

Joint special event of the 63rd session of the CND and the 29th session of the CCPCJ

Friday 12 June 2020

Speaking Material

I would like to thank the UNODC for this very timely opportunity to discuss ways to further our collective goal of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, on the 25th anniversary of the adoption the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Ireland supports the work of the CND and CCPCJ in facilitating multilateral collaboration that aims to address the gendered inequities of our societies.

We welcome progress made through both Commissions in meeting commitments aimed at ensuring non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services, and in ensuring women and girls' protection from exploitation through criminal activities, including human trafficking and forced prostitution. We support efforts to ensure the effective prosecution of crimes directed at, or disproportionately affecting women.

It is only through adopting targeted resolutions, setting clear policy commitments and developing programmes and procedures that aim to educate and raise awareness of issues related to gender inequality that we can continue to effect real change.

Ireland is committed to ensuring a gender sensitive approach to drug policy. Our National Drugs Strategy is under pinned by the core values of diversity, respect, compassion, equity, inclusion, partnership and are evidence informed.

We promote multilateral shared learning at both national and international levels, which contributes to the development of interventions to address gender and culture-specific risk factors for women in drug policy. This includes recent engagement with the Pompidou Group, through which Ireland is contributing to the creation of a handbook on implementing a gender approach to drug policy.

The 'lockdown' of recent months, while essential to protect the public health, has had the unfortunate side-effect of restricting the movement of those that may feel unsafe in their own homes. State agencies and the voluntary sector have responded by adapting and increasing their services so they can continue to be available to help and support victims of domestic or sexual abuse.

The resounding, strength, flexibility and cooperation that our services have exhibited in responding to these challenges has not only provided a lifeline for those who have been rendered particularly vulnerable by this crisis, but have also provided us with nuanced policy learnings. These learnings will ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services for women, and allows us to further improve gender-sensitive approaches in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.