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No.	RECOMMENDATION	COUNTRY	IRL RESPONSE	IRELAND FOLLOW UP STATUS
<b>135.1</b>	Ensure the ratification of the recently signed human rights conventions	Romania	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.8, 135.26, 135.35 and 135.40.
<b>135.2</b>	Accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Sierra Leone	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.35 and 135.40.
<b>135.3</b>	Expedite the process that will lead to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Mozambique	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.8, 135.40 and 135.69.
<b>135.4</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Islamic Republic of Iran	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.26 and 135.40.

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<b>135.5</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Georgia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.8, 135.26 and 135.40.
<b>135.6</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Spain	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.7 and 135.40.
<b>135.7</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Portugal	Supported	Ireland remains committed to ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A detailed article by article analysis of ICESCR and OP-ICESCR must be undertaken prior to Government approval being sought for ratification of the Optional Protocol. The possibility of the State making reservations or declarations also requires examination.
<b>135.8</b>	Intensify efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture to further foster the rights of liberty-deprived persons	Croatia	Supported	Ireland is fully committed to ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT). Implementation of this Protocol will require steps by any Government Department that has responsibility for a facility that detains persons on an involuntary basis. The Department of Justice and Equality has lead responsibility within Government for progressing the ratification of OP-CAT, and has consulted with the other affected Departments. On foot of these consultations, it has been determined that changes in legislation are required in order for the relevant Ministers to appoint National Preventive Mechanisms for their respective

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				areas of responsibility. A Bill is being prepared to introduce these changes with a view to enabling the ratification of OP-CAT as soon as possible.
<b>135.9</b>	Take action towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and set up a national prevention mechanism	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.10</b>	Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism meeting the guidelines and requirements as set out in this instrument	Netherlands	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.11</b>	Establish a national preventive mechanism and prompt ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture	Hungary	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.

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135.12	Without further delay, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and initiate the process of establishing a National Preventive Mechanism	Denmark	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
135.13	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol	Bulgaria	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
135.14	Complete as a matter of priority and before its third universal periodic review the process leading to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism without delay	Czech Republic	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.

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<b>135.15</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and set up a national preventive mechanism in the framework of the criteria and safeguards provided by this instrument, as previously recommended	Switzerland	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.16</b>	Conclude swiftly the process of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture	Portugal	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.17</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture	Poland	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.18</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CAT]	Lebanon	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.19</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CAT]	Norway	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.20</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CAT]	Ukraine	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.21</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CAT]	Uruguay	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.22</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CAT]	France	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
<b>135.23</b>	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CAT]	Germany	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.

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135.24	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CAT]	Guatemala	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
135.25	Proceed with the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture	Togo	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.8.
135.26	Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Panama	Supported	Preparations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography are at an advanced stage. The enactment of two key pieces of legislation (Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime Act) 2017, and Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017) removed the main obstacles to ratifying the Optional Protocol. They contain a wide range of provisions that enhance the protection of children and vulnerable persons from sexual abuse and exploitation, and provide improved supports to children. It should be also noted that Ireland launched a new integrated service to provide wraparound support to victims of child sexual abuse, modelled on the Swedish 'Barnahus' structure. An in-depth assessment has been conducted as to how the provisions of the Optional Protocol are being implemented in Irish law and practice. The State is currently working on addressing the remaining minor issues with a view to moving on to formal ratification in the near future.
135.27	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Senegal	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.
135.28	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CRC-SC]	Uruguay	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.
135.29	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CRC-SC]	Andorra	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.

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135.30	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography signed in 2000	Czech Republic	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.
135.31	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CRC-SC]	Finland	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.
135.32	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CRC-SC]	France	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.
135.33	Ratify the Optional Protocol [OP-CRC-SC]	Guatemala	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.
135.34	Proceed with the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Togo	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26.
135.35	Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Morocco	Supported	<p>Ireland intends to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as soon as is practicable. It is likely that new legislation will be required to enable Ireland to fully ratify this convention.</p> <p>Measures already in place, which protect persons against unlawful detention include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 40.4.1 of the Constitution, which provides that no citizen shall be deprived of their liberty save in accordance with law;</li> <li>• Section 15 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997, which provides for an offence of false imprisonment, addressing circumstances where a person is taken or detained, or whose personal liberty is restricted by another person without the consent of the person involved. A person guilty of false imprisonment is liable, on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for up to life. Consent is deemed to be absent where the</li> </ul>

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				person responsible obtains the other's consent by force or threat of force, or by deception causing the other to believe that he or she is under legal compulsion to consent.
<b>135.36</b>	Become a State party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Slovakia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.35.
<b>135.37</b>	Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	France	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.35.
<b>135.38</b>	Ratify the Convention [ICPPED]	Ghana	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.35.
<b>135.39</b>	Proceed with the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Togo	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.35.
<b>135.40</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Pakistan	Supported	Ireland signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) when it opened for signature on the 30 <sup>th</sup> of March 2007 and ratified it on the 20 <sup>th</sup> of March 2018. The Convention came into force in Ireland on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of April 2018. Ongoing progress and implementation is monitored internally through the structures in place to support the implementation of the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021, which was published on the 14 <sup>th</sup> of July 2017. The Department of Justice and Equality has been designated as National Focal Point under Article 33 of the Convention and is working with Government Departments and Agencies to support them to implement the obligations which arise for them under the Convention. The monitoring framework includes both the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the National Disability Authority. Ireland is currently

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				preparing its initial State Report under Article 35 of the CRPD for submission in summer 2020.
<b>135.41</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Israel	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.42</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Montenegro	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.43</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Ireland signed on 29 March 2007	New Zealand	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.44</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Ghana	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.45</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Poland	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.46</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Sudan	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.47</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Ukraine	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.48</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Uruguay	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.49</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Bulgaria	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.50</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	France	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.51</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Guatemala	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.52</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Italy	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.53</b>	Ratify the Convention [CRPD]	Brazil	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.

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135.54	Become a State party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Slovakia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
135.55	Step up its efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Republic of Korea	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
135.56	Ratify promptly the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Australia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
135.57	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible	China	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
135.58	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities without further delay	Germany	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
135.59	Pass the necessary legislation as soon as possible to enable the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Hungary	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
135.60	Accelerate the process towards ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Philippines	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.

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<b>135.61</b>	Take concrete steps to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and effectively implement policies and programmes to ensure the full enjoyment of all related rights	Canada	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendations 135.40 and 135.65.
<b>135.62</b>	Continue the efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Iraq	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.63</b>	Finalise the consideration to become a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Malaysia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.64</b>	Continue making progress towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
<b>135.65</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and prioritize measures to further strengthen the existing framework, including to increase the meaningful participation of the persons with disabilities in policy making	Indonesia	Supported	<p>Legislation to support the implementation in Ireland of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is now being finalised. The legislation being advanced will include provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguard persons with capacity difficulties who are deprived of their liberty;</li> <li>• Reform the Mental Health Act 2001;</li> <li>• Increase the target for employment of people with disabilities in the public service to 6%;</li> <li>• Improve access for people with disabilities to jury service;</li> <li>• Improve protections for people with disabilities against hate crime as well as hate speech; and</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove outdated references to 'persons of unsound mind' from the Statute Book.</li> </ul> <p>The meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in policy making is being advanced through a new participation model, the development of which was approved by Government in January 2020. This will include support for capacity building and the establishment of policy consultation networks nationwide for persons with disabilities. The Department of Justice and Equality is leading the development of this model.</p> <p>As to the section of this recommendation concerning ratifying the CRPD, this is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.</p>
<b>135.66</b>	Accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while bringing the Mental Health Act 2001 into line with the provisions of this Convention	Qatar	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.40 and 135.65.
<b>135.67</b>	Continue to address outstanding barriers to ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including legislative changes that need to be undertaken in view of enabling ratification	State of Palestine	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendations 135.40 and 135.65.

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<b>135.68</b>	Expedite the necessary legislative reforms and set a concrete timeline towards ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Thailand	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendations 135.40 and 135.65.
<b>135.69</b>	Proceed with the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol	Togo	Supported	<p>With respect to the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), this recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.</p> <p>With respect to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRPD; at the time of ratifying the CRPD, Ireland indicated its intention to ratify the Optional Protocol as soon as possible following completion of Ireland's first reporting cycle under the convention. This remains the position.</p>
<b>135.70</b>	Accelerate the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities, and to further improve their role in the society	Croatia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendations 135.40 and 135.65.
<b>135.71</b>	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	Portugal	Supported	The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) was ratified by Ireland on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of March 2019, International Women’s Day, and came into force in Ireland on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2019.

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<b>135.72</b>	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	Andorra	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>135.73</b>	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	Italy	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>135.74</b>	Finalize the ratification process of the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	Turkey	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>135.75</b>	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in a timely manner	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>135.76</b>	Strengthen human rights education plans oriented towards women’s rights, rights of the child and freedom of religion	Panama	Supported	<p>Within the education system in Ireland, human rights issues are addressed at pre-school, primary and post-primary levels, and there are human rights programmes in a number of third-level education institutions.</p> <p>At primary level, human rights feature in a range of contexts across the curriculum, which is taught in an integrated way. At this level the most relevant curriculum subject is Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE). “Developing Citizenship” is a core element of this mandatory subject, from infant classes through to completion of primary education.</p>

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			<p>At post-primary level, knowledge of human rights can also be developed in a range of contexts across the curriculum. Most commonly it features in SPHE, History, Geography, Business Studies and Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE). CSPE and SPHE are part of the core curriculum in lower secondary post-primary schools (junior cycle). They are studied as part of the Wellbeing area of learning. A new short course in CSPE was made available to schools in September 2014. This course aims to inform, inspire, empower and enable young people to participate as active citizens in contemporary society at local, national and global levels, based on an understanding of human rights and social responsibilities. A new optional subject for senior cycle, Politics and Society, was introduced in 2016. Politics and Society aims to develop the learner’s capacity to engage in reflective and active citizenship, informed by the insights of social and political sciences.</p> <p>Within higher education, a wide range of programmes that pertain to human rights is provided. While the study of human rights forms an important component of courses in law, politics, and international relations, it also features in courses across a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, health sciences, education, and gender studies. There are two dedicated research centres for human rights in Ireland: the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights at University College Cork, and the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway, in addition to which a number of centres in Irish higher education institutions have a strong human rights focus, including Trinity College Dublin’s Centre for Post-Conflict Justice and University College Dublin’s Equality Studies Centre.</p> <p>Human rights education is also provided to public officials to support them to carry out the public sector equality and human rights duty placed on all public bodies by Section 42 of the <i>Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014</i>. This measure – commonly known as the Public Sector Duty - places a statutory obligation on public bodies to have regard to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and protecting the human rights of persons to whom they provide services and staff when carrying out their daily work.</p>	

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			<p>The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) has a role in promoting the implementation of the public sector duty and carries out an extensive programme of action in this regard, including the provision of education and training for public officials. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IHREC conducted four information sessions on the Public Sector Duty with public bodies and civil society in 2019; three in Dublin and one in Tralee.</li> <li>• In partnership with the Local Government Management Agency, IHREC conducted a training workshop focused on the Public Sector Duty in March 2019 with equality officers, disability access officers and social inclusion officers within all Local Authorities.</li> <li>• IHREC led six pilot projects on the implementation of the Public Sector Duty in public bodies across different sectors, which were completed during 2018. These six pilot projects were carried out with: Cork City Council; Monaghan County Council; the Irish Prison Service; University College Cork; the Probation Service; and Community Action Network.</li> <li>• Equality and human rights awareness training was delivered by IHREC to 27 newly recruited Immigration Officers in Dublin Airport in April 2018 and to 25 staff from the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) in November 2018, as part of training for the Public Sector Duty committed to by the Department of Justice and Equality.</li> <li>• IHREC runs a bursary scheme for prospective students of the Professional Diploma in Human Rights and Equality. This diploma seeks to give public servants and others a better understanding of the place that human rights and equality occupy in public management and administration. It is a one-year, part-time programme that has been developed by the IHREC in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration and is accredited by the National University of Ireland.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission further supports the implementation of the Public Sector Duty and education and training on human rights and equality more generally, through its annual Human Rights and Equality Grants Scheme.</p>	

