

Universal Periodic Review – 22nd Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Liberia

4 May 2015

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

We acknowledge the negative impact of the recent Ebola outbreak on the enjoyment of human rights in Liberia, particularly in relation to the stigmatisation of, and discrimination against, Ebola survivors, their families and health workers. We commend Liberia for its efforts in tackling the spread of the virus and express our support for continuing efforts in that regard.

We note positive steps undertaken by Liberia to improve the administration of justice; however, Ireland remains concerned by prolonged pre-trial detention, as well as poor detention conditions in Liberia and we strongly encourage Liberia to take further measures in this regard.

Ireland is gravely concerned that cases of sexual and gender based violence, particularly those involving victims under eighteen years of age, remain alarming high in Liberia. We urge Liberia to put in place a comprehensive prevention strategy, as suggested by the UN Secretary General, and to enhance the capacity of the police to investigate cases of domestic violence. We also note that the practice of Female Genital Mutilation continues to be widespread. Ireland **recommends** that Liberia intensify efforts to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and to specifically criminalise Female Genital Mutilation as well as take all necessary measures to ensure its eradication.

Ireland is gravely concerned about reports of intimidation and violence against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Ireland **recommends** that Liberia repeal 14.74 of the Penal Code and take all necessary legislative and other measures to eliminate discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.