



Statement of Ireland

78th World Health Assembly

Item 13.2

Mental health and social connection

23rd May 2025

Chair,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Mental health is an integral part of health and wellbeing and promoting good mental health is essential to improve overall population health .

Pathways to Wellbeing, Ireland's National Mental Health Promotion Plan was informed by national and international evidence and provides the foundation for our programme of work.

The Plan contains six high-level goals, two of which specifically aim to address loneliness and social exclusion. This reflects the centrality of these issues in our national agenda, and we are therefore very grateful for the opportunity to highlight the need for further advancement in this area today.

We see promise domestically in social prescribing, which aims to empower individuals to access a range of community-based options and health service programmes and services to improve their health and wellbeing.

We would also like to highlight the particular burden which social isolation places on older people. To address this nationally we have launched the ‘Hello Again World’ media campaign, called, the “Hello Again World Communications Campaign” with the aim of combatting loneliness and isolation among older persons.

Thank you