



Human Rights Council – 33rd session
Item 6 – Adoption of the report on the UPR of Ireland
Oral statement

Mr. President,

This statement is delivered on behalf of FIDH and *Your Rights. Right Now*,ⁱ a coalition of 17 Irish civil society organisations.

We welcome the State's positive engagement in the UPR.

However, we remain concerned at the partial acceptance of 45 recommendations, where their status is unclear.

The State's non-acceptance of 41 recommendations is worrying, including on the continued existence of the Special Criminal Courts, and the negative impacts of budget cuts on ESC rights, evidenced especially amongst vulnerable groups, such as older people and people with disabilitiesⁱⁱ.

A Citizens' Assembly has been established to consider, *inter alia*, reforming Ireland's Constitution which criminalises access to, and provision of, abortion services in almost all circumstances. However, we remain concerned at Ireland's decision not to support 16 out of 17 recommendations regarding abortion.

We urge the State to fully protect the reproductive rights of women and girls in Ireland including access to safe and legal abortion, through Constitutional and legislative reform.

We ask Ireland to take additional steps to tackle the growing housing and homelessness crisis including:

- implementing proposals in the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessnessⁱⁱⁱ to alleviate conditions in emergency accommodation, particularly for children; and
- taking immediate steps to implement the 2014 recommendation of the Constitutional Convention to strengthen constitutional protection of ESC rights.

We urge the Government to acknowledge Travellers as an ethnic group without further delay.^{iv}

We look forward to Ireland ratifying outstanding treaties it has signed including the CRPD and Optional Protocol^v, OPCAT,^{vi} OP-ICESCR^{vii}, and the Istanbul Convention^{viii}, before its next UPR.^{ix}

We urge the State to fully operationalise the International Protection Act 2015.

We encourage the State to continue productive engagement with UN Treaty Bodies and to implement their recommendations.

In particular, we urge the State to establish independent mechanisms for truth finding and redress regarding the Magdalene Laundries and the practice of Symphysiotomy.

The State should set out concretely how, and in what timeframe, recommendations will be implemented^x and we look forward to engaging with the State in this regard.

Thank you Mr. President.

ⁱ *Your Rights. Right Now* organisations:

Age Action

NUI Galway Centre for Disability Law and Policy

Disability Federation of Ireland

Educate Together

Free Legal Advice Centres

Gay and Lesbian Equality Network

Immigrant Council of Ireland

Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Transgender Equality Network Ireland

Irish Family Planning Association

Irish Penal Reform Trust

Irish Traveller Movement

Mercy Law Resource Centre

National Women's Council of Ireland

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre

Union of Students in Ireland

All of the views expressed in this statement do not necessarily reflect the policies and positions of each endorsing organisation.

ⁱⁱ Also children, women, single parent families.

ⁱⁱⁱ MerrionStreet.ie, 'Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Launched' 19 July 2016. Available at: http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/News-Room/News/Action_Plan_for_Housing_and_Homelessness_launched.html (Accessed 15 September 2016).

^{iv} Paragraph 136.83

^v Paragraph 135.69

^{vi} Paragraphs 135.8-135.25

^{vii} Paragraphs 135.6-135.7

^{viii} Paragraphs 135.71-135.75

^{ix} Also the ICPPED and the 2nd Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

^x Paragraph 135