



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

**United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
Statement**

**Universal Periodic Review – Ireland
May 2016**

Thank you, Mr President,

The UK recognises the importance Ireland attaches to the promotion and protection of human rights. We welcome Ireland's decision to change its Constitution to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples. We also welcome the signing into law of the constitutional amendment that strengthens children's rights, the significant childcare package announced in its 2016 budget and the launch of its inclusion model for children with disabilities.

We recommend that Ireland:

1. Consider creating a dedicated overarching Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Equality.
2. Ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and fully implement the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 as soon as possible.

Noting the progress made, we encourage Ireland to provide a timeframe for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Thank you.