



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

23 September 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

We note with deep regret the Commission's conclusion that the human rights situation has worsened for many Syrians over the past year. Violence has escalated, civilian casualties have increased and tens of thousands of people remain in arbitrary detention or forcibly disappeared. As a result of these ongoing threats to individuals, it is clear that Syria does not yet offer a safe and stable environment for a sustainable and dignified return of refugees.

Across Syria, thousands upon thousands of people, including humanitarian and health workers, are quietly working to help others in circumstances of unimaginable hardship. Attacks on humanitarian workers and on health facilities such as on a makeshift paediatric and maternity hospital in Atareb are unconscionable and must end.

Ireland once more calls for a nationwide ceasefire and urges all parties to work towards a political solution based on the framework set out in Security Council Resolution 2254.

We also reiterate our support for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism and renew our call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

Members of the Commission: How can the international community better protect humanitarian and health workers in Syria?