

39th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Antigua and Barbuda

Statement of Ireland – 8 November 2021

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made in implementing supported recommendations from the second cycle, such as passing the Disability and Equal Opportunities Act in 2017. We also commend Antigua and Barbuda for its ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Ireland believes that it is important that concrete steps are taken to improve conditions in Antigua and Barbuda's prison system. We encourage Antigua and Barbuda to engage on this issue, particularly in relation to issues of overcrowding, material conditions, proper sanitation and ventilation.

We also encourage Antigua and Barbuda to engage with its LGBTI+ community in order to tackle instances of violence, discrimination and social exclusion experienced by this community.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the authorities of Antigua and Barbuda:

1. Commission a State report into prison conditions in order to ascertain the quality of the detention facilities and as a means to measure future improvements.
2. Take all necessary steps to end the discrimination and stigmatisation of LGBTI+ people, including the adoption of legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
3. Decriminalise consensual sexual activity between persons of the same-sex.

We wish Antigua and Barbuda every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.