

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO IRELAND – second batch

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Do the measures preceding the ratification of the OP-CAT signed in 2007 include a plan for establishing a national preventive mechanism in accordance with the OP-CAT?
- What steps remain to be taken to allow for ratification of the OP-CRC-SC Ireland signed in 2000?
- Which specific measures did the Government of Ireland adopt and does plan to adopt in order to eliminate the marginalization of and discrimination against Travellers? Has the Government taken any steps towards recognizing Travellers as a distinct ethnic group? Could you provide more details on the dialogue and consultations the Government has established with Traveller representatives on issues affecting the Travellers community?
- How does the Government ensure that children and parents have the opportunity to choose from among religious, multi-denominational or non-denominational types of schooling and curricula? What are the legislative and other safeguards ensuring the full exercise of the right to freedom of religion or belief, including the freedom not to hold a particular religion or belief?
- Does the Government consider revising the relevant legislation in order to decriminalize abortion also in cases of rape or incest and possibly other cases when the woman's life is not in danger? Does the Government intend starting a Constitutional reform that would broaden women's access to abortion?

LIECHTENSTEIN

- Liechtenstein recognizes Ireland's commitment to international criminal justice, as evidenced by its continued support for the International Criminal Court its ratification of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC), and its full implementation of the Rome Statute into its domestic law.
- Liechtenstein appreciates that Ireland has taken the first steps towards the ratification of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute. When does Ireland envision finalizing this process?

MEXICO

- Could you share information on the current state of the health reform towards universal healthcare? Is Ireland considering to include measures to ensure the national availability and accessibility to contraceptive services and methods to boys, girls and adolescents as part of these reforms? How will these reforms ensure the prevention of discrimination based on geographic status, disability or migrant status?
- Could you elaborate on the recent adoption of the Irish Refugee Protection Program and its measures to ensure that all asylum-seekers in Ireland can effectively accede to the process of determination of their refugee condition? What procedures allow for the reviewing of the decisions on the necessity for international protection? What legal frameworks and procedures provide for independent judicial supervision of these decisions?
- Could you share information on the migrant integration strategy? Does it take into account CERDs recommendations in order to adopt and implement immediately legislation prohibiting any form of racial discrimination and ensure humanitarian treatment for migrants and persons of

non-Irish origin? Is Ireland intending to include adequate training for judicial and police personnel as part of this strategy?

- Is Ireland considering to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families?

NETHERLANDS

Women's rights

- Could the government of the Republic of Ireland elaborate which steps are envisaged to examine the restrictive abortion regime in Irish law?
- Does the government of the Republic of Ireland envisage to establish an expert group on abortion matters which can contribute to a coherent legal framework including the provision of adequate services?

Ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

- Which concrete steps have been taken to further the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- Which steps have been taken to establish a national preventive mechanism as required under the Optional Protocol?

Online human rights

- Does Ireland undertake specific efforts to promote freedom of expression online, following Ireland's membership of the Freedom Online Coalition?

SLOVENIA

- We commend Ireland for signing the Geneva Pledge on Human Rights in Climate Action. We'd be interested in hearing what steps have been taken in order to give effect to the commitments therein.
- We welcome the intention for the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to produce guidelines and codes of practice in order to systematically integrate equality and human rights perspectives into the everyday work of public bodies. Please provide more information on human rights education and training for public servants.
- What steps have been taken or may be planned with regard to the recommendations of the CESCR Committee:
 - to repeal article 42(1) of the Irish Constitution?
 - to increase women's representation in decision-making positions, including on corporate boards?
 - to eliminate gender stereotypes?
- How will Ireland address criticism that, despite being mandatory in Irish schools since 2003, comprehensive sexuality education programmes are patchy and inconsistent, and that many young people and adolescents are not receiving the information necessary to protect their health, including on how to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections?

- In view of criticism of the patronage system and religious discrimination in schools that may result from it, is Ireland considering replacing the patronage system with an inclusive secular one?

SWEDEN

- What measures is Ireland prepared to take to bring its legislation and medical practices in line at least with minimum international standards of sexual and reproductive health and rights and to allow abortion in the most serious cases such as rape, incest, fatal foetal abnormality and serious risks to the health of the mother?
- Sweden would like to seek information on how Ireland intends to follow up on the recommendations from Human Rights Committee and the Venice Commission to remove the prohibition of blasphemy from its Constitution, and bring its legislation in line with the General Comment 34 on article 19 of the ICCPR on freedom of expression?
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Ireland to share its plans on the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- When does the Government of Ireland expect to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
- What plans does the Government of Ireland have to create a dedicated overarching Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Equality?
- What is the Government of Ireland doing to prevent discrimination against religious minorities and what plans are there to change its blasphemy laws?
- What plans does the Government of Ireland have to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and fully implement the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004?