



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities: Article 8 of the
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

6 March 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union. Ireland welcomes the distinguished panellists, and thanks the High Commissioner for her report on the important topic of awareness-raising under article 8 of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Ireland is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of all, and has a robust body of anti-discrimination legislation in place which prohibits discrimination on the basis of nine specific grounds, including disability.

However, it is not enough that persons with disabilities are simply not discriminated against. The objectives of the Convention can only be realised through the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

To this end, measures must be taken to create public awareness about persons with disabilities throughout society, in recognition of the vital role that awareness raising can play in combating stereotypes and prejudices, and fostering respect and dignity. This includes awareness raising amongst persons with disabilities and their families. Ireland has recognised this, and has introduced awareness raising measures through various plans which address issues relating to disability.

Ireland's National Disability Strategy aims to encourage meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities, and contains numerous actions related to awareness-raising to this end. Additionally, the Comprehensive Employment Strategy represents a concerted effort to address the barriers and challenges that impact on employment of people with disabilities. The implementation of this Plan emphasises awareness raising among employers as well as training and employment options available to school leavers with disabilities.

Madame Vice-President, What examples of best practice have panellists identified for overcoming negative social attitudes towards persons with disabilities through awareness-raising, and to what extent has this encouraged their effective participation in society?

Thank you.