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135.77	Continue implementing human rights education towards children and women’s rights	Timor-Leste	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.76
135.78	Further continue the implementation of human rights education towards women and children’s rights	Greece	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.76
135.79	Provide effective human rights education and training for enforcement officials, including prison guards, and take appropriate actions against human rights violations committed by public actors	Malaysia	Supported	<p>The Government of Ireland aims to ensure that all public officials are aware of their obligations under various human rights instruments. Human rights training is provided to public officials including members of An Garda Síochána, members of the Defence Forces and custodial personnel working in the Irish Prison Service.</p> <p>The Irish Defence Forces provide on-going human rights training at United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) in the Defence Forces Training Centre both for members of the Defence Forces and for participants from armed forces abroad. Training is also provided through UNTSI to Gardaí, civil servants, humanitarian actors, students and academics. The overall training package is based on the programme provided by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.</p> <p>Since 2007, all Recruit Prison Officers (RPOs) in the Irish Prison Service undertake the Higher Certificate of Arts in Custodial Care (HCCC) which is a bespoke 2-year Level 6 qualification designed, developed and delivered by the Irish Prison Service and its academic partner, currently Waterford Institute of Technology. There are currently over 900 staff who have completed or are undertaking the HCCC. The HCCC places significant emphasis on the place of human rights in the custodial environment. Human rights is the frame through which the programme is developed: during semester 1, RPOs are introduced to the human rights framework.</p> <p>Human rights is a key element of the training provided to Garda (police) trainees, probationers, members and staff. All Garda policies are human rights screened. An Garda</p>

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				<p>Síochána (National Police Force) has a dedicated office to engage with minority communities and there are currently over 200 Ethnic Liaison/LGBT Officers across the country.</p> <p>Personnel in Revenue’s customs area are provided with a customs training programme that includes a module in human rights and equality. This training was developed in consultation with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. The training includes a conceptual understanding of human rights and equality, the domestic legal framework for the protection of human rights and equality – including the public sector duty, and Ireland’s obligations under international human rights conventions.</p> <p>Further information on human rights training for public officials is included in the response to recommendation 135.76.</p>
135.80	Continue human rights education programmes, including in relation to the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity through the studies of those crimes committed in the past	Armenia	Supported	The Department of Education and Skills works with the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland (HETI) and has provided funding to it over a number of years. In 2019, funding totalling €156,829 was provided for courses designed to create a greater awareness of the Holocaust among teachers and to give them a grasp of its enormity. An understanding of the Holocaust and reflection on its consequences prompts discussion on combating racism and intolerance. The funding received by HETI contributes to a number of school programmes, outreach initiatives and also includes a certificate qualification.
135.81	Implement public awareness campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity	United Arab Emirates	Supported	<p>The Government of Ireland is committed to promoting policies that integrate minority ethnic groups in Ireland, and that promote social inclusion, equality, diversity and the participation of immigrants in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their communities. A significant level of activity is taking place in pursuit of this commitment, which is given expression through the National Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020, a whole-of-government framework of action to support integration.</p> <p>Recent publicly funded examples of awareness campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity in Ireland include:</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2017, Dublin Bus conducted a public awareness campaign to highlight the importance of leaving wheelchair zones on Dublin’s buses free for people with disabilities;</li> <li>Transport for Ireland and the Immigrant Council of Ireland conducted an anti-racism campaign on public transport in August 2019;</li> <li>In 2020, Dublin Bus carried out a campaign to highlight their support for people with disabilities who use their services.</li> </ul>
<b>135.82</b>	Submit its two overdue reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Sierra Leone	Supported	Ireland submitted its Combined 5th to 9th State Report to the UNCERD Committee in October 2018. Ireland was examined by the UNCERD Committee on 2-3 December 2019. Ireland’s delegation was led by the Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, and included senior officials from a range of Government Departments responsible for meeting key obligations under the Convention.
<b>135.83</b>	Amend the provisions of the Law on the Ombudsman for Children, that impedes the Ombudsman from investigating the claims of children that find themselves in a situation of irregular migration	Honduras	Supported	Since 2017, children in State provided Asylum Seeker Accommodation Centres (Direct Provision) have equal access to the Ombudsman for Children’s Office (OCO). This enables the OCO to deal with complaints made by or on behalf of children living in Direct Provision about administrative actions relating to internal and external supports and services provided in Direct Provision centres (e.g. accommodation, child protection, transfer policy). Ireland is currently reviewing its policy on the remit of the Ombudsman for Children as it relates to children who find themselves in a situation of irregular migration.
<b>135.84</b>	Provide the Child and Family Agency with adequate resources to be able to meet its targets and effectively implement the Children First Act	Slovakia	Supported	In 2020, Tusla, the Child and Family Agency was allocated a budget of €814 million to provide child protection and welfare services to vulnerable children and their families, an increase of 4% over 2019. Additional funding provided to Tusla in 2020 will allow the agency to meet increasing demand for existing services and continue to improve overall service performance.

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<b>135.85</b>	Continue implementing the National Strategy on Children and Young People’s participation in Decision-making 2015-2020	Sudan	Supported	<p>The third Annual Report on the National Strategy on Children and Young People’s Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020 was published in 2019. According to the Report, which charts progress to date on meeting the commitments in the Strategy, all Government Departments and Agencies are actively progressing agreed actions, with 93% of the agreed actions reaching completion or in progress. Achievements to date under this strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations with children and young people on important issues such as standards at the Oberstown Children's Detention Centre;</li> <li>• Training developed and delivered in collaboration with Sport Ireland for five national sporting bodies and organisations;</li> <li>• Work with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) to develop participation methods for use in their inspection processes;</li> <li>• Appointment of the Arts Council for Creative Associates to support the Creative School initiative.</li> </ul>
<b>135.86</b>	Put an end to corporal punishment in all settings	Honduras	Supported	<p>The Children First Act 2015 was enacted on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 and commenced in full on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. This legislation removes the defence of reasonable chastisement in relation to corporal punishment. This means that in prosecutions relating to assault or physical cruelty, a person who administers such punishment to a child cannot rely on the defence of reasonable chastisement in the legal proceedings. The result of this is that the protections in law relating to assault now apply to a child in the same way as they do to an adult. The use of corporal punishment is also specifically prohibited in all foster care and child care residential settings.</p>
<b>135.87</b>	Guarantee the closure of the Saint Patrick’s Institution and the effective implementation of the Children (Amendment) Act of 2015 and the Prisons Act of 2015	Israel	Supported	<p>The practice of detaining children in Saint Patrick’s Institution ended in 2017 following Government investment in the development of facilities in Oberstown Children Detention Campus. All children remanded or detained by the Irish Courts are now accommodated on the Campus. Saint Patrick’s Institution closed in April 2017.</p>

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<b>135.88</b>	Eliminate all exceptions permitting the marriage of minors under 18	Honduras	Supported	<p>The Domestic Violence Act 2018 repealed the legislative provisions that enabled persons under the age of 18 to marry. The whole Act came into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019. Section 45 of the Domestic Violence Act 2018 repealed the provisions of the Family Law Act 1995 which enabled persons under the age of 18 to apply to court for an exemption from the requirement that both parties to a marriage must be aged 18 or over. Section 49 of the Domestic Violence Act amended the Civil Registration Act 2004 to make it an absolute impediment to marriage that a party to the intended marriage is under the age of 18 years. As a result of these legislative changes, it is no longer possible for a person under the age of 18 to marry in Ireland.</p>
<b>135.89</b>	Remove all exceptions that allow marriage under the age of 18 years	Egypt	Supported	<p>This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.88.</p>
<b>135.90</b>	Ensure that the rights of the child are fully respected in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular its article 20 when deciding on appointment of a guardian or trustee	Latvia	Supported	<p>Alternative care in Ireland takes place in the context of the explicit statement of the child’s natural and imprescriptible rights, and the State’s obligation to protect and vindicate those rights, set out in Article 42A of the Constitution. This article also requires that in all proceedings relating to care, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.</p> <p>The Child Care Act 1991 (as amended) provides the legislative basis for alternative care, in tandem with the Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations, 1995, the Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995, and the Child Care (Placement of Children with Relatives) Regulations, 1995.</p> <p>The Child and Family Agency, Tusla, is responsible for child protection in Ireland. Under the 1991 Act, Tusla is required “to promote the welfare of children who are not receiving adequate care and protection.” In carrying out this function, Tusla is required to regard the welfare of the child as its first and paramount consideration (having regard to the rights and duties of parents, whether under the Constitution or otherwise).</p> <p>The regulations governing foster care, relative foster care and residential care require that a care plan for each child be drawn up, setting out, among other things, the support to be</p>

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			<p>provided to the child, and (where appropriate) the arrangements for access visits between the child and their family members. The regulations also require that each child be visited on a regular basis by an authorised person – in practice, a qualified social worker – in line with the provisions of this care plan. As of the end of September 2019, 92% of children in care had an allocated social worker while 472 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker.</p> <p>The great majority of children in the care of the State in Ireland are placed in either general foster care (that is, placed with an approved foster carer who does not have a pre-existing relationship with the child) or relative foster care. At the end of September 2019, 3,921 children were in general foster care (66% of all children in the care of the State) while a further 1,553 were in relative foster care (26%). In making the decision to place a child with a foster carer, Tusla has regard to the capacity of the carer to provide a safe and appropriate placement for that child, including their commitment to preserving the child’s ethnic and cultural identity. The guiding rule is that the placement should be in the child’s best interests.</p> <p>When a child arrives into Ireland without their parents or customary care providers, the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service and the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) at the airports or seaports, or the Office of the Refugee Commissioner, contacts Tusla’s dedicated Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum and the children are placed in the care of the State. Where children arrive out of hours, Tusla’s out of hours social work service is contacted.</p> <p>Each separated child is allocated a social worker, who is responsible for the development and implementation of an individualised statutory care plan for the child. They also supervise the standard of the child’s placement and provide services and support to meet the child’s needs.</p>	

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135.91	Continue to take actions to address the issue of gender pay gap, improve the access to decent work for marginalized women, and ensure adequate social protection system for women in vulnerable situations	Malaysia	Supported	<p>The Employment Equality Acts 1998–2015 outlaw discrimination in a wide range of employment and employment-related areas. These include recruitment and promotion; equal pay; working conditions; training or experience; dismissal; and harassment including sexual harassment. The legislation defines discrimination as treating one person in a less favourable way than another person based on any of nine grounds. Gender is one of the grounds.</p> <p>The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, through its Employment Rights Policy Unit, continuously monitors existing employment rights legislation to ensure that it continues to be relevant and fit for purpose and is updated to reflect international developments at European Union, European Court of Justice, and International Labour Organisation level.</p> <p>The Government published the Gender Pay Gap (Information) Bill 2019 in April 2019. If enacted, it would ultimately require companies with more than 50 employees to publish data on the gender pay gap in their companies. Dáil Éireann (lower house of parliament) was dissolved for the general election on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.</p>
135.92	Continue to make efforts to ensure women’s participation in political life and in decision-making	Pakistan	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.93.
135.93	Adopt effective measures to increase the representation of women in the public and private sectors, especially in decision-making posts	Panama	Supported	<p><u>Elected Office</u></p> <p>Provisions to encourage the selection of a greater number of women candidates in general elections were introduced in the Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012. Section 42 of that Act provided that qualified political parties will face a reduction of half of their State funding under the Electoral Acts if they do not have at least 30% women and 30% men candidates at the next Dáil Éireann (lower house of Parliament) general election – the election in question took place in February 2016. This will then rise to 40% after 7 years.</p>

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				<p>The National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020 commits the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) to work with Local Authorities, the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and political parties to promote and assist women candidates, including examining the supports needed to promote the participation of women in local government elections.</p> <p>In this connection, DHPLG opened two incentive schemes for political parties and independent women candidates. The first was a scheme incentivising political parties based on their performance in terms of the gender balance of their candidates in the 2019 local elections. The second was to support independent women candidates in the 2019 local elections by making a once-off payment towards the costs they incurred in running for election.</p> <p>The Department also funds a number of initiatives which support and build the capacity of women interested in entering local government, including targeted support in rural areas where the participation of women is low. The Department also funded a research project immediately after the 2019 local elections to increase understanding of the factors impacting on women’s access to local government.</p> <p>The May 2019 local elections saw an increase in the number of women elected to Local Councils to 24%. This is the highest percentage of women elected to Council seats in the history of the State.</p> <p><u>Public Sector</u></p> <p>There is a long-standing Government objective to achieve at least 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards. In July 2018, the 40% target was met for the first time in respect of average board membership, when women held 40.7% of the membership of State Boards. By December 2018, the average gender balance across all State Boards stood at 41.5% female and 58.5% male members.</p>

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			<p>The 30% Club is a collaborative business-led effort aiming towards 30% female representation in senior management by 2020. The 30% Club Ireland officially launched in January 2015, with a goal to achieve better gender balance at all levels in leading Irish businesses. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, the Government agreed to establish a Public Sector Network within the 30% Club Ireland. The network offers opportunities to promote greater gender balance within public sector senior leadership, in addition to sharing good practice between the public and private sectors on promoting women in leadership.</p> <p><u>Private Sector</u></p> <p>In July 2018, the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) launched the ‘<i>Balance for Better Business</i>’ initiative. This is an independent business-led Review Group, established by the Government to improve gender balance in senior business leadership in Ireland.</p> <p>The Review Group has set progressive targets over a 5-year period for the achievement of gender balance on the boards of Irish registered companies listed on the Stock Exchange. Targets were set of 33% female directors for ISEQ 20 companies by 2023, and 25% for all other Irish listed companies. They also set a target that no company traded on the Euronext Dublin markets should have an all-male board. In its first report, the Review Group found that the overall percentage of women on Irish publicly listed boards had increased in the previous year from 14% to 16.4% and two ISEQ 20 companies appointed women to their boards for the first time.</p> <p>The Review Group’s second report was published in December 2019, with progress shown and additional interim targets set. Data from March 2020 shows that the percentage of women on ISEQ 20 companies reached 26.3%, ahead of target and narrowed the gap with EU peers. The data also showed that the percentage of boards with three or more women increased from 25% to 32%. The Review Group will address the issue of gender balance on other boards and in senior management in its future work.</p>	

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135.94	Scale up effective measures to further increase women’s representation and their meaningful participation in decision-making level in the public and private sectors	Indonesia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.93.
135.95	Take all measures to effectively combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women	France	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71 .
135.96	Strengthen measures to combat domestic and sexual violence against women	India	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
135.97	Strengthen efforts to combat and prevent domestic and sexual violence against women	Azerbaijan	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation135.71.
135.98	Undertake the necessary steps to strengthen its response to domestic violence as recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Thailand	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation135.71.
135.99	Speed up the process of approval of the new Domestic Violence Bill	Israel	Supported	Reference is made in the response to recommendation 135.71.

