**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Ireland**

**39th Session, November 10, 2021**

The United States welcomes the Irish delegation.

We recommend Ireland:

1. Enhance efforts to combat human trafficking by vigorously investigating and, as appropriate, prosecuting and convicting traffickers; addressing systemic deficiencies in victim identification, referral, and assistance; and providing specialized accommodations for victims;

2. Expand protections against discrimination directed towards persons based on their gender identity, expression, sex characteristics, or sexual orientation;

3. Improve implementation of laws against discrimination, particularly to protect access to housing and health for immigrants and members of racial, ethnic, and religious minority groups including Travelers.

The U.S. encourages Ireland to improve equal access to safe and effective health care including for Travelers and in recognition of the continuing impacts on women from symphysiotomy to the national cervical cancer screening program. The U.S. applauds Ireland for its efforts to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities through its 2017 National Disability Strategy and its ratification of the 2018 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.  The U.S. also applauds Ireland for securing its first conviction in 2021 under its human trafficking law.