



Statement of Ireland

53rd session of the Human Rights Council

Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

21 June 2023

Mr. Vice-President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and we thank the Independent Expert for his report.

Ireland is strongly committed to the promotion of freedom of religion or belief, as well as to the promotion of LGBTI+ rights. We welcome and agree with the report's clear message that these values and objectives are not mutually exclusive – on the contrary, both sets of rights are fundamental to human dignity and full expression of personhood, and like all human rights, they overlap and intersect.

In this anniversary year, we encourage all States to be guided by the principle that every individual, without distinction, is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We oppose any invocation of FORB to justify violations of international human rights and condemn any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Ireland stands with all LGBTI+ persons and will continue to do so.

Mr. Madrigal-Borloz, Ireland is deeply concerned by the global pushback against LGBTI+ rights, and the fact that LGBTI+ persons continue to suffer disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination. How can States best foster freedom of religion or belief alongside the promotion of LGBTI+ rights?

We would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your crucial work as Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Ireland will continue to be strong supporters of the SOGI mandate.

Thank you.