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<b>135.100</b>	Continue efforts to finalize and then, of course, adopt a Domestic Violence Act	Maldives	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>135.101</b>	Introduce a domestic violence bill to address domestic and sexual violence against women	Ghana	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>135.102</b>	Adopt and implement the Domestic Violence Bill	Republic of Moldova	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>135.103</b>	Renew the national plan of action against racism or elaborate a new one, always in collaboration with civil society	Spain	Supported	<p>Ireland has a strong legislative framework protecting people from discrimination on nine specified grounds, including race (encompassing nationality and ethnicity), religion, and membership of the Traveller community.</p> <p><u>Legal protections from racial discrimination in Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Employment Equality Acts (1998-2015) prohibit discrimination in the work place, including in the areas of recruitment and promotion, equal pay, working conditions, training or experience, dismissal and harassment.</li> <li>• The Equal Status Acts (2000-2018) prohibit discrimination in the provision of goods and services, accommodation and education.</li> <li>• The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 includes a positive human rights and equality duty for all public bodies to take steps to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services and protect the human rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services.</li> </ul> <p><u>Policy responses</u></p> <p>In the interest of improving the integration of minorities in Ireland, the Government developed a National Migrant Integration Strategy (2017-2020). This strategy contains 76 specific actions for Government Departments, Local Authorities, and other public bodies across a range of public policy and service provision areas including: Promoting Intercultural</p>

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				<p>Awareness and Combating Racism and Xenophobia; Education; Access to Public Services and Social Inclusion; Employment and Pathways to work; and Active Citizenship.</p> <p>The anti-racism measures in this Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-racism and intercultural awareness training for staff of Government Departments and Agencies;</li> <li>• Increased migrant representation on Joint-Policing Committees;</li> <li>• The early removal of racist graffiti;</li> <li>• The provision of funding by the Department of Justice and Equality for anti-racism projects;</li> </ul> <p>In order to further strengthen the Government’s approach to combating racism, a new Anti-Racism Committee was announced in 2019, with a mandate to review current evidence and practice and make recommendations to Government on how best to strengthen its approach to tackling racism. The new Committee is to be chaired by Professor Caroline Fennell, Professor of Law at University College Cork and a member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.</p>
<b>135.104</b>	Reinforce the policies for the protection against racism, renewing the National Action Plan against Racism (2005-2008)	Holy See	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
<b>135.105</b>	Conduct more active policy against racial discrimination, including putting in place a robust mechanism against racism	Kyrgyzstan	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.

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135.106	Put in place a robust mechanism in order to put an end to racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance, especially against Muslim people and people of African origin	Islamic Republic of Iran	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
135.107	Establish a robust mechanism to monitor all incidents of racism and implement measures to combat them more effectively	Cuba	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
135.108	Continue to deepen awareness-raising measures against racism and xenophobia, particularly with regard to migrants and refugees	Argentina	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
135.109	Combat racism and all forms of discrimination through education and awareness-raising initiatives and follow-up to cases of racism at the national level	Plurinational State of Bolivia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
135.111	Pursue efforts to combat racism	Morocco	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
135.112	Continue its efforts to combat racism and xenophobia incidents	Lebanon	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.

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135.113	Ensure the full implementation of its national legislation, with a view to combating racism and xenophobia	Romania	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
135.114	Have further legal procedures to combat racial discrimination and develop a plan to combat racism, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child	Bahrain	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.26 .
135.115	Combat hate speech and prosecute perpetrators of xenophobic acts	Pakistan	Supported	<p>Certain forms of hate speech are already a criminal offence in Ireland under the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989. That Act prohibits threatening, abusive or insulting conduct that is intended or likely to stir up hatred against a group of persons on account of their race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins, membership of the travelling community or sexual orientation.</p> <p>The Government has acknowledged the limitations of the current framework, and proposals for new legislation will shortly be brought forward. The Department of Justice and Equality ran a public consultation on incitement to hatred in late 2019 and early 2020, to gather the views of stakeholders, experts and the public on how our laws should deal with those who actively seek to promote and encourage hatred and prejudice against vulnerable groups. The Department is currently analysing the approximately 3,700 responses it received, as well as other relevant law, to ensure that any legislative proposals made are evidence-based, proportionate and effective, while respecting freedom of expression.</p> <p>The Government is also currently developing new legislation to deal effectively with hate crime as hate crimes in Ireland are prosecuted under the wider criminal law, with the hate motive being one of a range of aggravating factors a judge can take into account at sentencing for any criminal offence.</p>

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				<p>With a view to ensuring that new legislation on hate crime is as robust and effective as possible, the Department of Justice and Equality has recently completed a research project examining the effectiveness of different legislative approaches to tackling hate crime in other countries. This research will allow the Government to learn from experience elsewhere and to identify the approach that will work best in Ireland.</p> <p>The Government intends to bring forward proposals for new hate crime legislation later this year.</p>
135.116	Ensure accountability for hate crimes	Israel	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.115.
135.117	Take measures to eliminate racial discrimination and combat hate crime	China	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.115.
135.118	Strengthen measures to counter the use of racial discrimination and Islamophobia discourse in politics and in the media	United Arab Emirates	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.103.
135.119	Take further steps to address discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in access to goods, employment and services, including healthcare	Denmark	Supported	<p>Ireland has robust equality legislation in place to counter discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender. Legislation defines discrimination as treating one person in a less favourable way than another person on nine grounds, including sexual orientation and gender. The Employment Equality Acts 1998–2015 and the Equal Status Acts 2000–2015 outlaw discrimination in employment, vocational training, advertising, collective agreements, and the provision of goods and services. Specifically, goods and services include professional or trade services; health services; access to accommodation and education; facilities for banking; transport and cultural activities.</p> <p><u><a href="#">National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy (2019-2021)</a></u></p>

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			<p>In 2019, the Government adopted a National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy (2019-2021). The strategy has as one of its principal aims to ensure that LGBTI+ people are treated equally in regards to access to goods, employment and services. For example, the Strategy commits to ensuring LGBTI+ people can fully and equally avail of mainstream health services. It seeks to eliminate barriers that may currently prevent LGBTI+ people from accessing health and social services as well as actions to promote the visibility and inclusion of LGBTI+ people in public life, in society and in the workplace.</p> <p><u>LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy</u></p> <p>Ireland has also taken important steps in recent years to ensure the wellbeing of its LGBTI+ young people. In June 2018, the Government launched the world's first LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy, delivering on a commitment in the Programme for a Partnership Government. The Strategy, informed by the views of thousands of young people and those who campaign on their behalf, recognises that young LGBTI+ people can flourish when they have consistently positive interactions with those around them and supportive experiences in the services with which they most engage. The goals pursued in the Strategy are the creation of a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for LGBTI+ young people, improving their physical, mental and sexual health, and further developing the research and data environment to better understand their lives.</p> <p>Capacity building through professional development training for teachers, social workers, police and service providers, and awareness-raising for young people, parents, teachers, youth workers and health workers through online initiatives in health, education and youth services have featured strongly in the initial phase of implementation of the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy, with the first progress report published in October 2019.</p>	
135.120	Investigate all cases of abuse of office by the officials of the penitentiary institutions	Russian Federation	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.122.

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135.121	Continue with its efforts to bring incarceration facilities into line with international standards, especially regarding overcrowding, cell sanitation and the separation of young prisoners	Holy See	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.122.
135.122	Improve prison conditions, including addressing overcrowding; investigate all cases of torture and ill-treatment by prison staff in an impartial manner and prosecute those responsible	Azerbaijan	Supported	<p>Ireland strives to ensure that conditions of detention for all prisoners, either physical or regime, conform to international standards including those instruments set out by the United Nations as a minimum. The single most pressing objective of the Irish Prison Service (IPS) modernisation in recent years has been the need to ensure appropriate in-cell sanitation throughout the estate, and to cease the practice of “slopping out” in prisons without in-cell toilets. Furthermore, an objective of the IPS Capital Strategy 2016-2021 is to ensure the IPS has in place facilities that support effective care and rehabilitation of our prisoners.</p> <p>In recent years, the IPS has undertaken several measures to address overcrowding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IPS has opened a new prison in Cork which provides in-cell sanitation to all inmates;</li> <li>• Reconstruction of Limerick Prison, which includes a new male block and a new female facility is currently in progress;</li> <li>• Overall, the IPS has introduced a net increase of 188 beds across the prison estate since 2016.</li> </ul> <p>The training of prison service staff in Ireland places a large emphasis on human rights and appropriate behaviour towards prisoners. All recruit Prison Officers complete an accredited two year programme leading to a qualification of Higher Certificate in Custodial Care. In addition, staff are made aware that any form of ill-treatment of prisoners, including verbal abuse, is not tolerated. All allegations of ill-treatment are thoroughly investigated and if warranted, disciplinary measures against staff follow.</p>

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<p>In 2019, the Director General of the Irish Prison Service issued disciplinary guidelines to all staff in relation to the standards expected of prison service personnel and the sanctions which may be applied where staff fall below the acceptable standard. The objective of issuing these guidelines was threefold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increased awareness by all of the importance of following IPS policy, protocol and procedure;</li> <li>• Clarity regarding the steps that will be taken if policy, protocol and procedure are not followed;</li> <li>• An improved standard of behaviour within that small group of staff who continue to engage in rule-breaking behaviour / active breaches of policy, protocol and procedure.</li> </ul> <p>A new Code of Ethics for the Irish Prison Service is currently being developed.</p>				
<b>135.123</b>	Continue to improve the living conditions and the treatment of detainees and address prison overcrowding	China	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.122.
<b>135.124</b>	Adopt the necessary measures to ensure the reduction of overcrowding and the improvement of prison conditions	Cuba	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.122.
<b>135.125</b>	Ensure complete separation of remand and sentenced prisoners, juvenile and adult prisoners and detained immigrants	Egypt	Supported	The Irish Prison Service Capital Strategy 2016-2021 includes a commitment to provide separate accommodation and facilities for sentenced prisoners and persons detained on remand. However, the number of persons being committed to custody on remand has been increasing since 2015. Furthermore, there has been a rise in the number of persons being held on remand for serious offences, including homicide, organised crime, drugs and sexual offences. The serious nature of these offences results in longer remand periods, requiring remand prisoners to be spread across the prison estate. Prisoners on remand have different

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				<p>entitlements to prisoners under sentence, and prison staff across the estate are required to manage these entitlements accordingly.</p> <p>The detention of children in the adult prison system ceased in 2017. All juveniles (under 18) are now separately detained under the remit of the Department of Children and Youth affairs.</p> <p>For persons held on immigration related matters the main legislative provisions are the Immigration Acts 1999, 2003 and 2004, their associated regulations, the Illegal Immigrants Trafficking Act 2000 and the Refugee Act 1996.</p> <p>The Garda National Immigration Bureau, which has responsibility for removals from the State of non-Irish nationals, makes every effort to keep the period of detention to a minimum and to return the person concerned on the next available flight. In general, detention is used sparingly in relation to immigration related matters. Where possible, persons are served with a notice under section 14 of the Immigration Act 2004, which provides for the issue of a written instruction setting out reporting and residence conditions to a non-Irish national who does not have permission to be in the State. This is used in certain low risk cases as an alternative to detention prior to return. Persons held on immigration related matters, including those with deportation orders are, unless the subject of a conviction, in general kept apart from convicted persons while in detention. They are treated the same as remand prisoners and are subject to the same regime and receive the same privileges as this grouping.</p> <p>A new dedicated immigration detention facility at Dublin Airport is due to be opened, thus reducing the need for immigrants to be detained in prisons.</p>
135.126	Continue its efforts, at national and international levels, towards the protection and promotion of the civil society space	Armenia	Supported	<p><u>National</u> Ireland has a strong track record of fruitful partnership between State and civil society actors. Community and voluntary sector organisations are closely involved in the design and delivery of essential services at national and local levels. Public authorities also consult</p>

