

39th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Eswatini

Statement of Ireland – 8 November 2021

Ireland thanks the delegation of Eswatini for its presentation today, and for sharing an update on the progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We welcome advancements in relation to sexual and gender-based violence, including the 2018 Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, but regret that legislative and implementation gaps remain. We encourage progress on adopting legislation in this area, including taking forward legislation to domesticate the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women which is currently under consideration.

We are concerned that freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly remain heavily restricted, including through excessive use of force against protestors.

We are further concerned about the stigmatisation of people living with HIV, despite the Government's commendable efforts to combat discrimination in this area.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to Eswatini:

1. Develop legislation to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including by allowing political parties to register and contest elections.
2. Raise public awareness about the dangers of HIV infection, including the harm associated with the stigmatisation of HIV patients.

We wish Eswatini every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.