

## Universal Periodic Review – 21<sup>st</sup> Session

### Statement by Ireland on the review of Sweden

26 January 2015

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

Ireland commends Sweden's strong commitment to the promotion of human rights, the rule of law and freedom of the media. We note its many positive actions on human rights since the first UPR cycle, including the voluntary submission of a mid-term review and regular reporting to the treaty bodies.

First, Ireland notes that the functions of the Ombudsman for Children do not include the power to accept individual complaints. Ireland **recommends** that Sweden consider the introduction of a complaint mechanism for children at the domestic level as well as signature and ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Second, while we recognise that there are a range of agencies working on human rights issues in Sweden, and in particular the division of authority between central and municipal authorities, Ireland **recommends** that Sweden consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution, in conformity with the Paris Principles, with a broad mandate, as soon as possible.