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**Statement of Ireland**

**46th session of the UPR Working Group**

Review of Afghanistan

**29 April 2024**

Ireland welcomes the Afghan Mission and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland supports the Afghan Mission in its efforts to highlight and address Afghanistan’s ongoing human rights issues. Ireland sincerely regrets that the human rights situation in Afghanistan has severely regressed since the previous review, due to the actions of the Taliban.

We condemn the gross, widespread and systematic human rights abuses by the Taliban across Afghanistan, particularly towards women, girls and minorities. Actions that institutionalise discrimination against women and girls and reduce their participation in Afghan society, work and education, are wholly unacceptable and a gross denial of their rights.

We are appalled at the use of the death penalty for crimes including adultery and homosexuality, which disproportionately target women and LGBTQI+ persons.

Ireland recommends Afghanistan:

1. Fully reverse decrees implemented by the Taliban that infringe on the human rights of Afghans, including restrictions on women and girls’ rights to education, employment, legal remedies, health and freedom of movement, restrictions targeted at the LGBTQI+ community, and ethnic and religious minorities.
2. Declare a moratorium on executions with a view to prohibiting the death penalty in law and in practice.

Thank you.