

IHRC

IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
AN COMISIÚN UM CHEARTA DÚINE



Irish Human Rights Commission **Annual Report 2005**

Contents

III	Foreword by the President
1	Introduction by the Chief Executive
4	The Commission
6	Legislation and Policy Review
11	Promotion of Human Rights Awareness
16	Casework
22	International Work
25	Corporate Services
35	Appendices



Foreword

I have pleasure in submitting the Report of the Irish Human Rights Commission for 2005.

The year under review has been one of consolidation and achievement for the Commission. Although established in 2001 the Commission has been in effective operation only since 2003 and in the time since then the Commission has operationalised most of the functions assigned to it under the Human Rights Commission Act 2000.

However it is important to stress that the Commission is far from the finished product. It is still at the developmental stage and urgently needs extra staff if it is adequately to fulfil the tasks assigned to, and expected of it, especially in the areas of casework, education and research.

It is important to stress that one of the main functions of the Commission is to promote human rights and this we seek to do as far as possible through partnership with various state bodies. We already have a good relationship with the Houses of the Oireachtas and believe our observations have frequently been helpful during the deliberative stages of the legislative process. This is a relationship we would hope to strengthen over the coming years.

We have not been so successful in developing a relationship with policy makers. We would like to reach a situation that, where appropriate, all legislation in addition to having a financial and gender audit would also, early in the process, have a human rights audit. We believe such an arrangement would make for better legislation and could help minimise later legal challenges. We would also encourage public bodies currently undergoing human rights reform to work with the Human Rights Commission in achieving these



Dr. Maurice Manning

ends. We are encouraged that the Garda Síochána have asked for our assistance in their ongoing process of inculcating a human rights culture at all levels of the force.

While the promotion of human rights is central to our mission so too is our obligation to monitor human rights compliance in the public sector. The first such exercise by the Commission was our research into human rights standards in long term institutional care and that research uncovered serious breaches in this sector. In the year under review we engaged with the Department of Foreign Affairs on the question of the use of Irish airports for the alleged rendition of terrorist suspects to locations where they would be subject to cruel or inhumane treatment.

2005 saw considerable attention devoted to the question of economic, social and cultural rights. The Commission is fully committed to

the promotion, where possible and appropriate, of such rights but is also anxious to ensure that the debate on these issues be informed and realistic and believes our continuing work will help in achieving this end.

I am particularly proud of the Commission's role over the past year in leading the European regional group of national human rights institutions in coordinating the input of these European institutions into the negotiating process of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. I would like to commend in particular the input and leadership here of Professor Gerard Quinn and Professor William Binchy.


The Commission has had an active year internationally, especially through its participation in the European executive of national human rights institutions.

Unfortunately, however, the Joint Committee of the two human rights commissions on the island of Ireland has not been as active as we would have liked even if some useful work was done on the rights of migrant workers with the lead role being taken by Commissioner Michael Farrell. It is to be hoped that with the appointment of a new Commission in Northern Ireland the Joint Committee will carve out a significant role.

I am grateful to the Minister of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell, for his constructive attitude to the Commission and would like to express my thanks to my colleagues on the Commission for their positive and imaginative approach to their work over the course of the past year. And I would also extend this appreciation to the Chief Executive and all

members of the staff.

May I conclude however by saying that the aspiration enunciated for us by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern at the foundation of the Commission that "the Commission would be a model for others to follow, and one that would set rather than follow standards of best international practice" will not be achieved without the further modest but necessary resources which the Commission urgently requires.



Dr. Maurice Manning

President

IHRC

Introduction

In its strategic plan entitled *Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Irish Society* covering the years 2003 to 2006, the Commission identified a number of key areas of work on which it would focus during this period. These are:

- n the administration of justice
- n economic, social and cultural rights
- n racism
- n persons with disabilities
- n gender
- n equality and human difference.

The Commission's work in 2005 reflected these priorities.

With respect to the Commission's work on legislation and policy, there is always the possibility that legislative referrals by a Minister will impact on those matters which are considered by the Commission. In 2005, there were 2 legislative referrals by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on matters of criminal justice, matters which clearly fell within one of the Commission's key areas of work, that of the administration of justice. The Commission nevertheless remained concerned that no Minister other than the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform had to date referred proposed legislation to the Commission for its views, particularly since the Minister for Justice had informed the Commission in late 2004 that he had urged his Cabinet colleagues to consider referring appropriate legislative proposals in their areas of responsibility to the Commission.



Dr. Alpha Connelly

During the year reports began to emerge of the possibility that US aircraft landing at Shannon airport were involved in the transport of terrorist suspects to secret locations where the persons were interrogated and possibly subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment. The Commission was concerned at these reports and engaged with the Government regarding them. In particular, it called on the Government to seek the agreement of the US authorities to the inspection of the relevant aircraft at Shannon or any other Irish airport.

The Commission also embarked on a major initiative in relation to economic, social and cultural rights. As the first step in this initiative, it carried out substantial research on the theoretical and historical origins of this category of rights, the extent of the protection of these rights under international law and the various ways in which they may be realised and enforced. The results of the research were

published as a Discussion Document and comments invited from interested persons and groups on the Document with a view to the production of a report in 2006.

With respect to the promotion of human rights awareness in the State, the Commission's capacity is limited by the fact that there is only one member of staff working in this area. The educational and awareness-raising function of the Commission is therefore greatly underdeveloped. During the course of the year, the Commission sought sanction for a second member of staff to work particularly on educational matters but was unsuccessful in its request. It was the view of the Department of Finance that any additional staff should come from the approved complement of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the latter Department was (understandably) reluctant to agree to this. The provisions of its founding legislation relating to the appointment of staff, whereby the consent of both the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Finance are required to the number, grade and terms and conditions of service of staff, have proved deeply frustrating for the Commission in its recruitment of staff and remain a matter of concern to it.

Of the various conferences and seminars held throughout the year, special mention may be made of the major international conference on economic, social and cultural rights held on 9 and 10 December to mark International Human Rights Day. This provided a launching pad for the research conducted by the Commission throughout the year on economic, social and cultural rights and brought together both national and international experts to explore issues of particular relevance to this category of rights, especially that of their enforcement.

With respect to casework, major achievements in 2005 were the substantial reduction in the backlog of requests for an enquiry and applications for assistance in connection with legal proceedings and the activation of the *amicus curiae* function of the Commission. It was also the year when the Commission commenced its first formal enquiry – into aspects of the old age contributory pension – and the year in which it first granted assistance to a person in connection with legal proceedings. However, one of the Commission's legal functions remained to be activated: that of the institution of court proceedings for the purpose of vindicating the human rights of any person or class of persons.

