

Iceland warmly welcomes the Delegation of Ireland to the UPR and thanks them for their comprehensive national report.

Iceland commends Ireland for their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and their tireless advocacy here in the Council. We highlight in particular the referendum that approved marriage equality in 2015.

However, Iceland regrets the highly restrictive circumstances under which women can lawfully have an abortion in Ireland. We further regret the criminalization of abortion in cases of rape, incest and threat to a woman's health, and the discriminatory impact on women who cannot afford to travel abroad for an abortion.

In this regard we underline the concerns raised by a number of *Treaty Monitoring Bodies*, *Charter Monitoring Bodies* as well as *the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights*; concerns which we share.

Iceland makes the following recommendations to Ireland:

- To repeal legislation that criminalizes abortion and to eliminate all punitive measures. In particular Article 40.3.3 of the Irish constitution which treats the biological existence of a fetus on an equal basis with the right to life of a pregnant woman.
- To ensure availability of safe abortions, at a minimum in cases where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest and in cases of severe and fatal foetal impairment.

- To amend article 41 (2) of the Constitution on the role and status of women by moving to more gender-neutral wording of the article.