



Statement of Ireland

53rd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

28 June 2023

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Ireland is deeply concerned by the report's findings that civil society actors are facing increased repression and serious human rights violations for exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

In particular, we note your finding of a trend in States depicting protests and human rights activism as criminal or as a threat to public order. Ireland strongly supports the right to peaceful protest.

Ireland remains strongly committed to the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression and condemns intimidation, threats and violence against peaceful protestors, both online and offline. We echo your call on all States to ensure that national legislation, including national security and public order measures, is fully in line with international human rights law and standards.

Ireland regrets that victims, lawyers and civil society actors, particularly those in vulnerable or marginalised situations, are left without justice or face reprisals when pursuing accountability. As you note, Special Rapporteur, this leads to a culture of impunity. Accountability is crucial for ending the cycle of violence against those advancing human rights globally.

Special Rapporteur, how can States best support capacity-building efforts to identify and address patterns of violations at the national and regional level?

Thank you.