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				<p>extensively with civil society stakeholders in the development of new policies and programmes, leading to better and more responsive policymaking and programme design.</p> <p>Significant government funding is also provided to civil society bodies by many Government Departments and other public authorities. This includes funding programmes focussed on specific strategic objectives, such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), led by the Department of Rural and Community Development. SICAP works to reduce poverty and social exclusion. Co-funded by the European Union, this programme is worth an estimated €190 million over the period 2018 to 2022. The Department of Justice and Equality also makes extensive annual and multi-annual funding available to civil society organisations for a wide range of integration, equality and inclusion programmes. These include specific funding schemes for community integration; Traveller and Roma inclusion and positive actions for gender equality. Support under such schemes amounted to approximately €10 million in 2019, including approximately €3 million in European Union funding. Government funding for civil society also includes ‘core’ funding programmes such as the Department of Rural and Community Development’s Scheme to Support National Organisations (€18.5 million over the period 2019 to 2022). This support recognises the importance of a vibrant community and voluntary sector, both in terms of service provision and independent advocacy and contribution to pluralism in public debate.</p> <p>Statutory changes have also been made to support the engagement of civil society in policymaking at the local level. In 2014, the Local Government Act was amended to introduce Public Participation Networks (PPNs). These are networks that connect local government with civil society community groups in all areas of the country. Since their introduction, the PPNs have made an important contribution to the protection and promotion of civil society space. They provide an effective mechanism for civil society, inclusion, representation and involvement in local government decision making. PPNs operating in every local authority functional area promote citizen engagement and cooperation.</p> <p><i>Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities</i> is a five-year Government Strategy for supporting the community and voluntary sector in Ireland over the period 2019 to 2024.</p>

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				<p>This strategy sets out how Government will support the community and voluntary sector in the years to come and aims to provide communities with both the means and opportunity to be involved in decisions that affect them, as well as strengthening their representative organisations to facilitate this.</p> <p><u>International</u> The promotion and protection of the rights of civil society actors, including human rights defenders, is a foreign policy priority for Ireland, as outlined in “<i>The Global Island: Ireland’s Foreign Policy for a Changing World</i>”, launched in 2015.</p> <p>Ireland continues to use its voice in international fora to condemn threats and attacks against civil society actors and human rights defenders and to promote civil society space. Ireland, as a member of the core group on civil society space at the Human Rights Council (HRC), was one of the main sponsors of the resolution on civil society space at the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC in July 2018. On foot of the same resolution, Ireland co-organised a side-event on civil society engagement with international and regional organisations at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the HRC in July 2019, and intends to lead on a further resolution on civil society space at the HRC in June 2020.</p> <p>Ireland is also a member of the core group of the Reprisals resolution, which was tabled again at HRC 42.</p> <p>The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee on Human Rights continues to meet regularly, providing civil society organisations in Ireland with the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Department on Ireland’s foreign policy with regard to human rights. Ireland, through Irish Aid, continues to provide funding to civil society organisations and facilitate their engagement with international fora, including the United Nations.</p>
135.127	Continue to promote pluralism	Bangladesh	Supported	Ireland is fully committed to a pluralistic and open democracy and values the role played by a diverse and inclusive civil society in this regard. Government recognises the contribution that social dialogue can make to maximising common understanding across all sectors of society.

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				<p>In terms of faith communities, there is a structured dialogue between the State and representatives of faith communities, hosted by the Taoiseach (Prime Minister). The most recent Church State Dialogue Plenary Meeting was hosted by the Taoiseach on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 with representation from Churches, Faith Communities and Non-Confessional Organisations. The meeting was structured around three thematic sessions: Effective Structured Dialogue; Inclusive and Diverse Communities; and Education.</p> <p>Ministers and their Departments continue to have regular interaction with representatives of all sectors of society. Successive Governments have attached much importance to the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the area of human rights. In order to provide a formal framework for a regular exchange of views between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and representatives of the NGO community, the DFAT Committee on Human Rights (formerly the NGO Standing Committee) was established, comprising representatives of NGOs and experts, as well as officers of the Department. In addition to the Committee, a Forum on Human Rights, to which all interested parties are invited, is held annually.</p>
<b>135.128</b>	Continue to take effective measures to safeguard the rights and status of the unemployed and vulnerable groups, through focused social assistance and income support	Sri Lanka	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 136.57.
<b>135.129</b>	Conduct targeted/focused policy of social support to the population in need, especially children	Belarus	Supported	<p>The Department of Employment and Social Protection makes a number of payments to provide assistance to all households with children in recognition of the costs incurred in child-raising, and to provide targeted assistance to low-income households with children in a way that minimises labour market disincentives, or positively contributes to labour market incentives in order to reduce poverty in households with children.</p> <p>The latest figures from the Central Statics Office Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) for 2017 show that consistent poverty among children has fallen to 8.8% from 10.9% in</p>

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			<p>2016. The rate of deprivation for children is 23%, a fall on the 2016 figure of 25% per cent. This was the third reduction in the rate in successive years and this rate has fallen over fourteen percentage points from the 2013 rate of 37.3%. The at-risk-of-poverty rate for children was 18.4% in 2017, a slight decrease from 19.1% in 2016. In 2017, social transfers reduced the at-risk-poverty rate for children from 39.1% to 18.4%.</p> <p>State investment in early learning and care and school-age childcare has increased by 141% in the last five years. This funding has been used to remove barriers to access so that children can enrol and meaningfully participate in high-quality, more affordable early learning and care and school-age childcare. As a result of this funding, there has been a doubling in the number of children in receipt of State subsidies who are now enrolling in these services.</p> <p><i>First 5</i>, a whole-of-government strategy for babies, young children and their families (2019-2028), published in November 2018, commits to major initiatives on family leave, children’s health services, parenting supports, child-friendly communities, and early learning and care and school-age childcare services among a broad range of actions. The <i>First 5</i> Implementation Plan, published in May 2019, describes the steps that will be taken in the initial implementation phase – from 2019 to 2021, and a <i>First 5</i> Implementation Office has been established to monitor and report on implementation. Some key <i>First 5</i> actions regarding early learning and care and school-age childcare progressed in the past year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Childcare Scheme: <i>First 5</i> commits to introduce the National Childcare Scheme to subsidise the costs of high-quality early learning and care and school-age childcare to families and, as resources allow, progressively increase the number of families eligible for targeted subsidies This Scheme was introduced in November 2019, replacing all the existing targeted funding schemes.</li> <li>• New Funding Model: <i>First 5</i> commits to doubling investment in early learning and care and school-age childcare from current levels in order to make further progress towards average OECD levels of investment. An important vehicle to ensure that such significant additional investment delivers for children, families and the State,</li> </ul>	

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				<p>will be a new funding model to design mechanisms to deliver additional funding to early learning and care and school-age childcare providers to ensure greater levels of affordability, accessibility, quality and inclusion in their services. An independent Expert Group has been convened to progress this work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Development Plan: <i>First 5</i> commits to introduce a range of measures so that by 2028, all regulated childminders and school-age childcare staff will hold a minimum qualification (level to be agreed in 2020). It also commits to the development of a graduate-led early learning and care workforce, with at least 50% of staff working directly with children in centre-based settings, and coordinators supporting the work of childminders, holding an appropriate degree-level qualification (with an initial target of 30% reached by 2021). <i>First 5</i> commits to developing a Workforce Development Plan to support the achievement of these targets and raise the profile of careers in early learning and school-age childcare, establish a career framework and leadership development opportunities, and will work towards building a more gender-balanced and diverse workforce.</li> <li>• Childminding Action Plan: <i>First 5</i> commits to extending regulation to all paid, non-relative childminders on a phased basis. In line with this commitment, a Draft Childminding Action Plan was published in August 2019, for public consultation. The overall objective of the Draft Action Plan is to improve access to high quality and affordable early learning and care and school-age childcare through childminding. The Draft Action Plan proposes four areas of action (i.e. regulatory change, qualifications and training, quality supports, and funding and financial supports) and proposes a phased approach, seeking to balance the objective of making the National Childcare Scheme accessible to childminders at the earliest opportunity with the need to build appropriate quality supports, with a significant lead-in time for legal requirements being introduced.</li> <li>• School-Age Childcare Regulations: <i>First 5</i> commits to introducing regulations for school-age childcare. In line with this commitment, Regulations on the mandatory registration of school-age services were introduced in 2019.</li> </ul>

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			<p>A range of additional measures in recent years have aimed to improve the quality, affordability and accessibility of early learning and care and school-age childcare, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since September 2018, all children are entitled to two full years of State-funded universal free pre-school and more than 95% of the eligible cohort participate. Data from Growing Up in Ireland – a longitudinal cohort study - reveals that one in three parents experiencing disadvantage would not be able to send their child to pre-school without this support.</li> <li>• Capital investment under the Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare Capital Programme has continued its focus on maintaining and extending the supply of publicly subsidised Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare. In 2019, 1,321 new places for children under 3 and 2,308 places for school-age childcare were created. In addition, initial preparations were made to develop a strategic capital investment plan to ensure effective allocation of €250 million that has been earmarked for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare in Ireland’s long term National Development Plan - Project 2040.</li> <li>• Efforts continued to ensure that early learning and care promotes participation, strengthens social inclusion and embraces diversity through the integration of additional supports and services for children and families with additional needs. In particular, the ongoing implementation and enhancement of the Access and Inclusion Model or AIM (first introduced in 2016) resulted in record numbers of children with a disability, Traveller children and children from the Roma community enrolling in Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare services in 2019.</li> <li>• In addition to regulatory reform, there has also been continued roll-out of training in the curriculum and quality frameworks for early learning and care and additional steps taken to professionalise the workforce.</li> </ul>	
			<p>As to the section concerning social support to the overall population, this is addressed in recommendation 136.57.</p>	

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135.130	Take the necessary steps in order to increase the availability of social housing and emergency housing support and to adopt appropriate measures to solve the long-term needs	Turkey	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.132.
135.131	Adopt measures to decrease the number of homeless persons, including through the availability of social housing	Portugal	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.132.
135.132	Take all necessary legislative and policy measures to provide access to affordable housing with a view to ending long-term involuntary homelessness	Singapore	Supported	<p>Launched in 2016, Rebuilding Ireland is a €6 billion, multi-annual, broadly based action plan which seeks to address the needs of homeless people and families in emergency accommodation. It commits the Government to accelerate the provision of social housing, deliver more housing, utilise vacant homes and improve the rental sector. In addition, Rebuilding Ireland recognises that many of those accessing homeless services require significant health supports, notably in the areas of substance abuse and mental health.</p> <p>The focus of Government is to prevent homelessness to the greatest extent possible, while also ensuring that pathways out of homelessness for those individuals and families in emergency accommodation are secured as quickly as possible. Budget 2020 reflects the commitment of the Government in this regard, with an allocation of €166m for homeless services provided to local authorities in 2020, an increase of €20m on the 2019 allocation.</p> <p>While the priority is to ensure that all households are provided with a home, the Government is also working to ensure that appropriate emergency accommodation is available until a home can be provided. Capital funding has been provided to local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to support the delivery of supported temporary</p>

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				<p>accommodation for rough sleepers with the objective of minimising their numbers. Increased outreach services have also been put in place to engage with rough sleepers.</p> <p>The Government has also been working to provide a better model of emergency accommodation for families experiencing homelessness and to minimise the use of hotels and Bed &amp; Breakfast accommodation. In this regard, the Government has allocated capital funding to local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to develop specialised family hubs, which provide a more suitable form of emergency accommodation for families. There are now 33 such hubs operational nationally, offering 725 units of family accommodation. Further family hub facilities are planned to be delivered over the course of 2020. Family hubs offer a greater degree of stability to families than is possible in other types of homeless facilities, with access to more appropriate living and storage space as well as cooking and laundry facilities and communal recreation space. Families in the hubs are supported by local authorities and their service delivery partners to identify and secure homes.</p> <p>Housing First enables people who may have been homeless and who have high levels of complex needs to obtain permanent secure accommodation with the provision of intensive supports to help them maintain their tenancies. It is a joint initiative of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive and Local Authorities. The National Implementation Plan for Housing First was published in September 2018 and sets a target total of 663 additional Housing First tenancies, with targets set for each Local Authority for the period 2018-2021.</p>
<b>135.133</b>	Continue with its efforts to guarantee the Government’s commitment to a housing-led approach to end long-term involuntary homelessness	Holy See	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.132.