With respect to international work, of particular note is the engagement of the Commission with the international treaty-monitoring bodies, notably the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The appearance of a delegation of the Commission before the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was the first time that any national human rights institution has addressed such a body independently of the Government delegation and where the Commission led, others have followed. Also worthy of particular note is the important role played by the Commission in the negotiations at the UN on the text of a proposed convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Commission was responsible for co-ordinating the input of the European Regional Group of national human rights institutions into the negotiating process and was very active in this regard.

2005 was a year of both consolidation and progress. Given the resources, particularly the human resources, available to the Commission, both Commissioners and staff can be justly proud of the volume and quality of the work undertaken by them in the furtherance of respect for human rights in the State. Towards the end of the year, the Commission approved proposals for a second round of staffing to enable it to develop its structures and to operationalise the full range of its functions. It is for the Government to decide whether it will accede to these proposals and thereby empower the Commission to move to the second stage of its mission to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the State.



Alpha Connelly
Chief Executive



The Commission

The Human Rights Commission is a statutory body deriving its composition, functions and powers from the Human Rights Commission Acts 2000 and 2001.

Role and Functions

The role of the Commission is to promote and protect the human rights of all persons in the State. To this end a wide range of functions has been conferred on it. These functions are:

- to keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice in the State relating to the protection of human rights;
- if requested by a Minister of the Government, to examine any legislative proposal and report its views on any implications of such proposal for human rights;
- to consult with such national or international bodies or agencies having knowledge or expertise in the field of human rights as it sees fit;
- either of its own volition or on being requested to do so by the Government, to make such recommendations to the Government as it deems appropriate in relation to the measures which the Commission considers should be taken to strengthen, protect and uphold human rights in the State;
- to promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights in the State and, for these purposes, to undertake, sponsor or commission, or provide financial or other assistance for, research and educational activities;
- to conduct enquiries;
- to prepare and publish, in such manner as it thinks fit, reports on any research undertaken, sponsored, commissioned or assisted by it or in relation to enquiries;
- to apply to the High Court or the Supreme Court for liberty to appear before the High Court or the Supreme Court, as the case may be, as *amicus curiae* in proceedings before that court that involve or are concerned with the human rights of any person and to appear as such an *amicus curiae* on foot of such liberty being granted;
- to take whatever action is necessary to establish and participate in the joint committee of representatives of the Commission and of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission;
- to provide assistance to persons in connection with legal proceedings involving law or practice relating to the protection of human rights;
- to institute legal proceedings to vindicate the human rights of a person or a class of persons.

Human Rights

The human rights the Commission has been set up to protect are those guaranteed to persons by the Constitution and by those international agreements to which the State is a party.

Membership

The Commission consists of a President and 14 other members, all of whom are appointed by the Government. The legislation establishing the Commission requires that not less than 7 members shall be women and not less than 7 members shall be men. The members of the Commission in 2005 were:

- Dr. Maurice Manning (President)
- Professor William Binchy
- Ms. Olive Braiden
- Mr. Martin Collins



- Professor Robert Daly
- Ms. Suzanne Egan
- Mr. Michael Farrell
- Ms. Maureen Harding Clark
- Ms. Nuala Kelly
- Ms. Clodach McGrory
- Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin
- Mr. Tom O'Higgins
- Professor Gerard Quinn
- Mr. Mervyn Taylor
- Dr. Katherine Zappone

Short biographies of all the members of the Commission are given at Appendix 1.

Plenary and Committees

The Commission meets in plenary approximately once a month. Commissioners also meet from time to time according to their membership of particular Committees of the Commission. Committees report to plenary.

In 2005, the Commission met in plenary session every month apart from August.

At the start of the year, the Commission had 9 Committees. These were:

- Committee on the Administration of Justice

- Casework Committee
- Disability Committee
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Finance and Audit Committee
- Committee on Gender and Equality
- Racism Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Research Committee.

The Commission established 3 further Committees during the course of the year. They were:

- *Ad Hoc* Committee on "Extraordinary Rendition"
- *Ad Hoc* "Away Day" Committee
- Committee on Governance and Management

The membership, number of meetings and terms of reference of each of the Committees are given at Appendix 2.

Legislation and Policy Review

In performing legislation and policy review functions, the Commission is guided by the key areas of work identified in its Strategic Plan 2003-2006.

Legislation

In relation to legislation, there are two main areas of the Commission's work:

- that under section 8(b) of the Human Rights Commission Act 2000, whereby any Minister of Government can refer legislative proposals to the Commission for its views on the human rights implications of the proposals; and
- that under section 8(d) of the Act, whereby the Commission can make recommendations to Government of its own initiative in relation to legislation or a legislative proposal.

The aim of the Commission is to identify the relevant international and constitutional human rights standards in a particular area of law and to recommend to Government how these standards can be reflected in Irish legislation. The Commission's work in this area allows it to influence the legislative drafting process, to influence parliamentary scrutiny of proposed legislation, and also to promote awareness and debate around human rights issues as part of the legislative process.

The Commission notes that there was a significant reduction in the number of legislative proposals referred to it in 2005. While five legislative proposals were referred to the Commission in 2004, only two legislative proposals (both concerning the same Bill) were referred to the Commission in 2005.

Criminal Justice Bill 2004

In November the Minister referred to the Commission Heads of proposed amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill 2004 relating to a wide range of issues including drug offences, organised crime, firearms offences and the proposed introduction of a system of anti-social behaviour orders ("ASBOs").

In December the Minister referred further additional Heads of proposed amendments to the same Criminal Justice Bill, this time dealing exclusively with juvenile justice. These proposed amendments related to the Children Act 2001 and significantly amended that Act in areas such as the age of criminal responsibility and the detention of children, as well as introducing a special system of anti-social behaviour orders for children.

It is worth noting that the Criminal Justice Bill has a long history. The original Scheme of the Criminal Justice Bill 2003 was referred to the Commission by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in August 2003 and the Commission submitted its observations on the Scheme in January 2004. The Minister later referred additional Heads of Bill to the Commission and when the Commission issued its observations on the Bill itself in October 2004, it highlighted its concern about the procedure that was being adopted in relation to this Bill. Against this background, the further proposals to add to what was already an unwieldy piece of legislation are disquieting.

Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Bill

During 2005, the Commission also published observations on this Bill, which had been referred to it by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform under section 8(b) of the Human Rights Commission Act 2000 in December 2004. The Commission issued its observations on the Heads of Bill in May 2005. This Bill was referred to the Commission as the Heads of the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Bill and the Bill as introduced was re-titled the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Bill encompassing a number of additional issues.

In its observations to the Minister, the Commission expressed a general concern about the process by which legislation originating in EU Justice and Home Affairs agreements is processed domestically and, in particular, about the level of democratic scrutiny and accountability in the drafting process of such legislation. The Commission indicated in its observations that it intends to revisit broader issues relating to EU legislation in the future.

Policy Review

The policy review function of the Commission has a broad range and is aimed at deepening the policy base of the Commission around its key areas of work and contributing to raising awareness and making recommendations to Government on areas of Irish law and practice where the Commission believes the promotion and protection of human rights can be strengthened. In 2005 the Commission carried out research, published reports and made recommendations to Government across all of the key areas of work set out in its Strategic Plan.

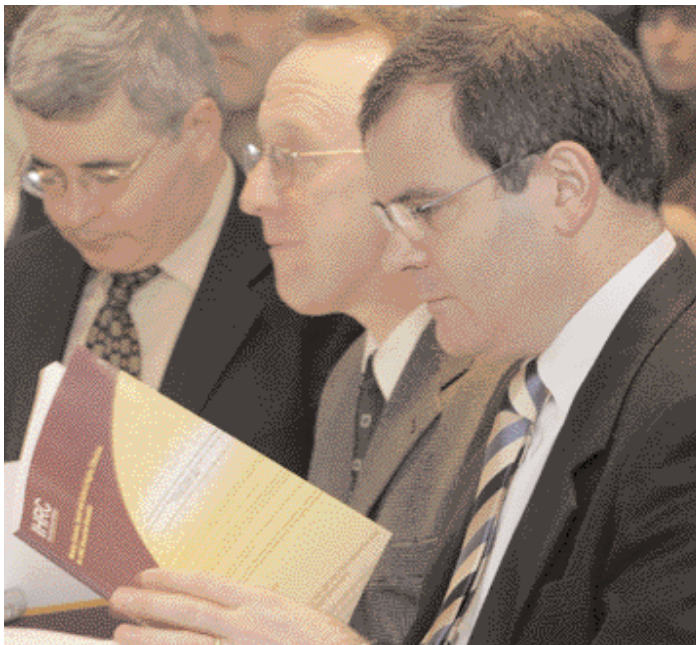
Civil and Political Rights

Prison Rules

The area of prison reform and the protection of the rights of prisoners is an area which the Commission has identified as giving rise to particularly acute human rights issues. In June 2005 a meeting was held with officials of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to discuss proposals by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to introduce a new set of Prison Rules, replacing a code dating back to the 1940s. The Commission had communicated its views on how the new Rules should reflect international human rights standards to the Department in 2004 and the June 2005 meeting addressed the extent to which the views of the Commission had been taken on board during the drafting of the Rules and, where they were not, why that was the case. The Commission continues to monitor the process of reforming these rules, within the broader context of working towards greater accountability and better conditions within the prison system in line with Ireland's human rights obligations.

Rendition

In December the Commission issued a resolution on the issue of 'extraordinary rendition' and the use of Shannon airport by US aircraft. In the resolution the Commission expressed its concern about reports that US aircraft landing at Shannon airport may be involved in the transport of persons to secret locations where they may be at risk of being subjected to torture, cruel or inhuman treatment. The Commission's resolution set out Ireland's international legal obligations in relation to the prevention of torture, cruel and inhuman treatment and called on the Government to seek agreement from the US authorities to inspect the aircraft in question.



Studying the Discussion Document on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are Commissioner Gerard Quinn, IHRC, Gerry Whyte, Trinity College Dublin and Regis Brillat, Social Charter Committee, Council of Europe

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In December 2005, the Commission hosted an international conference on economic, social and cultural rights under the title *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Models of Enforcement*. At this conference the Commission also launched a discussion document entitled *Making Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Effective*. The Discussion Document provides a comprehensive analysis of the theoretical and historical origins of economic, social and cultural rights and gives a detailed outline of the level of protection these rights enjoy in international human rights law, both at the United Nations and European levels. Significantly, the Discussion Document also explores the various models and mechanisms of making these rights effective at the legal and administrative levels, with particular reference to the Irish context. The Discussion Document is the first stage in a strategic programme of work by the Commission in this area and it is hoped that it will be the platform for a broad and inclusive consultation process on how Ireland can improve its protection of these rights.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Equality

In April the Commission submitted its observations on the possible extension of grounds of discrimination under the Employment Equality Act as part of a consultation process conducted by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The consultation process was based around a research paper commissioned by the Department from University College Cork, which looked at comparative practice in four other jurisdictions in relation to legislative protection against discrimination on four grounds not currently covered by Irish equality law. The four grounds were discrimination on the basis of socio-economic status/social origin; trade union membership; criminal conviction/ex-offender/ex-prisoner; and political opinion.

Immigration and Residency

On 11 March 2005, following on from the 2004 joint publication *Safeguarding the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families*, a joint letter was sent on behalf of the Commission and the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform detailing the

specific concerns of the two organisations in relation to the legislative and policy framework governing the treatment of migrant workers

