

Statement of the Republic of Latvia
25th session of the UPR
Review of Ireland

Mr. President,

Latvia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Ireland and thanks it for the national report and presentation today.

Latvia highly appreciates Ireland's efforts to reduce the risks of human trafficking in the form of sham marriages by amending the Civil Registration Act in 2014, in particular by extending the authority of a registrar to refuse to register marriage in suspicious cases and providing for improved information sharing among the responsible institutions. We also commend the establishment of a special police unit. While noting the measures taken to address these challenges, we remain concerned that the number of cases involving human trafficking in the form of sham marriages remains high. We **recommend** continue efforts to pass legislation to combat human trafficking in the form of sham marriages.

We also take positive note of Ireland's achievements in the field of rights of the child, including the adoption of the Children First Act in 2015 and the launching of the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making.

Finally, Latvia reiterates that when deciding on appointment of a guardian or trustee involving foreign nationals, applicable international law stipulates comprehensive procedures to be followed between competent authorities of states involved. In this regard Latvia **recommends** to Ireland to ensure that the rights of child are fully respected in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular its Article 20 when deciding on appointment of a guardian or trustee.

Thank you.