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135.134	Continue with efforts to implement necessary measures with a view to end long-term involuntary homelessness	Montenegro	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.132.
135.135	Take measures to strengthen support institutions for homeless persons, including pregnant women left without housing	Russian Federation	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.132.
135.136	Conduct consultations involving all stakeholders, including civil society organisations, in order to examine whether article 40.3.3 of the Constitution could be revised and the legal framework related to abortion broadened	Switzerland	Supported	<p>Amending the legal position on abortion in Ireland required a change to Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution.</p> <p><u>Citizens' Assembly</u> The Government established a Citizens' Assembly in 2016, to consider a number of matters including constitutional reform. The Assembly was directed to first consider the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution (Article 40.3.3).</p> <p>Ms. Justice Mary Laffoy, (Judge of the Supreme Court) chaired the Assembly, comprised of ninety-nine citizens randomly chosen from the population. The Assembly held a series of meetings to consider the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution between 15 October 2016 and 23 April 2017. During this time the Assembly gathered facts in relation to the issue, listened to experts in the medical, legal, and ethical field and to advocates' views on the topic.</p> <p>The Citizens' Assembly submitted its final report on the Eighth Amendment to the Houses of the Oireachtas (National Parliament) on 29 June 2017. The Assembly recommended that the Eighth Amendment should be replaced with a provision that explicitly authorises the Oireachtas to legislate to address termination of pregnancy, any rights of the unborn and any rights of the woman. The Assembly also made recommendations on what should be included in such legislation; specifically, they recommended a number of reasons for which</p>

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				<p>termination of pregnancy should be lawful in Ireland and any gestational limits that should apply.</p> <p><u>Joint Oireachtas Committee</u> In 2017, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution, chaired by Senator Catherine Noone, was established to consider the Citizens’ Assembly report and recommendations. The Committee heard from a range of experts in areas including constitutional, legal, and medical fields, as well as from groups affected by the Eighth Amendment.</p> <p>At its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2018, the Joint Committee completed its examination of the report and recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly through a voting process. A majority of Committee members voted at the meeting for repeal simpliciter of Article 40.3.3. Members also voted on the Citizens’ Assembly’s recommendations on the reasons for which termination of pregnancy should be lawful in Ireland.</p> <p>The Joint Committee on the Eighth Amendment reported its conclusions and recommendations to the Houses of the Oireachtas on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.</p>
135.137	Make sure all women and young girls have easy access to information on crisis pregnancy options by health-providers	Sweden	Supported	<p>A new ‘My Options’ internet-based resource was launched in December 2018 by the Health Service Executive (HSE). It provides information on unplanned pregnancy support services, and includes information on all options, including continued pregnancy supports and abortion.</p> <p>In addition, the HSE’s ‘My Options’ telephone helpline became operational on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019. This is a freephone line for people to call if they are experiencing a crisis pregnancy. An Information and Counselling service is available from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday as well as Saturday 10am-2pm and is staffed by Counsellors. A telephone nursing service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by nurses and midwives. ‘My Options’ can provide an interpreter for 240 different languages and the ‘My Options’ information leaflet has been translated into six languages.</p>

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				<p>Services for termination of pregnancy commenced in Ireland on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019. Terminations up to 12 weeks of pregnancy are provided by General Practitioners and are also available in ten maternity hospitals. All maternity hospitals provide terminations in emergency situations (when a woman’s life or health is at risk). In general, terminations in cases of fatal foetal conditions are available in the larger tertiary hospitals, as in such cases particular expertise only available in those hospitals may be required.</p>
<b>135.138</b>	<p>Wider availability of multi-denominational and non-denominational schools to better cater to the multi-cultural society in Ireland today</p>	India	Supported	<p>This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.139.</p>
<b>135.139</b>	<p>Establish a system providing children and their parents the real opportunity to choose from among religious, multi-denominational or non-denominational types of schooling and curricula</p>	Czech Republic	Supported	<p>The Government’s Patronage Divestment Process has created a greater choice of primary schools in areas where there was insufficient demographic need for new school provision. In areas with population growth, the process for establishing new schools took account of parental preferences. Since 2011, 83 new schools have opened, 77 of which had a multi-denominational ethos. The Programme for Government aims to have 400 multi-denominational or non-denominational schools by 2030 and the Schools Reconfiguration for Diversity Process has been developed to advance this. This process will provide more multi-/non-denominational schools across the country, in line with the choices of families and school communities.</p> <p>The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 was signed into law on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2018. The Act aims to ensure that how schools decide on who is enrolled and who is refused a place in schools is more structured, fair and transparent.</p> <p>The Act requires a school to state explicitly in its admission policy that it will not discriminate against an applicant for admission on the grounds of disability, special educational needs, sexual orientation, family status, membership of the Traveller community, race, civil status, gender or religion, while including provision for single-sex schools and denominational schools to reflect their specific ethos in their admission policy.</p>

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				The Act also requires that school enrolment policies include details of the school's arrangements for students who do not wish to attend religious instruction. The Act removes religion as a criterion for admission to school, apart from a protection for children of a minority faith.
<b>135.140</b>	Ensure that all children have the option to attend a non-denominational school at no extra cost	Slovenia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.139.
<b>135.141</b>	Step up efforts to promote to ensure equal opportunities for all children to quality education	Philippines	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.139.
<b>135.142</b>	Step up efforts towards a more inclusive education system, especially by focusing on special education needs	Turkey	Supported	<p data-bbox="1146 836 2163 900">The Education for Persons with Special Education Needs (EPSEN) Act in 2004 provided statutory underpinning for the work of the National Council for Special Education (NCSE).</p> <p data-bbox="1146 932 2163 1091">A significant number of sections of the EPSEN Act have been commenced, principally those formally establishing the NCSE and those promoting an inclusive approach to the education of children with special educational needs. However, in light of the difficult economic situation arising in the period 2008-2012 and the significant costs involved, the full implementation of EPSEN was deferred.</p> <p data-bbox="1146 1123 2163 1380">While the implementation of the EPSEN Act has been deferred, significant work has been continuing to improve special educational services through the implementation of NCSE policy recommendations and through the allocation of additional resource teaching and Special Needs Assistant (SNA) resources for schools. Significant advances have been made in recent years in expanding and improving the range of provision and supports. For example, a new special education teacher allocation model has been adopted, therapeutic supports have been introduced on a pilot basis, and further improvements are planned for the SNA allocation model.</p>

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			<p>The Department of Education and Skills (DES) continues to seek to improve provision, by bringing into effect measures contained in the EPSEN Act on a non-statutory basis initially, pending further progress on commencement of the Act.</p> <p>In doing so, DES takes into account the provisions contained in the EPSEN Act, and also current policy advice and research which notes that allocation models based primarily on a response to assessment and diagnosis can create a risk of children being diagnosed as having a special educational need for resource allocation purposes, rather than for health reasons. Also, that as there is a spectrum of ability and disability within every special education disability category, account must be taken of individual need, as well as diagnosis. In seeking to improve special educational services, the DES will therefore take into account the provisions of the EPSEN Act and also the findings of research and analysis regarding best practice in relation to the provision of special educational supports for children, which has been published since passing of the Act.</p> <p>The National Action Plan for Equality of Access to Higher Education (2015-2019) set an overall target for entry by people with disabilities. The target represents an increase in the region of 1,200 in the number of undergraduate new entrants with disabilities and there are specific targets for students in particular categories of disability. A progress review of the Plan was completed in 2018. The outcome of the review was very positive. The review found that there has been significant increases in participation rates since work began on implementing the National Access Plan, in particular to the participation in higher education by people with disabilities. The target of 8% that was set for the lifetime of the Plan has been exceeded by the Progress Review stage. The overall participation rate has increased to 10%, and targets have equally been surpassed in respect of two of the three categories of disability. There has been a 71% increase in participation by students with physical or mobility disabilities, while participation rates by deaf students or those hard of hearing have increased by 46%. Participation by students who are blind or have a vision impairment has increased by 24%. The term of the National Access Plan has been extended to 2021 with a new target of 12% for the disability group.</p>	

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<b>135.143</b>	Continue to improve employment opportunities and remove barriers to employment for persons with disabilities	Singapore	Supported	<p>Government action to improve the employment opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities is carried out within the framework of Ireland’s Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities (CESPD) 2015-2024. The CESPD is a cross-government approach that brings together actions by different Departments and state agencies in a concerted effort to address the barriers and challenges that impact on employment of people with disabilities. The CESPD has six strategic priorities: Build skills, capacity and independence; Provide bridges and supports into work; Make work pay; Promote job retention and re-entry to work; Provide co-ordinated and seamless support; Engage employers. Examples of actions carried out under this strategy include an increase in the public service employment target of people with disabilities on a phased basis from 3% to 6%, and opening up alternative recruitment channels for people with disabilities into the public service.</p> <p>The Department of Employment and Social Protection delivers a wide range of work-related supports for people with disabilities, which play an important role in supporting their increased participation in the labour force.</p> <p>Notably, specialised support is available to people presenting at Intreo (public employment service) Offices through a nationwide EmployAbility Service designed to improve employment outcomes for jobseekers with a disability. In addition to this, a Wage Subsidy Scheme provides support for private sector employers for the employment of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Two significant disability projects directed by the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability are WAM (Willing Able Mentoring), which builds on the experience and confidence of graduates with disabilities, and Get AHEAD, which is a training programme and forum for students and graduates with disabilities to discuss their experiences of education and employment.</p>

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135.144	Continue to strengthen the basic rights and non-discrimination of the Roma and Travellers	Chile	Supported	<p>In addition to the existing extensive legislative protections, the Government has taken further specific steps to combat discrimination against and the exclusion of Travellers and Roma. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of Travellers as a distinct ethnic group (see response to recommendation 136.83)</li> <li>• Adoption of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (2017-2021) (see response to recommendation 135.146).</li> </ul>
135.145	Adopt a progressive Traveller Roma inclusion strategy with clear goals; indicators; timeframes; and budget in consultation with affected groups	India	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.146.
135.146	Activate the policies of integration of Travellers and Roma in all social, economic, cultural, political, educational and other spheres	Lebanon	Supported	<p>The Government published the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) 2017-2021 in June 2017.</p> <p>The Strategy represents a whole of Government approach to bring about meaningful change and progress for the Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland. It brings Government Departments and Agencies together along with representatives of both Traveller and Roma communities to address, in a structured way, the issues that affect them most.</p> <p>NTRIS contains 149 actions being taken by Government Departments, State Agencies, Local Authorities and other public bodies. The actions are grouped under ten themes, including Cultural Identity; Education; Employment; and Health and Accommodation. Their aim is to support the inclusion of Travellers and Roma in social, economic, cultural, political, educational and other spheres.</p> <p>NTRIS was developed through a dynamic consultative process involving Travellers and Roma at each stage of the process. Its progress is monitored on a quarterly basis by a Steering Group comprising those Departments and Agencies responsible for implementation of the</p>

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			<p>Strategy, and members of Traveller and Roma stakeholder organisations. This monitoring system enables progress on each action to be clearly evaluated and feedback from stakeholder to inform future implementation and adaptation when required. The Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration, and Integration, chairs the quarterly meetings of the NTRIS Steering Group.</p> <p>Notable actions related to NTRIS objectives include:</p> <p><u>Culture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Justice and Equality has supported the promotion of Traveller culture, primarily through its support for the annual Traveller and Roma Pride Week. In 2019, 40 organizations were approved for funding of €67,000, an increase of over €26,000 compared to 2018.</li> </ul> <p><u>Anti-Racism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mandate of the new Anti-Racism Committee announced by the Government in 2019 under the independent Chairmanship of Professor Caroline Fennell, Professor of Law at University College Cork and Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, is to include anti-Traveller racism (for further information on this Committee, see the response to recommendation 135.103).</li> </ul> <p><u>Intersectionality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultation process which informed the development of the new National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021 included specific workshop sessions organised for Travellers and Roma. This strategy includes actions to support intersectional needs so that the rights of LGBTI+ people who are Travellers or Roma, have disabilities, are prisoners, migrants or are young or older people, are adequately identified and protected. (For further information on the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy, see response to recommendation 135.119.)</li> </ul> <p><u>Access to Justice</u></p>	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Justice and Equality has provided funding to enable the establishment of Free Legal Aid clinics specifically for members of the Roma community to help support equal access to legal representation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Policing and Prisons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019, An Garda Síochána (National Police Force) adopted a new Garda Diversity &amp; Integration Strategy 2019-2021. This includes a working definition of hate crime to be used by the force with the aim of enhancing reporting, recording, investigation, communication and prevention mechanisms.</li> <li>A Garda Traveller Advisory Group (GTAG) was established in 2019 to advise on best methods of responding to Traveller policing needs, including in relation to training, victim support, and support for Traveller Applicants and Trainees. A workshop held at Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre in February 2020 brought together Garda and Traveller participants to work together on improving relations and identifying Garda training needs.</li> <li>The Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit (GNDIU) continues to develop and maintain good relations between an Garda Síochána and the Traveller and Roma communities and encourages individuals within both communities to report racist crime. An Garda Síochána has committed to working with the Traveller Mediation Service to deliver a number of Garda Traveller Dialogue Days.</li> <li>The Irish Prison Service introduced an Ethnic Identifier in its Prisoner Information and Management System (PIMS) in 2018. This change has been supported by an awareness raising campaign amongst staff and prisoners.</li> </ul> <p><u>Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) published an audit of the curriculum in respect of Traveller culture and history. The purpose of this curriculum audit was to identify current opportunities across the early childhood, primary and post-primary curricula for children and young people to encounter and learn about aspects of Traveller culture and history. In addition, the audit provided an outline of the opportunities for building on existing curriculum practice and aimed to identify future possibilities in this regard as curricula are</li> </ul>	

