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Statement of Ireland

54th session of the Human Rights Council

ID with Independent Expert on Older Persons

27 June 2023

Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and thanks the Independent Expert for her report; a timely update during this United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing.

We note with concern the report's findings that instances of violence and abuse towards older persons have increased during recent crises, and that age-based discrimination often does not receive the same standard of scrutiny as other forms of discrimination.

A primary goal of Ireland's National Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse is to ensure that the specific issue of elder abuse is addressed. Within Irish legislation, age is included as a specific criterion on which discrimination is prohibited in areas such as employment, provision of goods and services, accommodation and education.

Ireland is committed to creating an age-friendly country and to supporting older people to live independently for as long as possible. Our National Positive Ageing Strategy provides a blueprint for policy-making and service-delivery in partnership with the community and voluntary sector. Our vision is to create 'a society for all ages'; supporting older people to enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, and fostering intergenerational solidarity.

Independent Expert, how can states better take into account the full diversity of older persons in different situations?

Thank you.