel Jamila Bayaz as Afghanistan's first female district police chief, we remain gravely concerned about the low level of women's representation and participation in all levels of political life and decision-making.

Ireland **recommends** that Afghanistan implement UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, including by supporting the participation of women in peace talks, and continuing to increase the proportion of women playing an active role in the security forces, in particular the police, while ensuring their safety and dignity in their place of work.