

Universal Periodic Review – 20th Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of El Salvador

27 October 2014

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

Ireland commends El Salvador for strengthening its legislative framework to combat violence against women and girls. We particularly welcome the adoption of the 2010 Special Comprehensive Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women. However, we note that the implementation of this and other relevant legislation has met with several challenges, particularly as regards allocation of adequate resources. Further, we remain concerned about high levels of violence against women and girls, including those who are victims of violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Ireland **recommends** that El Salvador take all necessary steps to ensure the effective implementation of legislation seeking to combat violence against women and girls, and to take specific measures to protect those who are victims of violence based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Second, Ireland is gravely concerned about the high levels of impunity for human rights violations in El Salvador, particularly those affecting children and human rights defenders. We share the Human Rights Committee's concern that steps taken to address past human rights violations might not be sufficient to end impunity for such violations, in light of the statute of limitations and amnesty in place. Accordingly, Ireland **recommends** that El Salvador take increased measures to prevent and combat impunity for human rights violations, through investigation of all threats, harassment, intimidation, violence and enforced disappearances, in particular those concerning children and human rights defenders, and to ensure that all perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

Thank you.