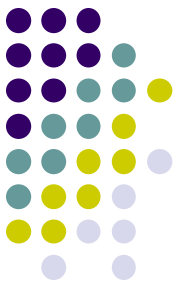


Ireland's Human Rights Record: Implications of the Universal Periodic Review

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Elimination of Racial Discrimination





Human Rights

- Universal declaration of Human Rights 1948
Ideals to underpin legal text
- UN Conventions (Treaties) with associated committees (Treaty Bodies)
 - Concluding Observations
 - General Recommendations



- **ICCPR**- International Covenant of Civil & Political Rights
- **ICESCR**- International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights
- **ICERD** – International Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **UNCAT**
- **CEDAW**
- **CRL**
- **CRPD**
- **ICRMW** and others



Universal Periodic Review

- Human Rights Council (HRC) instrument
- 2006, 47 members

- Human Rights
- Development
- Security

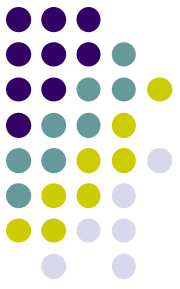
parallel within UN system?

UPR

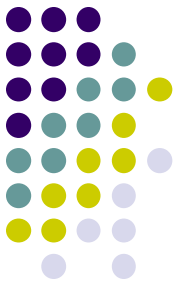


- All countries submit
- Complimenting and adding value to Treaty Body
Concluding Observations and Recommendations
- Putting clear focus on Human Rights across all sectors
of state under review (SUR)
- Generating awareness about human rights and the UN
- Peer review helps states commitment
- Reports of states, compilations of the OHCHR and
reports of NHRIs and NGOs are useful instruments and
resources for progressing rights realisation

But

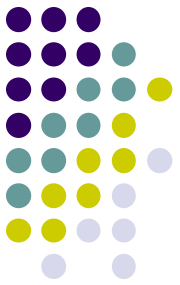


- Is focus on getting to Geneva vs afterwards?
- Treaty Body conclusions could be rejected and contradictory assessments are possible
- Vague recommendations and vague answers are problematic
- Use of terms like on-going dialogue and partial implementation difficult
- Peer process can be politicised and depends on the good will of the states



Ireland's UPR

- Good lead-in awareness and interest
 - DFA NGO Forum Dec 2010
 - Dept Justice Regional Consultations
 - IHRC Consultation and Report
 - Your Rights Right Now, other coalitions and other NGO submissions and lobbying
 - Interdepartmental working group

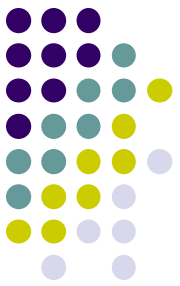


- Good engagement in and within Geneva process
 - Govt
 - IHRC
 - NGOs
 - Recommendations by other states
 - 62 Accepted
 - 49 Being considered
 - 15 Rejected

Implementation



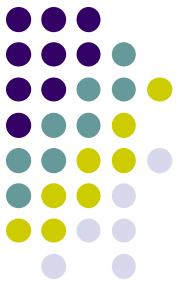
- Interdepartmental Working Group?
- Consultation with NGOs and civil society re. implementation plan and on an on-going basis?
- Remember recommendations already made by CAT & CERD
- Target specific points and recommendations e.g.
 - Racism
 - Traveller ethnicity
 - Full implementation & review of the National Womens Strategy vs general statements



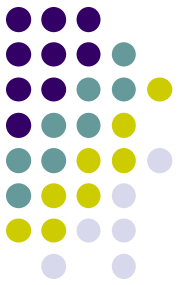
Framework

- Indivisibility, interdependence and inter-relatedness of rights
- Honest dialogue re. legal framework for rights protection
- Rights approach to economic crisis, rights at the heart of re-thinking economic and social policies
- Joined up, integrated government, other institutional approaches
- Oireachtas sub-committee responsibility
- Independent, resourced civil society as constructive critique and creative tension

Enhanced independent Human Rights & Equality Commission



- Consultation and participation in its development
- Independent appointments and establishment
- Sufficient power, remit and resources & capacity to innovate
- On-going engagement with stakeholders incl NGOs
- Parity of esteem for diverse traditions, disciplines and approaches



Finally

- Human Rights belong to rights holders and those whose rights are denied
- Beyond legal pyramid and ownership by institutions