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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Afghanistan

9th September 2024

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur and speakers for their updates.

Ireland strongly condemns the ongoing gross, widespread and systematic human rights abuses perpetrated by the Taliban across Afghanistan, particularly targeted against women and girls, and individuals from marginalised communities, including the Hazaras and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

The Taliban's continued enforcement of restrictive decrees that curtail the human rights of women and girls is abhorrent and unacceptable. This may amount to crimes against humanity, including gender persecution. Ireland condemns these abuses in the strongest terms and calls for the full reversal of all decrees that deny Afghans, especially women and girls, their inalienable human rights.

We are deeply concerned by the arbitrary detention of media workers and civil society activists campaigning for girls' education and women's rights.

Ireland calls for the rights enshrined in CRC and CEDAW, to which Afghanistan is a State Party, to be upheld. We also call for those responsible for abuses of human rights to be held accountable.

We regret that the Special Rapporteur has been refused access to Afghanistan by the Taliban. We will continue to support him and his important work towards accountability.

Panellists, what steps can the international community take to encourage the Taliban to uphold human rights and implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur and OHCHR?