

**Statement of Action Canada for Population and Development – Item 6 – Universal Periodic Review –  
Ireland – Adoption of UPR outcome on Ireland – March 15, 2012  
Delivered by Meghan Doherty**

Madame President,

I make this statement on behalf of the Irish Family Planning Association and the Sexual Rights Initiative<sup>1</sup>.

We welcome the Government's commitment to ensuring the availability and accessibility of contraceptive services and sexuality education without discrimination, including for adolescents. However, we are deeply concerned that the Government rejected all recommendations related to women's reproductive rights.

The recommendations by Slovenia, Spain, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and the UK are fully consistent with the criticisms of Ireland's restrictive regulation of abortion made by the Treaty Monitoring Bodies including the Committee Against Torture in 2011, the Human Rights Committee in 2008 and the CEDAW Committee in 2005. The outright rejection of these recommendations, along with the continued criminalization of women in Ireland who need access to safe abortion, is astonishing in a State that expresses such respect for human rights in its UPR report.

Three of the recommendations addressed the implementation of the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of A, B and C v Ireland.

For Ireland to decline to accept, even partially, any of the six recommendations, even those closest to the Government's assertion in its State Report of firm commitment to the expeditious implementation of the ECHR judgement, is unacceptable and amounts to a considered disregard by the Government of its human rights obligations.

Ireland's rejection of the recommendations of its peers on women's reproductive health rights falls short of the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence that are reaffirmed

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<sup>1</sup> SRI is a coalition of organisations including Action Canada for Population and Development (Canada), Akahata (Argentina), CREA (India), Coalition of African Lesbians (South Africa), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt), Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland).

in the resolution establishing the Human Rights Council and the consequent duty of all States, particularly those seeking election to the Council, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms impartially and non-selectively.

As such, we would like to ask the Irish Government if the expert review group on abortion, as referred to, will be informed by human rights principles.

Thank you.