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Statement of Ireland

57th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: General debate on the High Commissioner's oral update

Tuesday, 10 September 2024

Ireland aligns with the EU statement.

We thank the High Commissioner for his update and agree that criminalisation of same-sex relations is contrary to basic universal norms. All States are required to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of **LGBTQI+ persons** under international human rights law, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties.

High Commissioner, as you have noted, a **safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders and media workers** is crucial for open critical debate and to find solutions for the problems we collectively face.

We share concerns over the violence in **Bangladesh** in July in the context of widespread protests, and welcome the interim government's commitment to pursue accountability.

We condemn all violence, threats, intimidation and attacks against journalists reporting on **Iran** from abroad, and deplore the misuse of counter-terrorism laws against journalists.

UN staff and humanitarian workers must never be targeted. We condemn the attack on the Office's representation in Sana'a and call for the immediate release of all UN staff detained in **Yemen**. We again emphasise the need for accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law for the people of Yemen.

Finally, we acknowledge the **Ethiopian Government's** efforts to develop a transitional justice process: we encourage continued progress, including on preventing and investigating human rights violations and abuses, including in the ongoing conflicts in Amhara and Oromia.

We take this opportunity to underline our unequivocal support for your work, High Commissioner, and for the independence of your Office.