

**Buan-Mhisean na hÉireann chuig na Náisiún Aontaithe agus  
Eagraíoch idirnáisúnta eile | An Ghinéiv**  
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and  
Other International Organisations | Geneva  
Mission Permanente de l'Irlande auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et  
des autres organisations internationales | Genève



TPN/111/2025

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to Special Procedures Joint Communication OL IRL 1/2025.

With reference to the aforementioned communication, enclosed please find a response from the Government of Ireland.

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 3 November 2025



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

## **Response to Joint Communication from Special Procedures, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - OL IRL 1/2025**

The Government of Ireland notes the publication of OL IRL 1/2025.

We welcome the Joint Communication's analysis that the "Joint Framework provides a clear indication of the commitment of the two Governments to move forward in the transitional justice agenda related to this period and to respect their international human rights obligations on the matter" and that the Joint Framework is "a significant improvement over the Legacy and Reconciliation Act 2023 and provides a blueprint for much needed progress in the quest for truth, justice and sustainable reconciliation for the harm endured during the Troubles."

We further welcome the emphasis placed in the Joint Communication on the critical need to implement these reforms without delay, and re-assert the Government of Ireland's commitment to the faithful and timely implementation of the Joint Framework. We also welcome the focus on reciprocal cooperation between the two governments, which is at the heart of the agreement Framework.

The Government of Ireland will respond fully and more substantively to the questions posed on page 13 of the Joint Communication in due course, and provides the following initial clarifications in the interim:

1. In relation to question 2, the Joint Framework is guided by the principles of the 2014 Stormont House Agreement, namely promoting reconciliation; upholding the rule of law; acknowledging and addressing the suffering of victims and survivors; facilitating the pursuit of justice and information recovery; ensuring human rights compliance; and putting in place arrangements that are balanced, proportionate, transparent, fair and equitable. Once faithfully implemented, the measures outlined in the Joint Framework will establish European Convention on Human Rights compliant mechanisms in pursuit of the shared goal of securing truth, accountability and, where possible, justice for victims, families and survivors, and for society. As the Special Rapporteurs will be aware, the European Convention on Human Rights is a safeguard fundamental to the Good Friday Agreement, in both jurisdictions. Under the terms of the Agreement, the British Government committed to incorporating the ECHR in to Northern Ireland law, while the Government of Ireland committed to 'ensure at least an equivalent level of protection of human rights as will pertain in Northern Ireland'.
2. In relation to question 3, the Government of Ireland engaged in extensive consultation with all relevant stakeholder during the negotiation and drafting of the Joint Framework and their views were effectively taken in to consideration at all times. The Government of Ireland has continued to engage with relevant stakeholders following the publication of the Joint Framework and will continue to do so during the implementation phase of the Joint Framework. Once the reformed Legacy Commission is operational, a statutory Victims and Survivors Advisory Group representing the voices of all those affected will be established and ensure that the needs of victims remain central to the work of the Legacy Commission.
3. In relation to question 4, the Government of Ireland will, by the end of 2025, establish a dedicated unit within An Garda Síochana as a central point of contact for victims and

families in relation to Troubles-related investigations undertaken by An Garda Síochána. An Garda Síochána has also committed, where possible, to endeavour to answer questions that a family may have in relation to the investigation of a Troubles-related incident and provide a report to the family. Building on existing mechanisms which facilitate cooperation with inquests, the Government of Ireland will ensure the necessary arrangements will be put in place to facilitate the fullest possible cooperation of the relevant Irish authorities with the Legacy Commission, once established, including criminal investigations, fact-finding investigations, and the Inquisitorial Mechanism; as well as with public inquiries. In this regard, the Government of Ireland will bring forward legislation in due course, including on the Independent Commission for Information Retrieval (ICIR).

**ENDS**