

Human Rights Council 38th Session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the Special Rapporteur on Migrants.

20th June 2018

National Statement of Ireland

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the EU and wishes to add the following.

Mr President,

Ireland welcomes the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the Special Rapporteur on Migrants and thanks them for their presentations today. We wish to direct our comments today to the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.

As current Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ireland is pleased that you were able to participate in this year's session. We welcome your report on violence against women, its causes and the consequences of online violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective. Violence against women and girls remains a very real threat today and the expansion of such violence into the online sphere is of particular concern.

Although access to the internet is an invaluable tool which has had a transformative effect on the lives of many people throughout the world, we must at the same time acknowledge the threats which exist in the online domain. We share the concerns of the Special Rapporteur that the Internet is being used as a platform for widespread discrimination and gender-based violence against women and girls. We are also concerned by the harmful, sexist, misogynistic and violent content and behaviour which is directed at women and girls online.

We support the Special Rapporteur's statement that elimination of violence against women and girls remains a global challenge both in the "real world" and, in more recent times, in the online world too. Ireland agrees with your conclusion that human rights and women's rights which are protected offline must also be protected online. This protection should include the right to live free from emerging forms of online and ICT-facilitated violence against women, while respecting the right to freedom of expression and the right to privacy and data protection.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

How can we further encourage internet intermediaries to ensure that human rights are protected online?