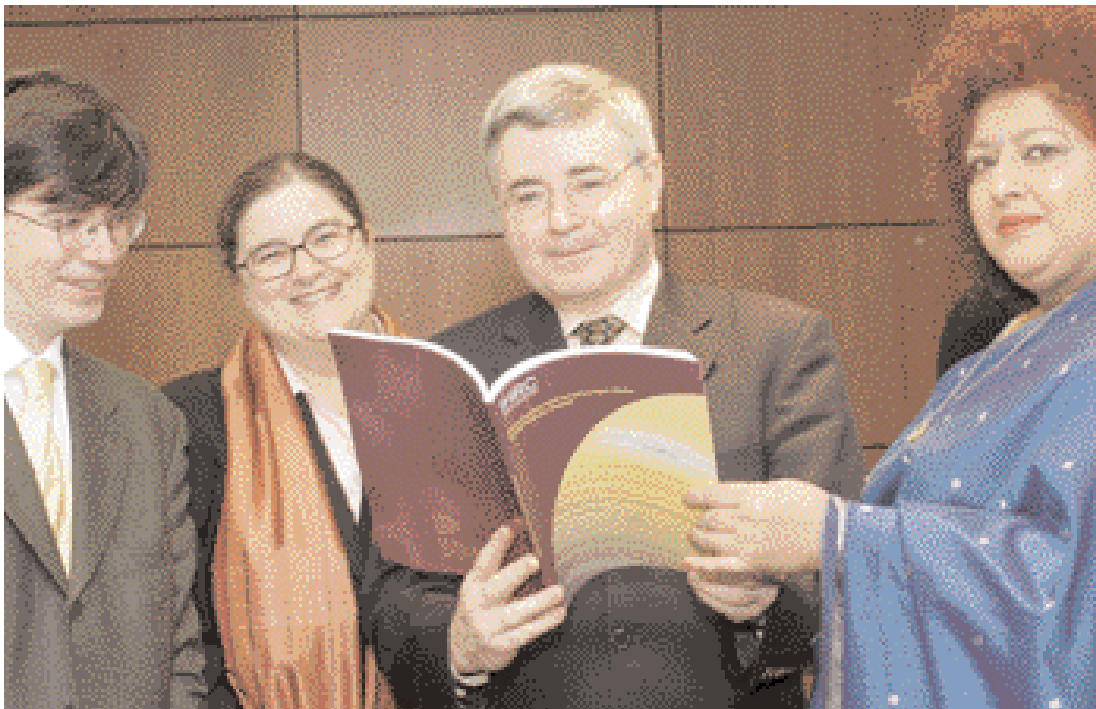
In July the Commission published its observations on the Government's *Immigration and Residence in Ireland Discussion Document*, which had been sent to the Commission for its views as part of a broad public consultation process. The Commission's submission set out the international human rights standards which are relevant to the area of immigration

law generally and called for ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The submission went on to make detailed recommendations in relation to the specific policy issues raised in the Government's Discussion Document, encompassing both issues relating to the rights of migrant workers, including undocumented workers and vulnerable groups of workers such as women workers, and issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees.



Dr. Maurice Manning with members of Ballymun Community Law Centre and guests at the launch of Fight for your Rights – A simple guide to the European Convention on Human Rights in Axis, Ballymun, on 8th December, 2005.

Photo: courtesy of Eamon Elliott of Ballymun Regeneration



Attending the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Models of Enforcement conference were: John O'Dowd, UCD; Mara Bustelo, UN OHCHR; Commissioner Gerard Quinn, IHRC, and Her Excellency Priscilla Jana, South African Ambassador to Ireland.

Family reunification

In December the Commission submitted to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform a *Submission on Family Reunification*, outlining a number of aspects of Irish law in the area of family reunification which it had identified as being problematic. Many of the issues highlighted in this submission had come to the Commission's attention through a legal case in which the Commission had provided legal assistance to Irish citizens seeking reunification with non-Irish family members. In the submission the Commission analysed and made recommendations in relation to the different categories of persons seeking family reunification: namely migrant workers, refugees, citizens and citizens of other European Economic Area States.

Travellers' Rights

The Commission also began work on a joint project with the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM) on the drafting of a Traveller Law Reform Bill. This project aims to bring together in one law

reform proposal a wide range of legal issues facing the Traveller community. Among the most important issues involved will be the question of how to ensure effective implementation of Government policy in relation to the provision of appropriate accommodation for Traveller families. In this regard the Commission/ITM project will look at the role of various State agencies involved in the provision of accommodation for Travellers, including local authorities and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. The project will also address issues such as the legal framework for evicting Travellers from encampments and the discrimination faced by Travellers in accessing employment and goods and services.

The Commission has a statutory responsibility to promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights in the State: section 8(e) of the Human Rights Commission Act, 2000. This role is considered by the Commission to be central to its objective to engender a culture of human rights in Ireland.

Promotion of Human Rights Awareness

Conferences

In 2005, the Commission hosted solely or in partnership with other organisations four conferences on a range of issues which the Commission had identified as priority issues. They were disability; human rights education; migrant workers rights; and economic, social and cultural rights.

Disability Conference

On Saturday, 16 April 2005, a conference on Treaty Monitoring Options for the proposed UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities was co-hosted by the Commission, the National University of Ireland Galway and Trinity College Dublin. The purpose of the conference was to bring together international experts from the UN and from global and European human rights commissions as well as national experts. The conference, which was attended by 65 persons, provided an open forum to explore the most effective mechanism for the supervision and monitoring of the implementation of the draft United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The conference programme is reproduced at Appendix 3.

Following the public seminar, there was a meeting of European national human rights institutions (“NHRIs”) which was attended by representatives of France, Denmark, Sweden, Northern Ireland, Greece and Ireland. Representatives from the Asia Pacific Forum and the Indian Human Rights Commission attended as observers, as did the President of the Centre for International Rehabilitation. The purpose of this meeting was to agree a joint European NHRI position paper on the monitoring provision of the draft disability convention to

submit to the UN Ad Hoc Drafting Committee for its consideration at its meeting in August 2005. Prior to this meeting a draft paper outlining various monitoring options was prepared by Commissioner Gerard Quinn and circulated to the European NHRIs for comment.

Annual Joint Conference with the Law Society

The Commission co-hosts with the Law Society an annual conference on a human rights theme. The 2005 conference was on the topic of migrant workers and human rights and was held on Saturday, 15 October, in Blackhall Place. This was the third such conference, and it was attended by over 200 participants, being the largest attendance to date. The focus on the rights of migrant workers was selected in view of Government proposals in relation to immigration and residence as well as international developments at UN and EU levels. There was a distinguished panel of speakers from Ireland and abroad, including Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam, Chairman of the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers; ex congressman Bruce Morrison, architect of the US Morrison visas; Louise Christian, a UK immigration solicitor, Cathryn Costello, Worcester College Oxford; Piaras MacEinri of



Dr. Maurice Manning in conversation with Mary Keogh of the Forum for People with Disabilities.
Photo: Courtesy of the Irish Times



Attending the annual joint conference of the IHRC with the Law Society were:

L-R Back Row Bruce Morrison, former US Congressman; Alma Clissmann, Law Society; Mary Ruddy, IHRC; Cathryn Costello, Oxford; Brian Ingoldsby, Dept of Justice, Equality & Law Reform; Piaras Mac Éinrí, UCC; Louise Christian, solicitor UK; Catherine Cosgrove, Immigrant Council of Ireland; Paul Burns, Dept. of Justice; Commissioner Michael Farrell, IHRC

L-R Front Row Commissioner Nuala Kelly, IHRC; Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam, UN; Owen Binchy, President Law Society; Noeline Blackwell, solicitor, Dublin; Mike Jennings, SIPTU; Sancha Magat, Migrant Workers Rights Centre; Aisling Ryan, solicitor, Cork.

