Dáil Éireann Motion Condemning the Use of Chemical weapons in Syria

That Dáil Éireann

* Is appalled by the recent suspected chemical attack in Idlib Syria which killed dozens of people, including children;
* Notes that Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), which is mandated by the UN Security Council, found sufficient evidence that the Syrian Government has deployed chemical weapons on previous occasions;
* Condemns without reservation the use of chemical weapons which are a violation of international law;
* Believes that the actions of the Syrian Government are an affront to humanity and are conducted with flagrant disregard for international human rights law; and
* Condemns that actions taken by the Russian military in Syria, which support’s President Basahar Al Assad’s regime, and also its continued use of its Veto at the UN Security Council to block sanctions being imposed on Syria

Calls for:

* The Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to carry out a full investigation to formally determine the use of chemical weapons in Idlib Syria;
* The UN Security Council to immediately adopt criteria to curtail members from using the veto where there are serious concerns that war crimes and crimes against humanity may have been committed;
* The UN Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court;
* Accountability for war crimes, such as the use of chemical weapons;
* Those suspected of committing such heinous crimes to be investigated fully and to face the full rigours of the law if found guilty;
* The Irish Government to formally make known to the Syrian Government our horror at their actions and that condemn them without reservation;
* Continued support for the people of Syria and to honour the commitment as outlined in the Programme for Partnership Government to ‘continue to play an active role at the European Union Foreign Affairs Council, the OSCE and through the UN, in seeking diplomatic resolutions to crises and conflict, with particular reference to Syria’; and
* Renewed efforts by the international community to broker lasting peace in Syria

Concludes that:

The ongoing conflict in Syria has created one of the world’s wort humanitarian crises. The people of Syria have been subjected to the most heinous and appalling atrocities; hundreds of thousands have lost their lives, whilst millions have been displaced. The use of chemical weapons demonstrates that the Syrian Government operates without any regard for human life.

It is therefore incumbent upon Ireland to speak out against such abhorrent acts of violence and to call upon the international bodies, including the United Nations and the European Union, to use every mechanism at its disposal, or where necessary adopt new mechanisms, to ensure that those suspected of committing such crimes are fully investigated and where found guilty are treated accordingly under law. -*Darragh O'Brien, Barry Cowen, Bobby Aylward, John Brassil, Declan Breathnach, James Browne, Mary Butler, Thomas Byrne, Jackie Cahill, Dara Calleary, Pat Casey, Shane* *Cassells, Jack Chambers, Lisa M. Chambers, Niall Collins, John Curran, Stephen Donnelly,Timmy Dooley, Sean* *Fleming, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Seán Haughey, Billy Kelleher, John Lahart, James Lawless,* *Marc MacSharry, Micheál Martin, Charlie McConalogue, Michael McGrath, John McGuinness,* *Aindrias Moynihan, Michael Moynihan, Eugene Murphy, Margaret Murphy O'Mahony, Jim* *O'Callaghan, Éamon Ó Cuív, Willie O'Dea, Kevin O'Keeffe, Fiona O'Loughlin, Frank O'Rourke,* *Anne Rabbitte, Eamon Scanlon, Brendan Smith, Niamh Smyth, Robert Troy, Brendan Howlin, Joan Burton, Alan Kelly, Sean Sherlock, Jan O’Sullivan, Willie Penrose, Brendan Ryan, Róisín Shortall, Catherine Murphy, Michael Healy Rae, Noel Grealish, Tommy Broughan, Michael Harty. (11th April 2017)*