



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Statement of Ireland at the Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on Afghanistan (A/HRC/49/24)

Friday 4 March 2022

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

Ireland remains gravely concerned about the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Afghanistan, particularly the erosion of the rights of women and girls. The Taliban's approach is steadily erasing Afghan women and girls from public life, through force and intimidation, in contravention of their rights and with blatant disregard for their will. We strongly condemn the recent enforced disappearances of women activists. Women and girls must be able to safely participate in all spheres of life, without fear of reprisals.

The Taliban's erosion of human rights protections is being felt in all corners of society. We are appalled at the repression of ethnic and religious minorities, and by the extrajudicial killings of former members of the Afghan government and security forces, which happened despite assurances from the Taliban. Civil society has also reported serious assaults and intimidation against LGBTQI persons.

In this regard, the newly established Special Rapporteur will play a vital role in ensuring that the international community maintains a strong focus on the human rights of the people of Afghanistan, complementing the work being done across the UN system.

High Commissioner, how can the international community demonstrate solidarity with Afghan women leaders without further endangering them?

Word Count: 207 words