



Statement of Ireland

44th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

6 July 2020

Madam President, [*Mr/Madam Vice-President,*]

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and wishes to add the following.

Ireland warmly welcomes the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, and we thank him for the presentation of his annual report.

The right to freedom of association is a primary safeguard of peace and social justice, and is enshrined as a fundamental right under article 40 of the Irish Constitution.

Special Rapporteur,

We echo your view of the importance of trade unions in protecting the rights of migrant workers, and note your findings that across Europe migrants have lower levels of unionization than native workers.

Encouraging and supporting migrants to become involved in trade unions enables them to engage more meaningfully within their communities and have positive impacts in the countries in which they live. Key to improving this involvement is awareness raising within migrant communities.

Assistance from civil society organisations is crucial in this respect, and we echo your call to create an enabling environment for civil society organisations, including those working on migration and migrants' rights issues. It is unacceptable that migrants, or those working to defend their rights, be targeted for exercising their right to freedom of association.

Madam President,

Ireland would like to ask the Special Rapporteur; *what practical steps can states take to facilitate civil society organisations working on migrants' rights, particularly in supporting migrants to exercise their freedom of association?*

Thank you.