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				<p>reviewed and developed on a broader scale and in a wider context. The Department of Education and Skills is working with the NCCA and other relevant stakeholders to advance the findings of the audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A two year Pilot Programme, funded by the Department of Justice and Equality, is underway to target educational attendance, participation and retention in specific Traveller and Roma Communities regionally. Partners in the project include Tusla Education Support Services (TESS), the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Justice and Equality, Traveller and Roma representative bodies and communities.</li> </ul>
135.147	Give special emphasis to employment, access to health care and the right to housing in the application of the national strategy on the inclusion of Travellers and Roma	Spain	Supported	<p>Employment, healthcare and housing are all key themes of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 (NTRIS).</p> <p><u>Employment Supports and Awareness</u></p> <p>With respect to employment, Intreo, the Public Employment Service, works in partnership with national agencies, and with the implementing bodies for the national Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Community Employment (CE) Programme in particular, to ensure that Traveller and Roma jobseekers have equal access to customised employment support programmes operating locally.</p> <p>Tailored approaches are also used for more hard to reach social groups. For example, a Roma Primary Healthcare Training Programme that commenced in 2019 in the Dublin/North Leinster region, is led by Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, a national non-governmental organisation comprised of Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population working in partnership at national, regional, local and international levels, with support from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP). DEASP funded the trainees’ participation expenses to support completion of the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 3 training programme. The intention is that the trainees will be employed as healthcare workers within the Roma community.</p>

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			<p>In addition to the targeted communications actions under NTRIS, Traveller and Roma clients are also reached by general promotional campaigns on employment supports. In 2019 these national and local campaigns included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising of Intreo services to jobseekers and job changers in November;</li> <li>• Radio interviews highlighting supports to workers during August/September;</li> <li>• A week-long national promotion of the JobsIreland.ie online recruitment service;</li> <li>• Engagement with employer representative groups to highlight the supports available to employers and employees.</li> </ul> <p>The national campaigns are co-promoted by local Intreo offices and local stakeholders are engaged in the delivery of local showcase events and other awareness raising activities.</p> <p><u>Employment Policy Focus</u></p> <p>Pathways to Work (PtW) is Ireland’s national strategy for reducing unemployment. The current strategy covers the period 2016 to 2020 and there is a process underway to define a new Pathways to Work Strategy for 2020-2024. Traveller and Roma jobseekers are a named specific target group in the new draft Strategy. The goals for Traveller and Roma employment will align with related commitments in the Further Education and Training and Future Jobs Ireland Strategies for the period. Following a public consultation on the new PtW Strategy in September 2019, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection has held bilateral meetings with key stakeholders, including Traveller and Roma representative groups. The emerging themes and issues from this process will inform the new PtW Strategy.</p> <p><u>Accommodation</u></p> <p>In accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Local Authorities have responsibility for the assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers and the preparation, adoption and implementation of multi-annual Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs) in their areas. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has responsibility for ensuring that there are adequate structures and</p>	

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			<p>supports in place to assist the authorities in providing such accommodation, including a national framework of policy, legislation and funding.</p> <p>Accommodation for Travellers is provided across a range of options, including standard Local Authority housing, which is financed from the DHPLG capital allocations for social housing, and Traveller-specific accommodation, funded from the Traveller Accommodation budget. Accommodation is also provided through private housing assisted by the Local Authority or voluntary organisations, private rented accommodation and through own resources. The 2018 Assessment of Housing Needs revealed that approximately 1.8% of Traveller households have a requirement for Traveller-specific accommodation. This requirement will be addressed in the new round of Traveller Accommodation Programmes covering the period from 2019 to 2024.</p> <p>The designated capital budget for the provision of Traveller-specific accommodation was increased to €14.5million for 2020. Actual spending on Traveller-specific accommodation increased by 38% to €8.7m in 2019 compared to €6.3m in 2018.</p> <p><u>National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</u></p> <p>The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC) was established under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 and membership consists of representatives of Government Departments, non-governmental organisations, and Local Authorities. The Committee advises the Minister for Housing on improving consultation with, and participation of, Travellers in the provision and management of Traveller accommodation.</p> <p><u>Traveller Accommodation Expert Review</u></p> <p>An Expert Review Group was appointed in 2019 to review the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998; examine national and international best practice in the provision</p>	

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				<p>of accommodation for Travellers and review other legislation impacting on the provision and delivery of Traveller specific accommodation, including transient accommodation.</p> <p>The report of the Expert Review Group was published in July 2019 and sets out an integrated set of recommendations to Government intended to improve the effectiveness of arrangements for providing accommodation. The recommendations address four key themes: delivery reflecting need; planning; capacity and resources; and governance. Within the DHPLG, a Programme Manager has been appointed to oversee a programme of projects to implement agreed recommendations on a phased basis. Progress is being monitored by the NTACC.</p> <p>As to the section regarding accessing healthcare, this is addressed in recommendation 136.62.</p>
135.148	Apply international standards relating to the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, provide them with adequate services and speed up the processing of their application	Qatar	Supported	<p><u>International Protection System in Ireland</u></p> <p>Ireland’s international protection system is based on a number of key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting obligations under international law, including the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees;</li> <li>• Ensuring that services and supports provided to applicants for international protection, including accommodation services for those who choose to avail of them, are of an appropriate standard.</li> </ul> <p>The International Protection Act 2015 was commenced in full on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2016, replacing the Refugee Act 1996. The new Act simplified and streamlined existing international protection arrangements in Ireland, by introducing a single application procedure. This enables all application grounds for international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection), or permission to remain in the State for other humanitarian reasons, to be determined in one process, rather than sequentially as before. At the end of 2019, an applicant who applied for international protection could expect to receive a first</p>

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			<p>instance recommendation/decision within approximately 11-12 months on an application without complications.</p> <p>Applicants for international protection can elect to avail of full board accommodation and other facilities/services, under what is commonly known as the Direct Provision system. The system is operated by the Department of Justice and Equality. Applicants for international protection are entitled to access mainstream health services. Children are entitled to access mainstream primary and post-primary education. A weekly direct expenses allowance for personal incidental expenditure is paid by the Community Welfare Service of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP). This allowance is currently paid at the rate of €38.80 per adult per week and €29.80 per child per week. Applicants can also access other social welfare payments such as Exceptional Needs Payments to cover exceptional expenses that may arise.</p> <p><u>Opt-In to Recast Reception Conditions Directive</u> In 2018, Ireland opted into the EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU). The European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 230 of 2018) give effect to the Directive in Ireland.</p> <p>The Regulations for the opt-in to the Directive provide that applicants for international protection who have not received a first instance decision on their application for international protection within 9 months (and that delay cannot be attributed to the applicant e.g. failure to produce requested documents) can apply for a renewable permission to take up employment / self-employment and have full access to the labour market. When the applicant has a permission to access the labour market, they can also engage with the Public Employment Service through the nationwide network of Intreo Centres, where Case Officers will assist, guide and support these clients in their job seeking efforts and/or educational needs.</p> <p><u>Irish Refugee Protection Programme</u></p>	

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			<p>The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) was established in 2015 to co-ordinate and implement the logistical and operational aspects associated with the acceptance of programme refugees into Ireland. The Programme involves all the main Government Departments and State Agencies that play a role in the delivery of services to refugees, as well as the UNHCR and the Irish Red Cross.</p> <p>IRPP clients, on arrival in Ireland, are provided with shelter and full board accommodation in Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (EROCs). The main function of an EROC is to meet the basic needs of clients, though an extensive range of support services is also provided. Structures at national and community level are in place to support the IRRP. The Health Service Executive (HSE) works closely with the IRPP to plan and deliver the health services required in the EROCs and in the communities where the refugees are eventually settled. IRPP clients are allocated a local General Practitioner (doctor) and provided with a medical card while residing in the EROC. The social protection daily expenses allowance is also paid during this period.</p> <p>Once IRPP clients have protection status, they can apply for the social protection weekly payments appropriate to their circumstances, such as Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA), Jobseekers Allowance or One Parent Family Payment, and also Child Benefit, which is a universal monthly payment to people with dependent children. In addition to weekly social welfare payments, the Exceptional Needs Payments (ENPs) can be made to help meet essential costs which a person could not reasonably be expected to meet out of their income.</p> <p>Refugees have broadly the same rights and entitlements as Irish citizens. Once refugee status has been granted, a person is eligible to access other supports on the same basis as Irish nationals.</p> <p><u>Refugee Community Sponsorship Ireland</u></p> <p>Following a successful pilot programme that received an award from the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, the Government launched <i>Community Sponsorship Ireland (CSI)</i> in</p>	

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				November 2019. CSI is a complementary refugee resettlement model that gives private citizens and community organisations an opportunity to directly support a refugee family newly arrived in Ireland. The programme was developed by the Government in collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), where successful community sponsorship of refugees has been ongoing for some time, and civil society organisations including the Irish Red Cross, the UNHCR, Amnesty International, the Irish Refugee Council and Nasc Ireland (Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre).
<b>135.149</b>	Establish measures to respond more effectively to requests for refuge	Plurinational State of Bolivia	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.148.
<b>135.150</b>	Continue its efforts to adopt the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking	Sudan	Supported	Ireland's Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking was launched on 17 October 2016. The plan contains 65 actions designed to crack down on individuals and gangs involved in the crime, to support victims, to raise public-awareness, and to enhance training for those likely to encounter victims.
<b>135.151</b>	Speed up the adoption of a national plan of action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons	Belarus	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.150.
<b>135.152</b>	Continue to increase development aid to reach the target of 0.7% GDP as this will increase the ability of aid recipients to achieve the right to development and protect and promote human rights	Kenya	Supported	The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms has always been a cornerstone of Irish foreign policy. Ireland has a strong record of providing assistance to developing countries to address poverty, vulnerability and marginalisation. Ireland's official aid programme, Irish Aid, is an integral part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It continues to rank among the best in the world due to its poverty focus. In 2019, Ireland increased its official development assistance (ODA) budget by 16% or approximately €110 million, bringing Ireland's ODA to over €817 million in 2019. In addition, in 2018, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to making progress on delivering the United Nations target of allocating 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to ODA by 2030.
				Ireland's new Policy for International Development, <i>A Better World</i> , was launched in 2019. A Better World is framed by Ireland's commitment to the transformative ambition of the UN

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				<p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular to the rallying call to reach ‘the furthest behind first’. Ireland will increase its resources and capacity to influence and engage globally across four policy priorities: gender equality, reducing humanitarian need, climate action and strengthening governance. Ireland recognises that the enjoyment of all human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – is essential for development. Equally, development is essential to enable the full enjoyment of those rights.</p> <p>The United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations’ core Human Rights Treaties set the framework for Ireland’s international relations including development cooperation. The Irish Government, through its international development cooperation programme, provides funding to a wide range of human rights programmes in a number of developing countries. Support to civil society amounted to around 22% of our total budget in 2017, much higher than the OECD average. In 2017, approximately 8% of Ireland’s ODA budget (€61 million) was provided to governance, human rights and gender equality work. In addition, Ireland provides core support to the UN.</p>
136.1	Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party	Plurinational State of Bolivia	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.8, 135.26, 135.35, and 135.40.

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<b>136.2</b>	Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Discrimination in Education	Honduras	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.26, 135.35 and 135.40.
<b>136.3</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as a matter of priority	Egypt	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.26 and 135.40.

