

Universal Periodic Review – 21st Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Armenia

22 January 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Armenia and thanks it for its national report and for its presentation today.

We are pleased to note that since its first review Armenia has become a party to a number of international human rights instruments, that a number of special procedures mandate holders have visited the country further to the standing invitation issued in 2006, and that the national human rights institution retains “A” status.

While acknowledging the adoption in 2013 of the Law on Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women, we note that a number of treaty monitoring bodies have expressed concern at the absence of comprehensive legislation on discrimination, and about deeply rooted patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men in the family and in society. Ireland **recommends** that Armenia adopt comprehensive legislation to counter discrimination, and take steps to ensure that equality enshrined in such legislation or in existing law is achieved in practice.

During the first cycle review, Armenia accepted a recommendation from Ireland to implement the Law on Meetings, Rallies and Demonstrations in a transparent and proportional manner. We note that concerns have been expressed, including by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders following her visit, about hindrances to the exercise of the right to freedom of assembly and the right to freedom of expression. Ireland **recommends** that Armenia ensure that the right to hold peaceful, open and public demonstrations is freely available to all individuals without undue restrictions.