

**UPR 18 – Cyprus****Intervention by Ireland****4 February 2014**

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

Ireland commends the achievements of Cyprus since the first cycle of the UPR, particularly progress made by Cyprus in the area of children's rights. However, we note concerns expressed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the need to establish a juvenile justice system to ensure a holistic and preventive approach to addressing the problem of juvenile offenders, a National Action Plan for child victims of trafficking, and adequate safeguards for children employed as domestic workers. Ireland **recommends** that Cyprus establish an effective mechanism for coordinating the implementation of child rights policy among relevant institutions at all levels and bring the juvenile justice system in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant standards.

We take positive note of efforts by Cyprus to combat discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, including the promotion by the Ministry for Justice and Public Order of an amendment to the Criminal Code to criminalise incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination against LGBT persons, as well as a draft Bill recognising same sex partnership. Ireland **recommends** that Cyprus enact legislation to recognise civil partnership and amend the Criminal Code to explicitly prohibit incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination against persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.