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**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF THE  
IRELAND AT THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC  
REVIEW**

*(11 May 2016, Geneva)*

1. **Mr. President**, Botswana welcomes the delegation of Ireland to the UPR process, and thanks them for the comprehensive national report.
  
2. We commend Ireland for their commitment to the enjoyment of human rights at both national and international levels. We particularly commend them for their strong advocacy against reprisals and protection of human rights defenders; the promotion of civil society space and the rights of the child.
  
3. We note with appreciation, the measures taken by Ireland to implement recommendations received at their last review. In particular, measures taken to combat and eliminate domestic and sexual violence including through the draft bill on domestic violence which seeks to strengthen the support and protection of victims and their families once enacted as law.
  
4. We do note reports by the Human Rights Committee that domestic and sexual violence however, remains a serious problem.
  
5. Botswana therefore, makes the following two recommendations, that Ireland;

- a) finalise the adoption of the Domestic Violence Bill and ensure that perpetrators of domestic violence are held to account;
  - b) reinstate the age of criminal responsibility of 14 years of age as prescribed in the Children's Act.
6. We wish Ireland a successful review outcome.

I thank you, Mr. President!