

Statement

My name Conrad Bryan, I am a Director of a Civil Society Organisation, in Ireland, called the Association of Mixed Race Irish. I am delighted to be here today amongst fellow people of African descent and human rights advocates and defenders. We have been fighting for the past 10 years for children and orphans of black African fathers and white Irish mothers, who were abandoned and left in Irish institutions for years, due to racial prejudice and racial discrimination. **Our childhoods were stolen.**

In its 2021 State Apology, the Irish State recognised for the first time in its history that children of different racial backgrounds were left institutionalised because of an unjust belief that they were unsuitable for family life, such as adoption. This long-term institutionalisation resulted in multiple and intersectional violations of the human rights of children of African descent. We welcomed this State apology after years of campaigning, but we are still fighting for separate recognition in the States reparation scheme that is currently being developed in Ireland. An Apology on its own without recognising adequate redress is not enough. It is disappointing that, on the question of Reparations for racial abuse and racial discrimination, reparation is not being separately recognised and is being denied to us. This is a significant issue for all of us here today and I hope, over the course of this week, we can address the question of adequate reparations due to People of African descent for the legacies of racial abuse.

Thank You.