



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

Minutes
Extraordinary Meeting
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
17 February 2021, 4:00pm –6:00pm
Video Conference

Present - Commission Members:

1. Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner
2. Dr Frank Conaty
3. Tony Geoghegan
4. Adam Harris
5. Prof Kathleen Lynch
6. Lucy Michael
7. Prof Ray Murphy
8. Colm O' Dwyer
9. Sunniva McDonagh

Apologies:

1. Heydi Foster Breslin
2. Jim Clarken
3. Prof Caroline Fennell
4. Michael Finucane
5. Salome Mbugua
6. Dr Rosaleen McDonagh

In Attendance:

1. Laurence Bond, Director
2. Jean O' Mahony, Head of Strategic Engagement – Item 3.1 (JOM)
3. Brian Dawson, Communications Manager, Strategic Engagement (Items 2.1,2.2,2.3)
4. Sinéad Fitzpatrick, Senior Human Rights and Officer, Policy and Research
5. Louise Moloney, Minute Taker
6. Muireann Ní Thuairisg, Minute Taker

An Extraordinary meeting of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission took place on 17th February 2021 from 4:00pm - 6:20pm by video conference.

1.1 Apologies, Quorum and Declaration of Interest

Apologies were noted from HFB, JC, CF, MF, SM and RMcD. The meeting was quorate and there were no declarations of interest.

2.1 Submission on the General Scheme of Certain Institutional Burials (Authorised Interventions) Bill

Members discussed a draft submission to the Oireachtas Committee on Children, Disability, Equality and Integration on the General Scheme of Certain Institutional Burials (Authorised Interventions) Bill. The Committee has invited submissions from interested groups or individuals and will consider any written submissions received and may decide to invite a number of contributors to public hearings.

Members recommended amendments to the submission, which will be incorporated into the report. The final report will be submitted to the Committee before the closing date of 19th February 2021.

2.2 Submission on the General Scheme of the Smuggling of Persons Bill 2020

Members discussed a draft submission to the Oireachtas Committee on Justice on the General Scheme of the Smuggling of Persons Bill 2020. The Committee will consider any written submissions received and may decide to invite a number of contributors to public hearings.

Members recommended amendments to the submissions, which will be incorporated into the report. The final report will be submitted to the Committee before the closing date of 19th February 2021.

2.3 Submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community

Members discussed a draft submission to the Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community on the topic of accommodation. The Committee will consider any written submissions received and may decide to invite a number of contributors to public hearings.

Members recommended amendments to the submissions, which will be incorporated into the report. The final report will be submitted to the Committee before the closing date of 19th February 2021.

3.1 Mother and Baby Homes Redress Scheme

Following a request from Minister Roderic O' Gorman, SG met with the Minister and Secretary General to discuss providing advice to the inter-departmental group currently designing the redress scheme for survivors of the Mother & Baby Homes.

Following discussions, members agreed to provide advice to the inter-departmental group on the human rights and equality principles and issues, which should be considered by the State in developing a redress scheme.

Members emphasised that the Commission must carefully guard its independence and mandate in its engagement in this matter. It was suggested that consideration be given to setting out clear parameters for the engagement with the Inter-Departmental group. Members also emphasised the importance of the Commission hearing the views of survivors on the issue of redress.

It was agreed that SG would take time to consider the points raised by members and will inform members of the next steps.

4.1 AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6:20pm.



Signed:

Sinéad Gibney
Chief Commissioner

Date: 9 March 2021