



Statement of Ireland
36th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Liberia

2 November 2020

Thank you, Madame President,

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

We acknowledge Liberia's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commend progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We commend Liberia for its renewed commitment to addressing sexual and gender based violence, and for positive steps already taken to eradicate SGBV. Nevertheless, Ireland remains deeply concerned at the alarming rates of SGBV in Liberia, and that the practice of Female Genital Mutilation continues to be widespread.

We remain concerned by prolonged pre-trial detention and encourage Liberia to take further measures to bring defendants to trial within a reasonable time, and to improve detention conditions.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Liberian authorities:

1. Intensify efforts to prevent and respond to SGBV, as well as to criminalise Female Genital Mutilation in all circumstances and ultimately eradicate the practice.
2. Repeal Article 14.74 of the Penal Code and take concrete steps to eliminate harassment, discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Ireland is gravely concerned about reports of intimidation and violence against LGBTI individuals and those seeking to defend their human rights.

We wish Liberia every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.