

## Universal Periodic Review – 21<sup>st</sup> Session

### Statement by Ireland on the review of Grenada

26 January 2015

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

Ireland acknowledges the ongoing efforts of Grenada to combat the negative impact on human rights in the wake of the widespread destruction caused by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, in particular rebuilding of the education sector. Ireland also welcomes enactment of the Juvenile Justice Act in 2012 which would, inter alia, raise the age of criminal responsibility and prohibit corporal punishment of children in the penal system. However, Ireland shares the concerns of the Human Rights Committee with regard to Grenada's failure to submit its initial reports to many of the treaty bodies. Ireland urges Grenada to bring the Juvenile Justice Act 2012 into force and take all possible steps to submit its Treaty Body reports as soon as possible.

Ireland notes that the Government of Grenada has not yet implemented the recommendations accepted during the first UPR cycle on establishing a National Human Rights Institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles. National Human Rights Institutions play a crucial role in promoting and monitoring the effective implementation of international human rights standards at the national level. They can also contribute to effective governance, strong civil society organizations and human rights education programmes. Ireland **recommends** that Grenada establish a National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles without delay.

Finally, Ireland is deeply concerned that the Criminal Code discriminates against LGBTI persons by penalising consensual same-sex relations. Ireland **recommends** that Grenada amend its laws to ensure the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons by including sexual orientation and gender identity as prohibited grounds for discrimination and by decriminalising same-sex relations.

Thank you.