University College Cork and Paul Burns, Head of Immigration Policy in the Department of Justice. The conference also benefited from the experience of practitioners in the field of immigration Mike Jennings of SIPTU; Noeline Blackwell, Director General of the Free Legal Advice Centres; Aisling Ryan, immigration solicitor; Catherine Cosgrave of the Immigrant Council of Ireland; and Sancha Magat of the Migrant Rights Centre. The conference programme is reproduced at Appendix 4.

Human Rights Education Conference

A cross-border human rights education conference designed to stimulate interest in human rights education in the primary sector in the context of the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education 2004-2007, was held in Dublin Castle on Thursday, 20 October. The Commission, together with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, co-hosted the conference with *Lift Off*. Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Education and Science as well as Angela Smyth, Minister for Education, Northern Ireland both addressed the conference, as did Elena Ippoliti of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and author

of the World Plan of Action on Human Rights Education. Welcoming addresses were given by the President of the Commission, Dr. Maurice Manning and the recently appointed Chief Commissioner of the Northern Commission, Professor Monica McWilliams. Professor Alan Smith, UNESCO Chair in Education for Pluralism, Human Rights and Democracy, University of Ulster and Robin Richardson, Educationalist and Writer on Identity, Equality and Inclusion in Education spoke on the importance of human rights in education. There were also inputs from children, both via video clips and in live presentations, who are participants in the *Lift Off* project as well as teachers and members of the Management Group of *Lift Off*. The conference programme is reproduced at Appendix 5.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Models of Enforcement Conference

The Commission hosted a 2-day international conference on economic, social and cultural rights in Dublin on Friday, 9 and Saturday, 10 December to coincide with International Human Rights Day. Entitled *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Models of Enforcement*, the conference

examined the place of this category of rights in legal and political structures, focussing in particular on various methods of implementation and enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights. It was attended by over 120 participants from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Britain, Portugal, Armenia, Latvia and Canada. A Discussion Document prepared by the Commission was launched at the conference marking the initial stage in a public consultation process on economic, social and cultural rights. The conference was addressed by academics and advocates including leading scholars in this area. The keynote address was given by Martin Scheinin, distinguished academic and UN Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Other speakers included Catarina de Albuquerque, Chairperson of the UN Working Group to draft the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Regis Brillat, Social Charter Committee Council of Europe; Miloon Kothari, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing; Mara Bustelo, UN Human Rights Officer serving as Coordinator for the Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Unit in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Bruce Porter from the Social Rights Advocacy Centre, Canada; Colm Ó Cinnéide, University College London; Maggie Beirne, Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) Northern Ireland; and Aoife Nolan, Legal Officer for the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Litigation Programme at the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Switzerland. It was also addressed by John O'Dowd, Faculty of Law University College Dublin; Vinodh Jaichand from the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway; Gerry Whyte, Trinity Law School, Dublin; and Padraic Kenna, Faculty of Law,



Dr. Maurice Manning, President IHRC with Chief Commissioner Monica McWilliams, NIHRC.

N.U.I., Galway. The conference was opened by Commissioner Fionnuala Ní Áoláin and the closing address was given by Commissioner Gerard Quinn. The conference programme is reproduced at Appendix 6.

Seminars

The Commission also held a number of seminars throughout the year.

Roundtable Discussion on Racism

As part of a collaborative series of seminars, the Commission and Amnesty International (Irish Section), in conjunction with the National Consultative Council on Racism and Interculturalism, jointly hosted a roundtable discussion on “Countering Racism through Legislation” on Wednesday 8th June in Dublin Castle. The roundtable discussion was attended by over 40 invited guests involved in relevant areas from statutory, academic and NGO communities. Speakers included Philip Watt, Director of the National Consultative Council on Racism and Intolerance; Nazia Latif, Investigations, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Tarlach McGonagle from University of Amsterdam; and Jagdish Patel, Deputy Director, UK Monitoring Group. The programme of the roundtable is reproduced at Appendix 7.

Pre-plenary Seminars

The Commission runs a programme of seminars for Commissioners and staff on human rights and related themes of relevance to the work of the Commission. These seminars are typically held immediately prior to plenary meetings of the Commission. Following a review of the format of the pre-plenary seminars at the beginning of 2005, it was decided to continue with the format developed in 2004, with the addition of using expertise from outside the Commission as and when appropriate. In the course of 2005, three such seminars took place:

- *28 April:* The Data Protection Act and its implications for the Commission given by the General Administrator, Gavin McSpadden;
- *30 June:* Justiciability and socio-economic rights and the Council of Europe Social Charter given by Commissioner Gerard Quinn;
- *7 October:* The proposed establishment of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency given by Anastasia Crickley, Chair of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia.

Training

Proposal from Women's Human Rights Alliance for joint training programme with the Commission

A proposal was received in late 2005 from the Women's Human Rights Alliance for a joint programme to deliver a week-long course on economic, social and cultural rights with a focus on the gender dimension of these rights. The target groups for training would be NGOs working in areas which would benefit from bringing a human rights approach to their work. The Commission agreed to the proposal, which involved the Commission having a role in the design and organisation of the course in 2006.

Commission involvement in Comhairle Training Programme

Following an approach from the Commission in May 2005 to Comhairle, discussions commenced on opportunities for the Commission to inform staff of the Citizens Information Centres of the work of the Commission. Comhairle is the statutory agency (under the remit of the Department of Social and Family Affairs) with responsibility for the provision of information



Attending the meeting of the Joint Committee in October 2005 were:

I-r (standing) Tom O'Higgins, IHRC; Colin Harvey, NIHRC; Alan Henry, NIHRC; Jonathan Bell, NIHRC; Ann Hope, NIHRC; Eamon O'Neill, NIHRC; Nuala Kelly, IHRC; William Binchy, IHRC; Clodagh McGrory, IHRC; Thomas Duncan, NIHRC; Michael Farrell, IHRC;
I-r (sitting) Suzanne Egan, IHRC; Alpha Connelly, Chief Executive, IHRC; Maurice Manning, President, IHRC; Monica McWilliams, Chief Commissioner, NIHRC; Paddy Sloan, Chief Executive, NIHRC; and Robert Daly, IHRC.