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<b>136.4</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	Azerbaijan	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.8 and 135.40.
<b>136.5</b>	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the ILO Convention 169	Paraguay	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.8 and 135.40.
<b>136.6</b>	Accede to the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Argentina	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.8, 135.26, 135.35 and 135.40.

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136.7	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and accept the competence of the Committee as regards the inquiry procedure and inter-State communications	Finland	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.7.
136.8	Further accelerate the efforts to strengthen the legal framework to protect the rights of migrants, including by considering to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	Indonesia	Partially Accepted	<p>The rights of migrants are well protected under Irish and EU law applicable in Ireland. They are also addressed under the international human rights instruments to which Ireland is a party. This includes the International Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In addition to legislative protections, Ireland has adopted pro-active policies to advance the equality, integration and inclusion of migrants and their families. These include a National Migrant Integration Strategy under which public authorities have committed to take a series of actions to address barriers to integration and work to ensure full participation of migrants in Irish society and economy.</p> <p><u>Employment Rights Legislation</u></p> <p>Ireland has a comprehensive body of employment legislation, in respect of which the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) is mandated to secure compliance. Ireland’s employment rights legislation protects all employees, including migrant workers, who are legally employed on a contract of service basis. This is specifically set out in Section 20 of the Protection of Employment (Part Time Work) Act 2001.</p> <p>Where an individual believes they are being deprived of employment rights applicable to employees, they may refer a complaint to the Workplace Relations Commission, where the matter can be dealt with by way of mediation or adjudication leading to a decision that is enforceable through the District Court. WRC inspectors can also be asked to investigate</p>

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			<p>certain breaches. Complaints can be made on a single online complaint form available at the WRC’s website: <a href="http://www.workplacerelations.ie">www.workplacerelations.ie</a>.</p> <p><u>Employment Act 2018</u></p> <p>Employment rights legislation was recently strengthened by the enactment of the Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2018, which is one of the most significant pieces of employment legislation in a generation. The Act delivers on the Programme for Government commitment to address the challenges of the increased casualisation of work and to strengthen the regulation of precarious employment. In a changing world, this reform ensures that the legal protections for all workers are appropriate to the conditions experienced by a modern workforce and make a real difference in the lives of thousands of workers.</p> <p>Under the new legislation, employers must give employees core terms of employment within 5 days of starting work; zero hours contracts are restricted; there are minimum payments for people called into work but sent home without work; a “band of hours” system will be introduced where an employee’s contract does not reflect actual hours worked; there are strong anti-penalisation provisions for employees who invoke their rights under the legislation; and national minimum wage rates for younger people and trainees have been simplified.</p> <p><u>Employment Permits Legislation</u></p> <p>The Employment Permits legislation ensures that employment permit holders have the same protections under Irish employment law as any other worker in the State and the system has been designed to ensure that the employment rights of migrants are observed. The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation is responsible for regulating many aspects of the labour market and works to ensure that opportunities for labour exploitation are minimised, with many of the criteria associated with the employment permits system aimed at ensuring that migrant employees are protected and treated in line with our labour laws.</p>	

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				<p>Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) personnel act as authorised officers for the enforcement of the Employment Permits Acts and their investigation and enforcement powers work to discourage abuses of the employment permits system by unscrupulous employers. Employers may be subject to fines or a prison term, where they are found to be in breach of the Employment Permits Acts.</p> <p><u>Ratification of ILO Forced Labour Protocol</u></p> <p>In February, 2019 Ireland became the 29<sup>th</sup> country to ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Forced Labour Protocol, thus making Ireland part of the “Fifty for Freedom” campaign. Ratification of the Protocol is a further demonstration of Ireland’s commitment to acting against labour exploitation in all its forms. Ireland recognises that forced labour undermines the principles of human rights. As detailed above, the State has a comprehensive suite of employment rights legislation and continues its efforts to eliminate human trafficking using the provisions of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act, 2008 and the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) (Amendment) Act 2013.</p>
136.9	Ratify as soon as possible the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, without any reservation	Sweden	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.
136.10	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and fully implement the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 as soon as possible	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.40.

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<b>136.21</b>	Strengthen the consultation mechanism, especially in terms of economic, social and cultural rights	Poland	Supported	<p>Ireland has a vibrant community of civil society organisations who make an important contribution to public policymaking in a number of ways. They provide vital information to Government about human rights issues which affect people at the grassroots level, through specific Government forums as well as on a more general level. At the same time, they serve to educate the public about the human rights programmes and protections available to them. Consultation with non-governmental organisations forms a central part of Ireland’s human rights reporting mechanism across all Conventions.</p> <p>The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is in the process of preparing Ireland’s fourth periodic report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. An important element of the drafting will be the consultation and contribution of civil society.</p> <p>The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade endeavours to strengthen engagement with civil society on human rights issues. As well as engaging with civil society on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis throughout the year, the DFAT Human Rights Unit hosts an annual civil society forum and a Human Rights Committee meeting twice a year involving a range of civil society actors.</p>
<b>136.26</b>	Undertake measures to eliminate stigmatization and discrimination against children born out of wedlock by providing legal certainty in respect of their family name	Namibia	Supported	There is no uncertainty for any children in this respect. The surname of the child must be registered; this can be the surname of the father or mother or both.

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136.29	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and adopt a legislation on gender pay equity and abolish religious discrimination in the schools	Saudi Arabia	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.40, 135.69, 135.139 and 136.33.
136.33	Close the gender pay gap	Algeria	Supported	<p>In the period from 2014 to 2017, the unadjusted gender pay gap for Ireland increased from 13.9% to 14.4%. These are the most recent figures available.</p> <p>The Programme for a Partnership Government included commitments in respect of measures to reduce the gender pay gap, inclusive of increasing investment in childcare, reviewing the lower pay of women, addressing gender inequality in senior appointments, and seeking to promote wage transparency by requiring companies of 50 or more employees to complete a wage survey.</p> <p>A public consultation was launched on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 on measures to address the gender pay gap. This process closed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. 38 submissions were made by academics, civil society bodies, trade unions, employer representative organisations, employers, professional representative organisations, and individuals. Of the submissions received, 5 specific factors contributing to the gender pay gap, as cited by respondents, attracted 69% of suggested actions. The top five factors cited were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-transparency of pay structures;</li> <li>• Women and caring responsibilities;</li> <li>• Unconscious bias;</li> <li>• Occupational/sectoral gender segregation;</li> <li>• Childcare.</li> </ul>

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			<p>The results of the public consultation were discussed at a national symposium hosted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2018, which was attended by over 130 people.</p> <p>The Gender Pay Gap Information Bill was published and presented to Dáil Éireann on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2019. The Bill passed Committee Stage on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 and was awaiting report stage when it lapsed following dissolution of Dáil Éireann in January 2020.</p> <p>The purpose of the Bill was to require the Minister to make regulations obliging employers to publish information relating to the gender pay gap, initially in firms of 250 or more employees, with this threshold reducing to 50 when the legislation became fully operational. The requirement was to apply in both private and public sector bodies, once the employment threshold was met. The Bill also provided that employers must set out the measures, if any, being taken to eliminate or reduce any pay gap. This was to incentivise employers to take steps insofar as they could to reduce the gender pay gap. Publication of a number of gender pay gap metrics would also be required, e.g. mean and median, data on part-time employees, bonus pay, benefits in kind etc. The regulations could also require the publication of information on the percentage of employees in each of the four pay quartiles who are men and who are women, and the publication of information by reference to job classifications. The Minister was to be given powers to appoint designated officers to investigate how employers prepare the information for publication to ensure its accuracy. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) was to be given power to apply to the Circuit Court for an order requiring a person to comply with the Ministerial regulations. A person who failed to comply with a Circuit Court order would be in contempt of that Court. Also, an individual employee would be able to make a complaint to the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) of non-compliance with reporting regulations by their employer. The WRC, if it found in favour of the employee, could order the employer to take a specified course of action in order to comply. It is not yet known whether this or similar proposals will be included in the legislative programme of the next Government.</p>	

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136.34	Take effective measures to increase women’s representation in decision-making positions and close the pay gap	Bangladesh	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.93 and 136.33.
136.35	Take effective measures to increase women’s representation in decision-making positions in all areas, close the gender pay gap and eliminate strong gender role stereotypes and ensure that all women workers benefit from the maternity benefits scheme	Namibia	Supported	<p>The Maternity Protection Acts 1994 and 2004 provide that all female employees in Ireland, no matter how long they have been working, are entitled to take maternity leave for a basic period of 26 weeks. At least 2 weeks have to be taken before the end of the week of the baby's expected birth and at least four weeks after. A further 16 weeks additional maternity leave (unpaid maternity leave) may be taken immediately after maternity leave ends (total 42 weeks).</p> <p>In 2017, there was an extension to maternity leave and benefit to mothers of babies born prematurely. For premature births on or since the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2017, the basic period of maternity leave is extended for an extra period which corresponds to the time between the baby's actual birth and the expected start date of maternity leave. In the event of stillbirth or miscarriage any time after the 24th week of pregnancy, a woman is entitled to full maternity leave (the basic period of 26 weeks and 16 weeks of additional maternity leave). If a mother dies within 40 weeks of the birth, the father or other parent is entitled to maternity leave from work.</p> <p>During the basic period of maternity leave women may qualify for maternity benefit from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection if they have enough Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) contributions. The PRSI contributions can be from both employment and self-employment.</p> <p>In 2018 Ireland had 61, 061 births and 41,199 women availed of maternity benefit.</p> <p>Ireland has also enacted legislation to support fathers in their caring roles for their children. The Parental Leave and Benefit Act 2016 introduced two weeks of paid paternity leave for the fathers of children under one with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2016. The Parent’s</p>

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				<p>Leave and Benefit Act 2019 introduced two weeks of paid parent's leave for each parent during the first year of a child's life.</p> <p>As to the section concerning increasing women's representation in decision-making positions and closing the gender pay gap, this is addressed in responses to recommendations 135.93 and 136.33.</p>
<b>136.36</b>	Introduce a domestic violence bill, improve data collection on domestic violence and strengthen support services, including shelters and legal aid, for victims	Lithuania	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 136.39.
<b>136.37</b>	Adopt the draft law on domestic and sexual violence against women, and strengthen support services in shelters and legal assistance to the victims	Uruguay	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>136.38</b>	Finalise the adoption of the Domestic Violence Bill and ensure that perpetrators of domestic violence are held to account (Botswana);	Botswana	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.71.
<b>136.39</b>	Provide shelters and legal aid to victims of domestic violence, and submit a draft law on domestic violence	Bahrain	Supported	The Department of Children and Youth Affairs provides Services for Victims of Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) through Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. The DSGBV service is free and confidential and includes emergency shelter, legal advocacy, support groups and domestic violence education.

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				<p>The overall budget for Tusla DSGBV services in 2019 was €25.3m, an increase of €1.5m over 2018 levels. This higher level of funding has been sustained for 2020. The additional funding provided further support for sexual violence services, additional outreach workers for domestic violence services, expanded programmes for child witnesses of domestic abuse, and reduced counselling waiting lists in sexual violence services.</p> <p>On foot of a Statutory Instrument, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018, a change to the Civil Legal Aid Regulations ensures that applicants for legal aid in cases where the only remedy sought is an order pursuant to the Domestic Violence Act 1996 in the District Court, no longer have to pay a financial contribution for access to civil legal aid.</p>
<b>136.40</b>	Collect accurate statistics of cases of domestic violence against women, as well as strengthen support services to victims of domestic violence, including shelters and legal aid services	Russian Federation	Supported	<p>Ireland’s Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016–2021 is structured around three high level goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Prevention, which includes awareness raising, training and education;</li> <li>ii) Services to victims and holding perpetrators to account; and</li> <li>iii) In support of these goals, data gathering, monitoring and research.</li> </ul> <p>It is the duty of An Garda Síochána to investigate all incidents of domestic abuse, including reports of domestic abuse received from a third party. It is the duty of An Garda Síochána to ensure that all such incidents are recorded appropriately on PULSE (the Garda computer system).</p> <p>As part of the recording procedure, it is mandatory to consider a domestic violence motive in respect of all crime victims, and to record as appropriate. Domestic violence is recorded by selecting the appropriate motive type within the incident’s modus operandi (MO) data field. A new policy on Domestic Abuse Intervention was introduced by An Garda Síochána in 2017. The policy defines domestic abuse as “the physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse of one person against another who is a family member or is or has been an intimate partner, regardless of the gender or sexuality”. The policy indicates that all such incidents should be recorded appropriately on PULSE.</p>

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136.41	Improve protection of victims of domestic violence, including by providing with shelter and legal aid	Republic of Moldova	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 136.39.
136.42	Continue to strengthen policies and programmes to combat domestic and sexual violence against women, including a system of psychological, legal and physical support for the victims	Chile	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 136.39.
136.48	Continue measures to protect the rights of migrant workers, including combatting racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance, and as further gesture of its commitment, consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	Sri Lanka	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.81 and 135.103.
136.55	Continue consolidating and increasing its national social inclusion programmes	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.81.

