



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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UPR of IRELAND

Mr. President,

Slovenia commends Ireland for the many legislative and policy measures adopted since the previous UPR cycle to further improve the protection of human rights in the country. We furthermore welcome Ireland's championship of human rights in international fora.

We welcome, in particular, the ratification of the OP-CRC-IC and of the Aarhus Convention, adoption of the National Ageing Strategy and the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making, and the legislation on marriage equality for same-sex couples.

Despite these achievements, we note that challenges persist in the areas of freedom of religion or belief in the education system, and with regard to access to abortion.

We also note that while some progress has been made towards the ratification of OP-CAT and OP-CRC-SC, previously accepted **recommendations**¹ on this matter are yet to be implemented.

We offer the following additional **recommendations**:

- repeal Articles 42.1 and 40.3.3 of the Constitution;
- decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and, as a minimum, ensure access to safe abortion also in cases of rape, incest, serious risks to the health of the mother, or fatal foetal abnormality;
- ensure that all children have the option to attend a non-denominational school at no extra cost.

Thank you.

¹ 106.2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT) (France, Greece, Slovenia, United Kingdom). 106.6. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-SCR) (Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey).

Advance questions:

- We commend Ireland for signing the Geneva Pledge on Human Rights in Climate Action. We'd be interested in hearing what steps have been taken in order to give effect to the commitments therein.
- We welcome the intention for the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to produce guidelines and codes of practice in order to systematically integrate equality and human rights perspectives into the everyday work of public bodies. Please provide more information on human rights education and training for public servants.
- What steps have been taken or may be planned with regard to the recommendations of the CESCR Committee:
 - o to repeal article 42(1) of the Irish Constitution?
 - o to increase women's representation in decision-making positions, including on corporate boards?
 - o to eliminate gender stereotypes?
- How will Ireland address criticism that, despite being mandatory in Irish schools since 2003, comprehensive sexuality education programmes are patchy and inconsistent, and that many young people and adolescents are not receiving the information necessary to protect their health, including on how to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections?
- In view of criticism of the patronage system and religious discrimination in schools that may result from it, is Ireland considering replacing the patronage system with an inclusive secular one?