



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

Invitation for Submissions

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Strategy Statement 2022-24 Consultation

Introduction

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC/Commission) would like to invite you to make a written or video contribution to the consultation process for its new Strategy Statement 2022-2024.

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 sets out the Commission role in relation to promoting and protecting human rights, equality and intercultural understanding in Ireland.

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014

Under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 (the Act), the overall functions of the Commission are:

- (a) To protect and promote human rights and equality;
- (b) To encourage the development of a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding in the State;
- (c) To promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights and equality in the State;
- (d) To encourage good practice in intercultural relations, to promote tolerance and acceptance of diversity in the State and respect for the freedom and dignity of each person; and
- (e) To work towards the elimination of human rights abuses, discrimination and prohibited conduct.

Section 42 of the Act sets out the *Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty*, which places a statutory obligation on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect the human rights of those to whom they provide services and staff when carrying out their daily work. The Commission gives guidance to public bodies in developing policies and good practice based on human rights and equality standards.¹

The Act will provide the framework for the Commission's next Strategy Statement 2022-24.

¹ <https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/public-sector-duty/>

Consultation with Individuals and Stakeholders

The Commission is inviting submissions from people (rights-holders) and groups working to eliminate discrimination, and promote and protect human rights and equality. Your contributions will put a spotlight on the issues that you believe should be taken into account when the Commission is developing its' strategic priorities for the next three years.

Submission details

You can make a written submission following the format below or submit a three-minute video using the submission questions as a guide. Further details on making video submissions are available here [line to guidance on our website].

The closing date for submissions is **6 August 2021**.

Format

This submission document is set out in three sections:

- The context for the coming three years
- The performance of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- Achieving change

Section 1: Background

If an individual, what group(s) do you self-identify with or wish to highlight here?

If a representative of a group or an organisation which of the following groups does your organisation's human rights and equality work relate to?

Please select one or more of the following options:

- Age
- Disability
- Civil status
- Family status (including lone parents and carers)
- Gender (including a transgender person or a person who is transitioning to another gender)
- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Traveller community
- Housing Assistance
- People at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- Other (please specify) _____

What is the name of your group or organisation? (Optional but helpful if you include)

Section 2: Context for the Commission's work over the next three years?

We would like to understand your experience so that it informs the context in which the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission will work over the next three years.

What is going well for you (and your community / constituency)? Max 200 words

What are the challenges and barriers that you (and your community / constituency) face, including intersectional challenges, please be specific? Max 300 words

What do you (and your community/ constituency) need to thrive – to have your human rights and equality protected? Max 200 words

Section 2: Performance of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

We would like to understand how you perceive the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission's performance over the past three years.

Strategic Statement 2019-2022 – Priorities

1. Protect the rights of individual persons who face the greatest barriers to justice;
2. Influence legislation, policy and practice;
3. Engage with key organisations to address discrimination and human rights abuses; and
4. Raise the quality and broaden the extent of the dialogue on human rights and equality issues.

Thematic Priorities that crosscut the Strategic Priorities:

1. Promoting access to justice;
2. Advancing social and economic rights;
3. Combatting racism and promoting intercultural understanding; and
4. Progressing the rights of people with disabilities

What are your views on the issues we have addressed and our impact over the past three years? Were there gaps? Where possible, please refer to a specific aspect of our work – i.e.

our legal work; research; legislative and policy submissions; international reporting; civil society engagement, grants programme, public awareness campaigns; public communication; promotion of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty etc. **Max. 400 words**

Section 3: Achieving Change

We would like to understand how we could work effectively to fulfil our mandate and achieve change.

What issues should the IHREC continue to address and build upon in our new Strategy Statement 2022-24 and programme of work as a priority? Max. 300 words

What emerging or other issues should the IHREC begin to address in our new Strategy Statement 2022-24 and programme of work as a priority? Max. 300 words

How best can the IHREC work with and support the further development of civil society as key actors in addressing discrimination and human rights infringements? Max. 200 words

What impact would you like to have seen from the IHREC by 2024? Max. 200 words

Thank you for making this submission!