



**Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas**

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Thinking about CERD



Committee on the
Elimination of
Racial Discrimination
UNITED NATIONS



This is an Easy to Read report.
It is about CERD – an agreement
between countries to stop racism.

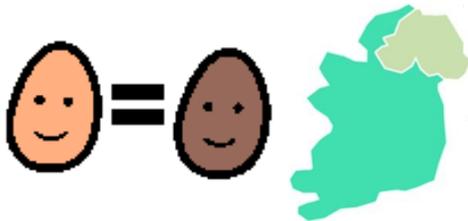


What is this report about?



The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission is an independent public organisation.

It will be called 'The Commission' in this report.



The Commission's job is to look after human rights and equality in Ireland.



Human rights are rights that everybody has.

They should not be taken away.



Equality is about making sure that everyone can have the same chance in life.

What is this report about?



Committee on the
Elimination of
Racial Discrimination
UNITED NATIONS

This report is about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This is known as CERD.



CERD is an agreement between countries in the United Nations.



It is a plan to stop racism and to encourage understanding.



Racism is when a person is treated differently or badly because of where they are from or how they look.

For example, because of the colour of their skin.

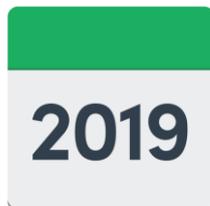
What is this report about?



There is a Committee to look after CERD.



Their job is to check if countries are putting CERD into action.



Ireland will be checked by the Committee in November and December 2019.



The Commission wrote a report to the Committee before this check takes place.

Checking how Ireland is doing with human rights



The Commission is worried that Ireland has not agreed to some international treaties.



An international treaty is an agreement between countries.



The Commission says that Ireland should agree these treaties and put them into action.



Ireland has not put CERD into law.
This affects people's human rights.

Checking how Ireland is doing with human rights



Ireland is a place where people from different countries, races and cultures live together.



In this country no-one should have to put up with racism.

Everyone should be treated fairly.



We need strong leadership from political and public organisations.

This would help us to have a society that everyone can be part of.



The Commission thinks the Government should work now to put CERD into law.

There should be a committee to work on human rights and equality.

Collecting information



Minority ethnic groups are people different in race, colour, nationality, religion or culture from most people living in a country.



The Commission thinks Ireland does not collect the right information on minority ethnic groups. This makes it hard to check how we are doing with international laws.



Often surveys do not collect the right information on minority ethnic groups.

They do not tell us enough about the problems these groups face.



Good information is very important if we are to support the rights of minority ethnic groups.

Hate speech and hate crime



The Commission thinks that Ireland should make laws, policies and rules to stop hate speech and hate crime.



Hate speech is when a person says or writes bad things about another person or group of people. They attack people for things like race, religion or disability.



Hate crime is when a person is violent towards others because of things like race, religion or disability.



There is a law from 1989 but this is not enough to deal with hate speech.

Hate speech and hate crime



The Commission thinks that other changes are also needed to stop racism and hate speech.



The Government should put together a set of rules to stop hate speech online.
You should be punished if you break these rules.



The media is important when it comes to stopping hate speech and hate crime.
Radio, television, newspapers, magazines, social media and the internet are all media.



The Commission thinks that people working in the media should follow professional rules, CERD and other human rights laws.

Traveller community



Travellers are a minority ethnic group in Ireland.



We know that Travellers have experienced racism and unfair treatment in the past in Ireland.



There is a plan to support Travellers to be part of their communities and the country.

This is for the years 2017 to 2021.



The Commission welcomes this plan.

Traveller community

2019



The Commission believes that Travellers still experience racism and unfair treatment in Irish society.



They face barriers to their rights, for example, health, education, work and housing.



Some people talk about Travellers in a bad way. They think all Travellers are the same. This is another barrier to their rights.



We need to change attitudes – this is the way people think about Travellers.

This is one area where Ireland is not putting CERD into action.

Public services



The Commission is worried about how public services are meeting the needs of minority ethnic groups in Ireland.



Minority ethnic groups can be treated unfairly.



The Commission thinks that people working in the criminal justice system and public services need training in human rights and equality.

For example, in the prison service, health and education.



They need to understand better the cultures of different groups of people.

These people may have come to Ireland from other countries.

Public services



People from different minority ethnic groups should be able to work in the public service.



This does not happen enough.

For example, there is only one Traveller in the Gardaí.



There should be a plan to make this better.

This would help all groups to trust public services.

Direct Provision



Some people have to leave their own country to look for safety, for example, to escape a war.



Direct Provision is where some people live when they come to Ireland from another country.



This could be a large building where lots of people live.



Direct Provision centres are very full.
Some people have to stay in hotels or guesthouses if there is no room in the centres.

Direct Provision



Staying in Direct Provision for a long time can have a bad effect on people and their human rights.



It affects a person's right to family and a private life.

It can also affect their right to health.



It can affect the rights of groups like women and children.



The Commission is worried about Direct Provision centres being run by private companies.

This costs the country a lot of money.

Direct Provision



It can be hard to protect people's human rights in these Direct Provision centres.



The Commission thinks that the Government should make things better for people and families living in Direct Provision now.



The Commission thinks that Direct Provision should be changed for a better plan over time.

Human trafficking



Human trafficking is when people are moved from one country to another against the law.



People are moved in and out of Ireland.

This might be to work, for example, in fishing, farming, restaurants, car washing, waste services.



They may be paid little or nothing for their work.

They may not want to do the kind of work they are given.



The Commission thinks the Government should do more to stop human trafficking.

They need to understand how serious it is.

Human trafficking



Human trafficking goes against human rights.



In Ireland, there are problems looking for the people that break the law, and taking them to court.



We need to find the victims and support them. The victim is a person that is taken from one country to another against their will.



No-one has been sent to jail or punished for trafficking in Ireland since the law started in 2013. This makes it hard to support victims to report the crime and go to court.

Taking part in public life



Minority ethnic groups should be able to take part in public life.

This would help the Government and public services to meet the needs of these groups.



The Commission thinks that the Government should support minority ethnic groups to take part in politics.



For example, there could be seats kept just for these groups in Parliament and local government.

There could be a system to make sure that minority ethnic candidates are put forward for elections.



There should be special measures to support these communities to take part in public and political life.

These should be put together with minority ethnic groups.



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Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

This Report has been put together by the Irish Human Rights
and Equality Commission.



communicating together

ACE Communication helped with this Easy to Read Report.
Experts by Experience helped to put this information together.