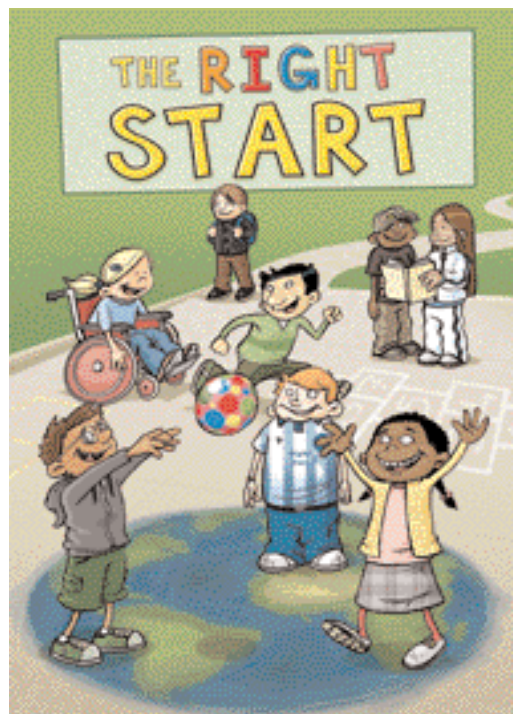
through the nationwide network of the Citizens Information Centres and Phone Service and through the OASIS website and Citizens Information Databases Service. Following this, Comhairle made provision in their 2006 training calendar for an input from the Commission at a series of regional seminars to be held in early 2006.

Education

Lift Off Initiative – human rights education in primary schools

The Commission continued to be involved with the cross-border primary schools human rights education project *Lift Off*. The project partners are Amnesty International (Irish Section), Amnesty International (UK Section), the Irish National Teachers' Organisation and the Ulster Teachers Union. The other bodies represented on the Steering Committee of the project are the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the Departments of Education in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland, curricular bodies and the project partners. The Steering Group met 4 times in 2005 with additional meetings of the conference sub-committee on which the Commission was also represented. The organisation of the Human Rights Education conference in October 2005 constituted a major piece of the work of the project.

From January to June 2005, *Lift Off* piloted the *Rights in Flight* curriculum support materials for 5th and 6th classes (P6 and P7 in Northern Ireland). 30 schools took part in this pilot and evaluation. The materials were revised and were ready for the school year 2006. Curriculum support materials, *The Right Start*, for junior infants, senior infants, first and second classes



(P1 – 3 in Northern Ireland) were developed and piloted from September 2005. This evaluation will run until the end of the school year in 2006. In association with the development of the materials, three forums for teachers in participating schools were held as in-service training days to introduce teachers to the materials and concepts in human rights education. By 2006, *Lift Off* will have developed and published curriculum support materials for all classes in the primary school cycle.

Media Coverage

Increasing awareness of the Commission and an understanding of its role has been assisted by its growing profile in national and regional media. Over 2005, the Commission issued 16 press releases.

Casework

The Commission has four relevant functions which fall into the category of casework and these are set out in sections 8 to 11 of the Human Rights Commission Act 2000 (“the Act”). These functions are:

- To consider requests for an enquiry into a relevant human rights matter or to initiate enquiries at its own volition;
- To consider applications for assistance in connection with legal proceedings involving human rights law or practice;
- To offer its expertise in human rights law to the superior courts in suitable cases involving human rights issues as *amicus curiae*, or friend of the court;
- To institute proceedings to vindicate the human rights of persons in the State.

Overview

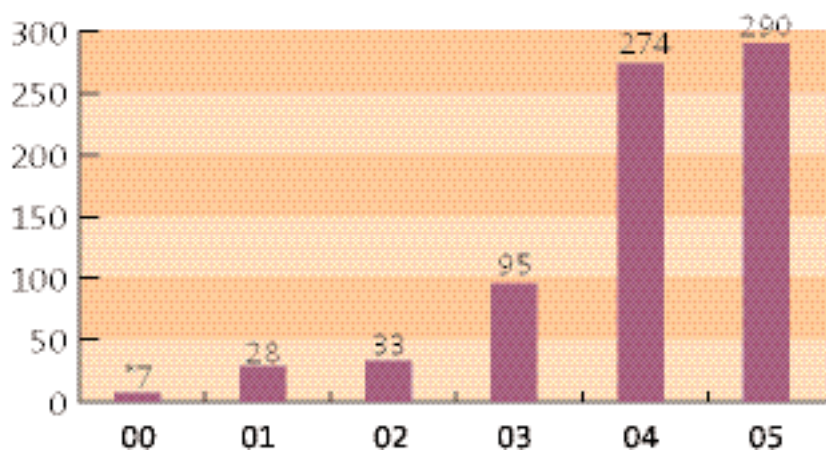
2005 was a year in which the Commission continued to consolidate its casework functions. It was also the year when it commenced its first enquiries, provided legal assistance and appeared before the Superior Courts as an *amicus curiae* or friend of the court.

Communications received by the Commission

The number of persons approaching the Commission continues to increase year by year as illustrated in Table 1, which displays the number of casework communications received by the Commission over the period 2000 to 2005. During 2005, the Commission received individual communications from 290 persons or organisations.

Communications received by the Commission were processed by the Commission under one or more categories depending on how the matter developed. For example, a telephone query to the Commission on a human rights matter may have resulted in documentation being subsequently forwarded to the Commission and a preliminary file being opened. This may have in turn resulted in a formal request for an enquiry or an application for assistance in connection with legal proceedings being made. Alternatively, a telephone query may have been dealt with by directing the person to the appropriate statutory body in respect of the matter.

Table 1: Number of casework communications received by year



* The 7 communications received predate the formal establishment of the Commission in July 2001.

Persons approaching the Commission seeking an individual remedy were advised that the Commission cannot provide compensation or redress to people in the course of any enquiry undertaken. This is because enquiries are for limited purposes only – such as reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice in the State (section 8(a) of the Act). Also, the Commission may in fact be precluded from conducting an enquiry in the first place where legal proceedings or applications to other bodies have been or should be brought.

Similarly, persons approaching the Commission seeking legal assistance were advised as to the availability of legal assistance under the criminal and civil legal aid schemes and their attention was drawn to the fact that the Commission may be precluded from granting legal assistance where it can be obtained under those schemes or by other means.

