



Statement of Ireland

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls on Report on Girls' and Young Women's Activism

16 June 2022

Mr Vice President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Working Group for this comprehensive report.

Ireland is strongly committed to promoting and upholding the rights of girl and young women activists and human rights defenders. Our *National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making* provides mechanisms for children and young people to have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

The Working Group report documents the many intersecting challenges, barriers and threats faced by girls and young women activists. All States and stakeholders must tackle the root causes of these barriers, and must actively work to create a safe and enabling environment for the participation of young women and girls.

Girl and young women activists and human rights defenders bring significant contributions to local issues and global challenges including climate change. Ireland has been inspired by the powerful contribution of youth activists in moving climate change up the agenda of governments globally. Our Government has established a Youth Climate Justice Fund which supports youth-led action on climate justice at community, regional and national level.

Mr Vice President,

The Working Group has noted that activism often begins at school and noted the kind of teaching that supports such civic engagement. Has the Working Group identified any models of best practice in this regard?

Thank you.

[222 words]