

Human Rights Council – 28th session (2-27 March 2015)

**Statement by Ireland during interactive dialogue on the OHCHR Report
on Iraq**

25 March 2015

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner for his report. We wish to express our appreciation to his staff for their work in documenting the all too extensive range of human rights violations and abuses which the report contains.

We strongly condemn the barbaric acts of ISIL which the report states may amount to crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. We are deeply concerned by the systematic targeting of ethnic and religious minorities including the Yezidis, Christians, Turkmen, Sabea-Mandaens, Kak'e, Kurds and Shi'a. The report details an appalling catalogue of serious breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law committed by ISIL such as mass executions, forced conversions, deprivation of liberty, torture, unfair trials, destroying or seizing of property, extra-judicial killings, enforced displacement, destruction of cultural heritage, the taking of hostages, targeted attacks on the civilian population, use of prohibited weapons and the conscription of children.

Ireland is sickened by reports of sexual and gender based violence perpetrated by ISIL against women and girls, some as young as six years old, including sexual enslavement, rape and forced abortions.

Ireland is further troubled by the report's conclusion that members of the Iraqi Security Forces and affiliated armed groups may have committed war crimes. We hope that the Iraqi Government will clarify its relationship to these armed groups. Ireland urges the Iraqi Government to ensure that all organised forces are placed under a command responsible for the conduct of its subordinates and to ensure accountability for all alleged crimes.

We urge Iraq to ensure fair and proportional representation of minorities in security apparatuses, governance and decision-making bodies at regional and

federal levels, as recommended by Ireland and accepted by Iraq during its recent UPR.

We endorse the recommendations made to the Iraqi Government in the report, particularly those related to accountability, including on accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and we agree that the Human Rights Council must continue to closely follow the human rights situation in Iraq.

We are keen to hear the views of the Office on two questions:

- *First, how the international community help curb the spread of the ideology at the heart of violent extremism?*

- *Second, it is important that women's voices are heard. What are the views of the Office on women's participation in the political dialogue on the crisis in Iraq?*

Thank you