



WOMEN IN PRISON

What CEDAW says:

"The Committee recommends that States parties ensure that mechanisms are in place to monitor places of detention, pay special attention to the situation of women prisoners and apply international guidance and standards on the treatment of women in detention"

(CEDAW General Recommendation No. 33)

ISSUES

OVERCROWDING

Women's prisons are the most overcrowded in the State

FACILITIES

Disparity between facilities available to male prisoners and those available to women, e.g step-down facilities, post-release, integration and education programs

TRAVELLER WOMEN

Over-representation of Traveller women in prison

HEALTH & FAMILY

Impact of incarceration on family relationships and mental health

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS



REVIEW FACILITIES

Address over-crowding; implement gender-sensitive approaches and offer suitable facilities for women in prison



ACTION PLAN

Develop and implement action plan to address the needs of Traveller women in prison



Facilitate family-friendly contact between prisoners and their children, including outside prison where possible

WOMEN IN DIRECT PROVISION

What CEDAW says:

"States parties [must] refrain from making laws, policies, regulations, programmes, administrative procedures and institutional structures that directly or indirectly result in the denial of the equal enjoyment by women of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights"

(CEDAW General Recommendation No. 28)

ISSUES



EDUCATION

Women living in direct provision experience barriers to further education



EMPLOYMENT

People seeking asylum are denied the right to work



HEALTH

Negative impact of direct provision system on mental health and wellbeing. Inadequate access to mental health and maternity services

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Fully implement the recommendations of the Working Group Report on the Protection Process (Mc Mahon Report)
- ➔ Provide gender-sensitive mental health and counselling services to all women living in direct provision
- ➔ Asylum seeking women should be permitted and supported to work

Ensure that both publicly and privately owned centres are made subject to the Public Sector Duty

AUSTERITY, POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION

What CEDAW says:

"The Convention requires States parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the area of economic and social life"

(Article 13 CEDAW)

ISSUES

€ AUSTERITY

Austerity measures disproportionately impact women

🏠 HOMELESSNESS

Increase in female headed, single parent families presenting as homeless

👤 LONE PARENTS

Over 30% of lone parent families experienced income poverty during Ireland's recession

📍 RURAL WOMEN

Access to transport impacts on access to services, healthcare and employment

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Rural transport policy must reflect mobility needs of rural women
- ➔ Review the One Parent Family Payment to ensure that lone parents' right to an adequate standard of living is realised
- ➔ A gender-sensitive approach to the implementation of Rebuilding Ireland to support women experiencing homelessness

Conduct a gender impact analysis of austerity measures and undertake actions to reverse any negative impacts on women's economic and social rights

EMPLOYMENT

What CEDAW says:

"States should ensure the application of the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value"

(CEDAW General Recommendation No. 13)

ISSUES

€ GENDER PAY GAP

Gender pay gap is 14% and the gender pension gap is 38%

♀ PREGNANCY

Increase in pregnancy related discrimination during Ireland's recession

🏠 DOMESTIC WORK

Migrant women are over-represented in the care and domestic work sector with many women working in precarious employment conditions

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Take account of the forthcoming report of the Low Pay Commission on the preponderance of women in low paid jobs.
- ➔ Implement the new Affordable Childcare Scheme to ensure that access to affordable, quality childcare is available
- ➔ Amend the Employment Equality Acts to ensure that domestic workers are protected from discriminatory recruitment

Survey employers' attitudes towards maternity protection legislation and effect necessary changes to law and practice to protect pregnant women from workplace discrimination

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

What CEDAW says:

"The State should take all necessary measures to combat violence against women"

(CEDAW Concluding Observations on Ireland 2005)

ISSUES



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Gaps exist in domestic legislation and Ireland has not yet ratified the Istanbul Convention



ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTIMS

Shortage of emergency and longer term accommodation. Accessibility issues for women in rural areas



MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION

Migrant women who are victims of domestic violence face legal uncertainty due to immigration status

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Forthcoming legislation should afford protection to all individuals, including those who are not cohabiting with the perpetrator
- ➔ Opt-in to EU Directive on Family Reunification and introduce implementing legislation in order to ensure that victims may be granted autonomous residence permits

**Ensure
timely
ratification
of the
Council of
Europe's
Istanbul
Convention**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

What CEDAW says:

"Access to justice encompasses justiciability, availability, accessibility, good-quality and accountability of justice systems, and provision of remedies for victims"

(CEDAW General Recommendation No. 33)

ISSUES



MAGDALENE LAUNDRIES

Ireland has not met its international human rights obligations to women who suffered abuse in magdalene laundries



SYMPHISIOTOMY

Payment scheme precludes applications from further legal recourse. The risk of incurring costs also represents a significant barrier to obtaining an effective remedy through the courts



MOTHER & BABY HOMES

Inquiry limited in scope - only 18 named institutions being investigated by Commission of Investigation

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Widen the scope of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes
- ➔ Fully implement the relevant provisions of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 and the Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Act 2015

Fully investigate all instances of historical abuse, including conducting any criminal prosecutions, and provide redress to the victims



TRAVELLER WOMEN

What CEDAW says:

"States parties must legally recognise and prohibit intersecting forms of discrimination and their compounded negative impact on the women concerned"

(CEDAW General Recommendation No. 28)

ISSUES



TRAVELLER ETHNICITY

Lack of recognition impacts on Traveller women's health, access to employment, and access to education



ACCOMMODATION

Lack of culturally appropriate accommodation results in issues such as over-crowding and unsafe sites



EDUCATION

Preferential school enrolment policies can result in the exclusion of Traveller pupils. Attainment levels for Traveller girls remain low

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS



Take steps to progressively realise the right to culturally appropriate housing for Traveller families



Amend the Equal Status Acts 2000–2015 to prohibit the use of a connection with a former student of the school as a criterion in the admission of a child

The Commission recommends that the State provide a detailed outline of the steps it intends to take in order to formally recognise Traveller ethnicity in 2017



WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

What CEDAW says:

"State parties must legally recognise and prohibit intersecting forms of discrimination and their compounded negative impact on the women concerned"

(CEDAW General Recommendation No. 28)

ISSUES



UNCRPD

Ireland is the only EU Member State to have not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



EMPLOYMENT

Women with a disability are less likely than men with a disability to be active in the labour market



IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE

Non-recognition of ISL as an official language of the State acts as a barrier both to participation in society and to access to services.

IHREC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Include UNCRPD standards in debates on Irish Sign Language for the Deaf Community Bill 2016
- ➔ Investigate the barriers to employment faced by marginalised groups of women

Engage in a gender-sensitive, participatory process to elicit the views of people with disabilities when putting the legislative and policy framework in place for CRPD ratification