Just under twice as many communications received by the Commission in 2005 were from men (62%) as from women (38%). This is set out

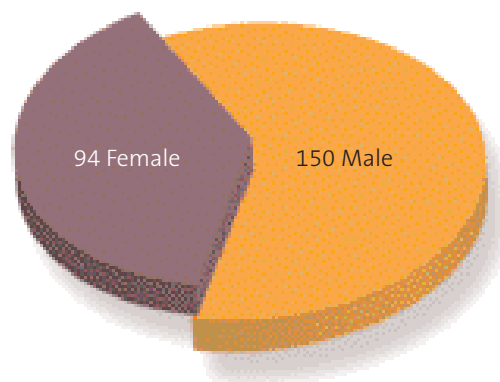


Table 2: Breakdown of communications received in 2005 by gender.

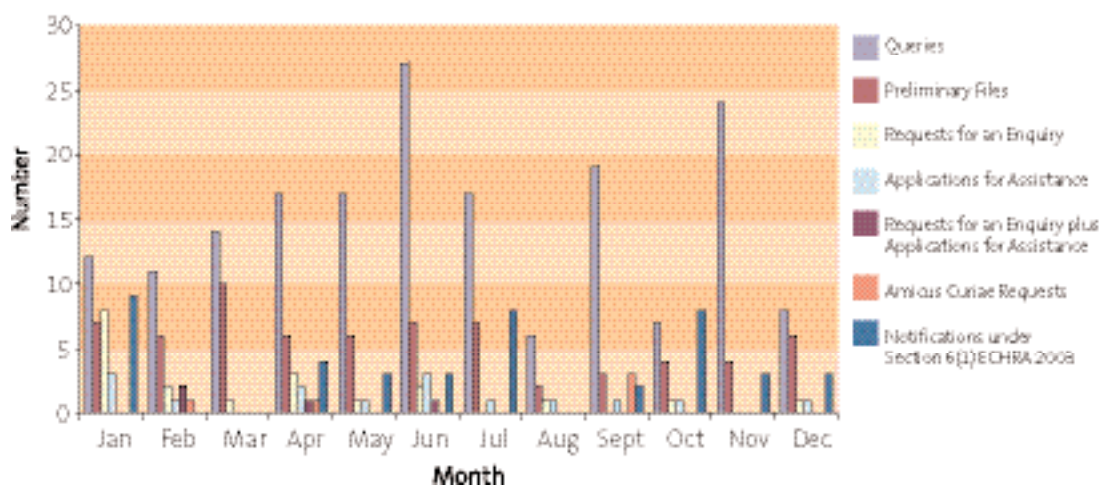
in Table 2. Not included here are communications relating to legal proceeding notifications or *amicus curiae* requests.¹

A breakdown of casework communications received in 2005 by category and by month is set out in Table 3. This table illustrates the fact that in 2005 the most common method by which persons choose to contact the Commission, in terms of the Commission's casework functions, was by way of a telephone query.

Enquiry requests and assistance applications

At the beginning of 2005, there was a backlog of 25 formal enquiry requests and/ or assistance

Table 3: Categories of casework communications received by the Commission in 2005



¹This is on the basis that many of those proceedings involved multiple parties as plaintiffs/applicants, thus rendering problematic any precise gender classifications.

applications to the Commission. During the course of the year, the Commission considered and decided 18 formal enquiry requests to it and 16 formal assistance applications to it. Commission decisions on enquiry requests and/or assistance applications to it, in addition to its decisions on *amicus curiae* requests or proposals are set out in Table 4 below.

In assessing an enquiry request or an assistance application to it, the Commission may seek clarification of certain matters or request specific information or documentation from other statutory bodies. This is in addition to routine informal case referrals with other statutory bodies. Where the Commission decides to conduct an enquiry into a relevant matter, the Commission will invariably seek information and documentation from the relevant statutory bodies. The Commission relies on the co-operation of statutory bodies in order to discharge its statutory functions.

In 2005, the Commission wrote to 7 statutory bodies either in the course of assessing an enquiry request or assistance application or in the course of conducting an enquiry. It sought

information and documentation within a specified timeframe. For the most part responses were received within the timeframe suggested or shortly thereafter. Table 5 sets out the relevant statutory body whence information or documentation was sought and the extent of timely responses received.

Enquiries conducted

In February 2005, the Commission commenced its first enquiry into a relevant matter. The enquiry was at the request of a retired self-employed couple who claim they were obliged to contribute to a contributory old age pension from which they could not benefit when they retired. The Commission decided that the enquiry was to be conducted in private with the results of the enquiry to be made public. During the year it communicated with the relevant Department in addition to relevant persons and organisations in relation to the matter. The enquiry continued at year's end.

In March 2005, the Commission commenced its second enquiry into a relevant matter. The enquiry was at the request of a foreign national who claimed that he had been mistreated when

Table 4: Casework decisions taken by the Commission in 2005

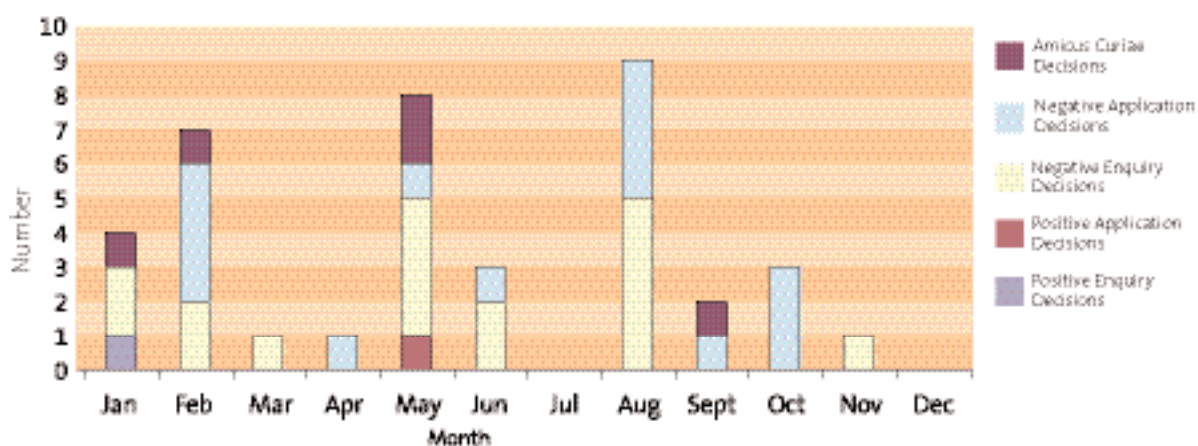


Table 5: Communications with Statutory Bodies

	Dept of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	Dept of Foreign Affairs	Dept of Social & Family Affairs	An Garda Síochána	Irish Prison Service	Mountjoy Prison	Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse
Response received on time	4 4	4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4
Late or no response *		4		4			

* Late response refers to a response received 4 weeks over the stipulated period.

he arrived at Dublin Airport in January 2003. As with the first enquiry, the Commission decided that the enquiry was to be conducted in private with the results of the enquiry to be made public. During the year it communicated with the relevant Departments and statutory bodies as well as relevant persons and organisations in relation to the matter. The enquiry continued at year's end.

