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**Statement of Ireland**

**40th session of the UPR Working Group**

Review of Lithuania

**26th January 2022**

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Lithuania and thanks it for its presentation today.

We commend Lithuania’s concerted efforts to advance human rights domestically, as reflected in the substantial progress made since the last UPR cycle.

Ireland welcomes the 2017 amendments to the Criminal Code to include sex, gender, and sexual orientation as prohibited grounds for discrimination or incitement to hatred. There has also been notable progress in strengthening legislation on domestic violence, including amendments to improve assistance for victims, and to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.

Ireland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), and accelerate implementation of legislation designed to protect and assist victims of domestic violence.
2. Ensure implementation of the principle of non-refoulement, and ensure that all applications for international protection are promptly received and registered.

We wish Lithuania every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.