

**27th session of the Universal Periodic Review
(1-12 May 2017)**

Review of India

Statement of Ireland

4 May 2017

Thank you, Mr. President

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

Ireland appreciates the consultative process used by India in drafting its national report. However we regret the substantial backlogs in reporting to the UN Treaty Bodies and the high number of outstanding visit requests by Special Procedures, some of which date back many years. We encourage India to submit overdue Treaty Body reports as soon as possible; and to accept outstanding visit requests of the Special Procedures, in line with its Standing Invitation.

We appreciate that Indian security forces receive training in human rights as well as in humane methods of security enforcement through programmes developed by the National Human Rights Commission. However we regret that India has not yet implemented accepted recommendations from the 2nd cycle, including ratification of core human rights treaties and other aspects of legal reform. Ireland **recommends** that India implement accepted recommendations to ratify the Convention against Torture as soon as possible; and further to ratify ILO Conventions 138 and 182 concerning child labour and the Optional Protocols to CEDAW and the ICCPR and in that regard to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, as recommended by the Law Commission of India.

We are also concerned at the persistence of discrimination and violence in India. Ireland **recommends** that India intensify its efforts to guarantee equality and non-discrimination, in line with its international obligations, by developing programmes to increase public understanding of human rights and taking concrete measures to advance the rights of women and girls, members of religious minorities, LGBTI persons and to combat caste-based discrimination including to:

- criminalise marital rape
- de-criminalise consensual same-sex relations
- establish appropriate policies and practices, in line with international standards, for registering, investigating and prosecuting violence against women and girls and members of religious minorities.

We urge India to review the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, in light of its negative impact on civil society, and to give specific attention, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, to HRDs working on minority rights in India including Dalits and Adivasis, journalists, women human rights defenders and defenders working on rights of children.

Finally, we appreciate that the overall infant mortality rate has fallen but remains high for certain states and regions. We encourage India to take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider

applying the "Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality of children under 5 years of age" (A/HRC/27/31).

Thank you