

39th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Statement of Ireland

3 November 2021

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made in implementing recommendations from the second cycle of the UPR, including in the establishment of an inter-ministerial mechanism for reporting on and implementing human rights issues.

It is important to take concrete steps towards the realisation of rights of the LGBTI+ community in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We remain concerned that consensual same-sex conduct is illegal, and we encourage Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to engage with its LGBTI+ community, particularly in the areas of access to healthcare, social services and the labour market.

While we welcome the de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 1995, we encourage work towards its complete abolition.

Ireland makes the following recommendations:

1. Take all steps necessary to end discrimination and stigmatisation of LGBTI+ persons, including by amending the Criminal Code to decriminalise consensual same-sex sexual activity.
2. Implement an official moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it.
3. Conduct a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign to increase public understanding of international human rights standards as they pertain to the death penalty.

We wish Saint Vincent and the Grenadines every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.