

24th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Statement by Ireland on the review of Denmark
21 January 2016

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Denmark and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland commends Denmark for its strong commitment to human rights and notes positive actions such as the publication in 2014 of a National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

We are also pleased to note the establishment of the National Office for Children as part of the Office of the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman in 2012. Ireland **recommends** Denmark to strengthen the mandate of the Office for Children and to guarantee children direct access to a single complaints mechanism and to independent advice and legal assistance for children in a wider range of cases.

Ireland shares the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees regarding the issue of family reunification in Denmark. In particular, Ireland notes with concern the amendments to the Aliens Act which have placed restrictions on family reunification for persons possessing temporary protection status.

Ireland **recommends** that Denmark ensure that persons with temporary protection status have the right to immediately initiate family reunification proceedings, and that the age limit for family reunification for children be raised from 15 to 18.