



**Statement of Ireland**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

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*Urgent Debate*

*Situation of Human Rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian Aggression*

**3 March 2022**

Mr. President,

This Council must act on the violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law being perpetrated across Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

Ireland reaffirms our solidarity with the people of Ukraine and our unequivocal condemnation of Russia's shameful military invasion. It is a clear attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and on the principles of the UN Charter. Russia must be held to account for its actions.

We have to respond to the devastating scenes of the past week: the killing and maiming of civilians through the use of heavy explosive weapons in populated areas; the destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, kindergartens and basic infrastructure; the forcing of over a million people from their homes – displacement which will inevitably put women and girls at particular risk.

Yesterday, Ireland joined a group of concerned States in referring the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court. This Council too must act urgently to ensure accountability at the highest levels. Ireland fully supports the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry, and urges all States to support today's resolution.

We salute the bravery and determination of the Ukrainian people, and those in Russia raising their voices for peace. It is vital the international community stands

united against Russian aggression. Russia must listen to the truth, and immediately withdraw from Ukraine.

Thank you.