

32nd session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Afghanistan

Statement of Ireland

21 January 2019

Thank you, Mr. President

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

Ireland acknowledges Afghanistan's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We also commend Afghanistan on the "A" status accreditation of the Independent Human Rights Commission. We encourage the Government of Afghanistan to continue supporting the Commission's mandate with additional and adequate resources, and to enable its personnel to safely carry out their work without fear of reprisals.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Afghan authorities:

1. Ensure the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law is effectively implemented and uniformly enforced; and that all cases of violence against women, including so-called "honour killings", are promptly investigated and prosecuted under the criminal justice system and not referred to traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.
2. Establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

We wish Afghanistan every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.