



Statement of Ireland

53rd session of the Human Rights Council

*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls,
its causes and consequences*

21 June 2023

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

Addressing domestic and intimate partner violence is a priority for Ireland, both internationally and at home. During our recent Council of Europe Presidency, 38 Member States joined us in signing the Dublin Declaration and committed to new efforts to tackle violence against women and girls across the continent. We also recently published a Zero Tolerance national strategy to tackle domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Ireland is undertaking an ambitious programme of family justice reform, to try to make the Irish family justice system work better, particularly for those in need of additional support and protections, including victims of domestic violence, or parents and children in vulnerable situations.

Our first National Family Justice Strategy aims at building the system's capacity to adequately hear the voices of children, and improve the knowledge, skills and experience of all those involved in order make the best determinations in each case, based on its own merits.

Furthermore, Ireland's Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 ensures that the State complies with its constitutional obligation to legislate on the best interests principle and the right of a child to be heard.

Special Rapporteur, how can States ensure that the views of the child are sufficiently and independently represented in custody proceedings?

Thank you.