



AN COIMISIÚN UM CHEARTA AN DUINE
IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Statement of the Irish Human Rights Commission (National Human Rights Institutions) to the Human Rights Council
Adoption of the UPR Report on Ireland, 15 March 2012**

This statement is delivered on behalf of the A Status Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC), Ireland's National Human Rights Institution.¹

The IHRC welcomes the opportunity to present this statement on the occasion of the adoption of the Working Group's UPR Report on Ireland. We recognise and welcome the active involvement of Irish Civil Society in this process.

The IHRC very much welcomes the role afforded to NHRIs by the Human Rights Council and the attention given to the issue of creating strong, independent, A Status institutions.

We also welcome the wide range of issues raised and recommendations made by the Working Group in Ireland's UPR Report. We believe that the Working Group's Report can act as a template for progressing human rights issues in Ireland, and we hope that Ireland's progress on implementing the recommendations will underscore Ireland's application for the Human Rights Council.

While we welcome Ireland's acceptance of the recommendations to reinforce the independence and capacity of the Irish Human Rights Commission to fulfil its mandate effectively in accordance with the Paris Principles, there must be steps taken to ensure that the future Human Rights and Equality Commission has adequate and sufficient resources, and we stress the need for specific measures to guarantee such resources.

We urge particular attention to the developments around Ireland's NHRI in the follow up on Ireland's UPR and in the process of Ireland's application for Membership of the Council.

The IHRC considers that Ireland needs to make serious, sustained and quantifiable efforts in a number of core areas raised in the Working Group Report. These areas include:

The need for a National Action Plan on Human Rights

¹ The IHRC is Ireland's National Human Rights Institution. Established under Statute in 2000, the IHRC has 'A' Status Accreditation with the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs. The oral statement is delivered by Ms Kirsten Roberts, Acting Deputy Chief Executive.

Irish Prison Conditions

Disability rights and legal capacity legislation

Recognition of Traveller ethnicity

Immigration

Conditions for Migrant Workers

The Rights of Children

The need to combat Racial Discrimination

Women's Rights including the Magdalene Women

Further measures to address Domestic Violence

Human Rights in International Aid and Trade

The need for Human Rights Education and Training

Finally, I would refer the Council to the longer written statement on the IHRC's concerns, available in the room.

Thank you Madame President.

END