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<b>136.56</b>	Implement and support the particular government programmes of social integration and community activation	Iraq	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.81.
<b>136.57</b>	Continue strengthening its sound social policies in order to improve the quality of life of its people with an emphasis on vulnerable groups, in particular ethnic, racial and cultural minorities	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Supported	<p>Social transfers in Ireland have been shown to be highly effective in alleviating poverty. Notably, the percentage of the population in consistent poverty reduced from 8.2% in 2016 to 6.7% in 2017 and consistent poverty among children fell to 8.8%, equating to a reduction of 25,000 children on the child poverty target (Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2017 findings). In 2017, social transfers (excluding pensions) reduced the at-risk of poverty rate from 32.3% to 15.7% or 16.6 percentage points in absolute terms. The impact of social transfers in reducing poverty in Ireland is one of the highest in the EU.</p> <p>Ireland’s commitment to social inclusion and poverty reduction is illustrated in the Department of Employment and Social Protection Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025, which aims to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less and make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the EU.</p>
<b>136.62</b>	Set up an inclusive system for access to quality health care for all social categories, in particular disadvantaged and marginalized groups, in consultation with concerned communities and stakeholders	Haiti	Supported	<p>Launched in 2018, Sláintecare is the Government’s ten-year programme to achieve a universal single-tier health and social care system where everyone has equal access to services based on need, and not ability to pay. Over time, everyone will be entitled to a comprehensive range of primary, acute and social care services.</p> <p>The objectives of the programme are to promote the health of our population, to prevent illness, and create a health system where care is provided on the basis of need, not ability to pay. It will bring the majority of care into the community and create an integrated, accountable, and reliable system, with health and social care professionals working closely together.</p> <p>Sláintecare is focused on the need to expand entitlement and eligibility as part of a transition towards universal health and social care access. Sláintecare proposes providing universal services at little or no cost to the patient / service user. The Eligibility / Entitlement</p>

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			<p>Programme will plan how to address barriers and/ or inequities in access to health and social services so as to transition towards a universal single tier system where price is not a barrier to getting timely care. Sláintecare is now entering its second full year of implementation, with the Sláintecare Action Plan 2020 detailing the necessary steps on the pathway to universal healthcare.</p> <p>In addition, the Irish Public Health System provides Medical Card (full eligibility) and General Practitioner (GP) Visit Card (limited eligibility) services which are targeted towards low-income households and marginalised groups. Full eligibility is determined primarily by reference to income limits.</p> <p>Determination of an individual's eligibility status is the responsibility of the Health Service Executive (HSE). The HSE assesses each application on a qualifying financial threshold. This is the amount of money that an individual can earn in a week and still qualify for a card. It is specific to the individual's financial circumstances. In addition, if a person's sole income is derived from a social welfare payment, even where this is more than the current means threshold, he/she will be awarded a medical card. The assessment process includes, where relevant, a mechanism through which the financial burden associated with a medical condition or diagnosis can be taken into account.</p> <p>Individuals with full eligibility are entitled to a range of services including General Practitioner services, prescribed drugs and medicines, all public hospital services in public wards, including consultant services, all out-patient public hospital services, dental, ophthalmic and aural services and appliances, and a maternity and infant care service.</p> <p>Furthermore, if an applicant does not qualify for a medical card on financial grounds, the HSE will automatically assess if they are eligible for a GP visit card. A GP visit card (GPVC) allows the holder to visit a participating family doctor (GP) for free.</p> <p>As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2020, 1,540,448 persons hold eligibility for a Medical Card and 525,891 persons hold eligibility for a GP Visit Card. In total, 2,069,746 or 42% of the</p>	

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			<p>population now have access to GP care without charges (31.3% Medical Card and 10.7% GP Visit Card).</p> <p>The Government has also taken specific steps to address the healthcare needs of the increasing numbers of health service users from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The Health Service Executive’s (HSE) Second National Intercultural Health Strategy 2018-2023 aims to provide an integrated approach to addressing the support needs of service users of diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The goals of the Strategy include enhanced accessibility of services, and provision of high-quality, culturally responsive services to service users from diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds.</p> <p>The Department of Health, in conjunction with the HSE, supports a range of targeted initiatives, programmes and supports to improve the health status of Travellers and Roma. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary healthcare projects, counselling services, family support programmes and men's health projects;</li> <li>• Mental health promotion and suicide prevention services provided in a culturally sensitive manner, to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues;</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the HSE has a number of dedicated Public Health Nurses and related staff to address the priority health needs of members of the Traveller community. Traveller Health Units (THUs) have been established nationally to provide primary health care to Travellers through a culturally appropriate service model which comprises a partnership of health professionals i.e. General Practitioners, dedicated Nurse Specialists, Public Health Nurses and Traveller link workers. Each THU carries out activities based on locally identified needs. Innovative projects have been supported, with built-in reporting criteria for informing on-going adaptation, learning, and potential replication across all THUs. Initiatives such as the Asthma Education programme, Travelling to Wellbeing (suicide prevention) and other projects aimed at enhancing mental health service delivery are supported and funded.</p>	

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				<p>Traveller Primary Health Care Projects (TPHCP) are important vehicles for community engagement and have been identified as a key means of building trust between Traveller communities and health professionals at a local level. The objectives of TPHCPs are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish primary health care as a model of good practice to address Travellers Health;</li> <li>• To develop the skills of Travellers in providing community-based health services;</li> <li>• To liaise and assist in dialogue between Travellers and health service providers;</li> <li>• To highlight gaps in health service delivery to Travellers and work towards reducing inequalities that exists in established services;</li> </ul> <p>A Drug &amp; Alcohol Programme focuses on the promotion of Traveller inclusion in national, regional and local responses developed to address substance misuse. The programme supports Traveller organisations in tackling this issue within their own community. A Traveller Peer Support Worker scheme has been established as part of this agenda. Following an agreement with Coolmine Therapeutic Community (Dublin), Travellers that have completed the residential programme are given the option of joining a Community Employment scheme to become Traveller Peer Support Workers. The premise is that members of the Traveller community in recovery from addiction, who have attended drug rehabilitation services and are willing to share their experiences, are best able to support others to increase the numbers of Travellers accessing treatment.</p>
136.63	Put into effect its undertaking of previous commitment to implement this year, in strengthening the free health care sector to include all children under the age of twelve	Libya	Supported	Following the success of the rollout of free General Practitioner (GP) care to children under six, as part of a phased programme in forthcoming years the Government is now expanding free GP care to children under eight. This will be introduced from September 2020.

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136.83	Conduct and finalize a timely review of the request for recognition of the Travellers as an ethnic group	United States of America	Supported	Then Taoiseach, Enda Kenny announced formal State recognition of Travellers as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of March 2017. This step enjoyed all-party support in the Oireachtas (National Parliament).
136.87	Continue giving the broadest possible scope, flexibility and coverage to its immigration policy	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Supported	<p data-bbox="1160 499 2168 531"><u>Immigration to Ireland</u></p> <p data-bbox="1160 563 2168 659">Immigration is currently the key driver of population growth in both Ireland and the European Union, and this looks set to continue for the foreseeable future. According to the 2016 Census, 12.7% of the resident population had a nationality other than Irish.</p> <p data-bbox="1160 691 2168 978">Non-Irish nationals may enter the state by a variety of means. As Ireland is part of the European Union, citizens of other Member States do not need a visa or permit to live or work in Ireland. Over half of the non-Irish nationals in Ireland are from other EU Member States. Although the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union, its citizens still have the right to reside and work in Ireland under a reciprocal common travel arrangement between the countries. Non-Irish nationals from outside the EU and UK who wish to work or study in Ireland may apply for one of several permits/visas intended for this purpose. In 2018 Ireland granted 142,826 visas to non-Irish nationals for various reasons, including 30,811 for employment reasons and 43,724 for educational reasons.</p> <p data-bbox="1160 1010 2168 1042"><u>Special Immigration Schemes</u></p> <p data-bbox="1160 1074 2168 1169">To help ensure that Ireland’s immigration system is responsive to changing circumstances, while remaining open and fair, new temporary schemes can be introduced periodically to address particular needs.</p> <p data-bbox="1160 1201 2168 1377">A recent example of this is the Special Scheme for Students. This was a scheme for non-EEA nationals who held a Student Permission in the State during the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2010. This scheme was introduced in 2018 for non-EEA persons who commenced their presence in the State lawfully under a student permission with a limited right to work and who maintained that lawful presence for at least two years. The scheme permitted</p>

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			<p>qualifying persons to remain in the State with a right to work for 2 years on certain conditions. After two years, those who adhered to the terms of the initial permission granted, could apply for a further permission to reside and work in the State for an additional year. The Special Scheme for Students was launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 and closed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. A total of 3,116 cases were made under this Scheme, of which 2,253 were granted and 853 refused, with the remainder pending.</p> <p><u>Citizenship</u></p> <p>There are several routes by which people who meet certain conditions may become naturalised citizens of Ireland under the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1956, under which citizenship may be conferred at the sole discretion of the Minister for Justice and Equality. Citizenship is conferred at a formal Citizenship Ceremony. First introduced in 2011 in order to mark the occasion of the granting of citizenship in a dignified and solemn manner, ceremonies initially took place in Dublin, but since 2018 have been held in Killarney, Co. Kerry. The ceremonies are presided over by a retired judge of the Superior Courts, and attended by a Government Minister. Since their introduction in 2011, a total of 151 ceremonies been held (to March 2020), with approximately 132,000 people from over 180 countries receiving their certificates of naturalisation since 2011.</p> <p><u>Irish Refugee Protection Programme</u></p> <p>Ireland also welcomes refugees, including programme refugees and asylum seekers. The Irish Refugee Protection Programme was set up in 2015 as a response to the global humanitarian migration crisis. In 2019 the International Protection Office received 4,781 applications for international protection.</p>	

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136.88	Ensure that the legislation that provides individual consideration of the status of refugee includes the provision of sufficient resources for its implementation in order to avoid delays in the effective determination of the requests for the concession of refugee status	Mexico	Supported	This recommendation is addressed in the response to recommendation 135.148.
136.94	Modify the administrative provisions on immigration to protect the victims of trafficking of persons and integrate the prevention of trafficking in persons into the policies for asylum seekers	Honduras	Supported	<p>The International Protection Act 2015 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland (adopted in 2016), provide for a victim-centred and human rights based approach to the prevention of human trafficking, ensuring an effective criminal justice response and delivery of supports to victims. Ireland continues to ensure that the right to seek and enjoy asylum does not impede identification as a victim of trafficking. The International Protection Office places a strong emphasis on watching for the signs of human trafficking in international protection applicants and has an ongoing training programme in place.</p> <p>Progress has been made to improve the access of victims to State supports (the National Referral Mechanism). A health-service led strategy for the identification of victims of trafficking has been proposed at Ministerial level with further discussions ongoing. Ireland will continue to ensure that victims of trafficking have early access to legal practitioners, including by means of funding non-governmental groups that provide legal assistance.</p>
136.95	Continue efforts to pass legislation to combat human trafficking in the form of sham marriages	Latvia	Supported	It has been made more difficult to broker a marriage of convenience. Evidence of intention to undertake a marriage of convenience is now categorised as an impediment to marriage and the Irish Nationalisation and Immigration Service has the power to revoke immigration status and issue deportation orders.

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				<p>The Anti-Human Trafficking Team (AHTT) of the Health Service Executive categorises trafficking of persons under the headings of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, sham marriage and forced criminality. It has responsibility for care planning for victims of trafficking in all areas of exploitation and provides support for potential victims of trafficking to access the relevant State agencies and their services.</p>
136.96	<p>Take steps to move towards increased renewable energy production, in-line with their pledges on Climate Action</p>	Maldives	Supported	<p>The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in Ireland is currently developing a new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS). The primary objective of RESS is to incentivise sufficient renewable electricity production to enable Ireland to deliver its 2030 renewable electricity contribution to EU wide targets. Other policy objectives that will be delivered under RESS include increasing community participation in and ownership of renewable electricity projects; increasing renewable technology diversity; and enhancing security of supply.</p>
136.97	<p>Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation</p>	State of Palestine	Supported	<p>Ireland is committed to giving effect to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Ireland has adopted a National Plan on Business and Human Rights (2017-2020) to promote responsible business conduct by Irish companies at home and overseas.</p>

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162.2	Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Discrimination in Education	Honduras	Partially Accepted	This recommendation is addressed in the responses to recommendations 135.26, 135.35, 135.40 and 135.139.