



# What is life like for Women in Ireland in 2016?

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) is Ireland's independent national human rights and equality institution. One of our key roles is to report to the United Nations on Ireland's human rights record.



We want to hear your views on gender equality and women's rights.

Your experiences will help us write a report to the UN on Ireland's progress under the **Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**.



## Ireland and CEDAW



**1985**

Ireland ratified CEDAW.

**1990, 1999, 2005**

CEDAW examined Ireland's progress and made recommendations for improvement.

**2015**

IHREC and civil society met with CEDAW to highlight key areas of concern.

**2016**

CEDAW produced a list of questions for the Irish government to report on.

**2017**

IHREC will submit a report to CEDAW based on our research and consultations. CEDAW will then question the Irish government at a hearing in Geneva.

## What Happens Then?

CEDAW will publish 'Concluding Observations' – a set of goals for Ireland to work towards to better promote gender equality and protect women's rights.



# Gender Equality & Women's Rights in Ireland - Some of the issues:

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**CEDAW** defines gender-based violence as *“violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman... including physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, or other deprivations of liberty”*. (GR No. 19)

**In Ireland:** There is no explicit definition of gender-based violence in Irish law.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH



**CEDAW** recommends that *“special attention should be given to the health needs and rights of women belonging to disadvantaged groups”*. (GR No. 24)

**In Ireland:** A Traveller woman will live 11 years less than the general population.

## EDUCATION



**CEDAW** recommends that States should ensure that women have access to all educational and academic routes and subjects. (CEDAW Art. 10)

**In Ireland:** 81% of academic professorial positions are male, and there has never been a female president of Ireland's 7 universities.

## PARTICIPATION



**CEDAW** has observed that *“where there is full and equal participation of women in public life and decision-making, the implementation of their rights and compliance with the Convention improves”*. (GR No. 23)

**In Ireland:** 78% of TDs are male, 71.5% of Senators are male and 74% of members of Government are male.

## EMPLOYMENT



**CEDAW** has affirmed that women should receive equal pay for work of equal value. (CEDAW Art. 11(d); GR No. 13)

**In Ireland:** Women continue to be paid on average 14% less than men.

## STEREOTYPING



**CEDAW** obliges States to combat gender stereotypes that impact both women and men. (CEDAW Art. 5)

**In Ireland:** Gender stereotypes persist in all walks of Irish life, including in the Irish Constitution.



Coimisiún na hÉireann  
um Chearta an Duine  
agus Comhionannas  
Irish Human Rights and  
Equality Commission

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHALLENGE DISCRIMINATION  
AGAINST WOMEN IN IRELAND.

Find out more about our CEDAW project  
[www.ihrec.ie](http://www.ihrec.ie) | [cedaw@ihrec.ie](mailto:cedaw@ihrec.ie)