

Universal Periodic Review–22nd session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Croatia

12 May 2015

Ireland welcomes the high-level delegation of Croatia and thanks it for the presentation of its report.

We welcome the positive steps taken by Croatia since its first UPR; particularly steps taken to promote inclusive education with measures such as the “National Strategy for the inclusion of the Roma 2013–2020” and associated Action Plan. We hope that these efforts will continue and that it will assist Croatia in executing the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Oršuš*.

We appreciate Croatia’s commitment to investigate and prosecute war crimes and acknowledge that since Croatia’s first UPR in 2010, prosecutions of domestic war crimes have improved. However, Ireland is concerned by the slow rate of this process, and urges the Government of Croatia to increase the administrative capacity of Croatia’s courts to adjudicate on these important cases. In particular Ireland notes the concerns of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women regarding acknowledgement and reparations for women victims of wartime violence.

Ireland **recommends** that Croatia take urgent steps to ensure that women victims of wartime violence have access to justice and reparation, including adequate psychosocial and economic support as well as access to health-care services.

Ireland is concerned by the treatment of persons with disabilities in Croatia, and in particular the increasing number of children with disabilities in institutional care and the lack of adequate treatment and care in the institutions.

Ireland **recommends** that Croatia refrain from institutionalising children with disabilities, and ensure sufficient alternative family and community based care options for children with disabilities.