



**Statement of Ireland**  
**36<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group**

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Review of Malawi

**3 November 2020**

Thank you, Madame President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Malawi and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges Malawi's efforts to advance human rights domestically and welcomes progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We commend Malawi for amending the Constitution to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years, in line with recommendations from the last UPR. Ireland further commends Malawi for the progress made in reducing prison overcrowding through sentencing adjustments and the release of certain prisoners to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Ireland makes the following recommendations:

1. Improve the conditions of pre-trial detainees by amending Section 176 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code to ensure that confessions extracted using torture cannot be admitted in evidence, and to provide detainees with an avenue of redress by establishing an Independent Police Complaints Commission to investigate allegations of maltreatment of detainees.

2. Uphold the principle of non-discrimination by decriminalising consensual same-sex relations, and to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity among the grounds of discrimination prohibited by the Constitution.

We wish Malawi every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.