Assistance granted

The Commission granted legal assistance to two naturalised Irish citizens regarding the refusal of a visa application for their minor child who had sought to join his parents in the country. The circumstances of the case were somewhat unusual and after writing to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform pointing out that the Irish citizens in the case may have been placed in a less favourable position to others, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform reviewed the file. The Department indicated that there may have been some element of confusion and that this may have affected the visa decisions taken. Following further correspondence with the Commission, it subsequently issued an entry visa to the child to join the family in the State. The case raised a number of issues in relation to family reunification in Ireland in general and the Commission drew up a Position Paper on Family

Reunification in October 2005 which it submitted to Government under section 8(d) of the Human Rights Commission Act, 2000. That submission made recommendations for reform of the law on the basis that there were at least five distinct legal categories of persons who may apply for non-national family members to come to reside in Ireland, with each category following a process based on the person's legal status in the State.

Amicus Curiae Appearances

European Convention on Human Rights Act

Other communications received in 2005 included 46 notifications to the Commission of legal proceedings involving human rights issues. Of these notifications, 34 were pursuant to section 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights Act, 2003 (the ECHRA) which provides that before a court decides whether to make a declaration that a statutory provision or rule of law is incompatible with the State's obligations under the Convention provisions, both the Attorney General and the Human Rights Commission should be given notice of the proceedings in accordance with rules of court. In practice, the Commission receives a copy of the legal pleadings and the party having carriage of the proceedings keeps the Commission updated as the litigation progresses.

Other notifications received in 2005 included 10 complementary copies of proceedings involving human rights issues or cases stated from the lower courts to the superior courts and 2 relating to *amicus curiae* requests. Again the practice is that solicitors for one of the parties forward a copy of the pleadings to the Commission.

The Commission considered 5 *amicus curiae* requests or proposals during the year and these are set out in Table 4. After being considered by the Commission's Casework Committee, the Commission sitting in plenary session decided not to accede to 2 *amicus curiae* requests it received, when considered in light of its *Amicus Curiae Guidelines* (see below). It decided to seek liberty to appear in 3 *amicus curiae* cases, one of which related to an *amicus curiae* request made to it.

Fennell v Dublin City Council

In February the Commission decided to seek liberty from the Supreme Court to appear in this case which involved the issue of evictions of tenants from local authority housing under section 62(1) of the Housing Act 1966 (as amended). In March the Supreme Court granted the Attorney General and the Commission liberty to appear in the proceedings. The case was heard in April with Judgment delivered in May.

The case itself was a case stated from the Circuit Court to the Supreme Court on the extent (if any) to which the ECHRA may have retrospective effect and if so, whether a local authority must adduce evidence before a Court justifying its decision to terminate a tenancy. Prior to this case, the constitutionality of the legislation had been considered in a number of cases before the courts.

In its submission, the Commission argued that a broad interpretation should be given to the ECHRA along the lines of the interpretation adopted by the House of Lords under the UK Human Rights Act, 1998 (on which the ECHRA was based). In addition, the Commission cited Articles 6, 8 and 13 of the Convention, including the Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *Connors v United Kingdom* (Judgment 27 May, 2004).

However, when confronted with strong precedent which argued against the retrospectivity of legislation, the Supreme Court decided that the ECHRA was not retrospective and that the question of the extent of its effect should be considered at a later date.

The Supreme Court left open the substantive question of the extent of the compatibility with the Convention of the eviction procedure employed by local authorities when it stated that:

“It may also be seen that the summary method whereby possession of such dwellings may be recovered, notably in circumstances where the tenant is regarded as having through misbehaviour brought about the termination of his own tenancy and thus forfeited the right to any alternative accommodation, may arguably infringe certain articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, and in particular, Articles 6, 8 and 13 thereof, and also Article 1 of Protocol 1 (Protection of property) of the Convention.”

Lawrence & others v**Ballina Town Council & others**

In May the Commission decided to seek liberty from the High Court to appear in this case which involves an examination of provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act, 2002 (the criminal trespass legislation) and other related matters including the extent to which local authorities may be obliged to provide appropriate accommodation to Traveller families. In June the High Court granted the Commission liberty to appear in the proceedings. The case had yet to be heard by year's end.

Carmody v The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ireland and The Attorney General

In September the Commission decided to seek liberty from the Supreme Court to appear in this case and in November the Supreme Court granted the Commission liberty to appear in the proceedings. The case involves an examination of the extent to which the criminal legal aid scheme should provide an accused person with the same level of representation as is available to the prosecution in a criminal trial. The case had yet to be heard by year's end.

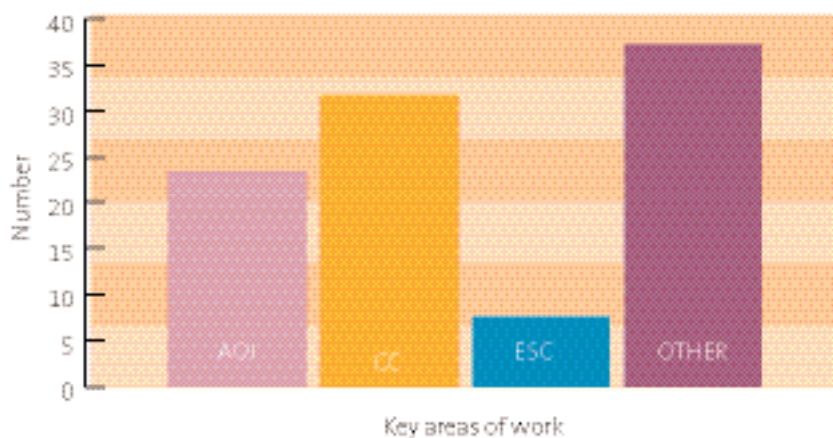
Types of 'communications' received

As with previous years, communications received by the Commission have raised issues from across the spectrum of human rights. In terms of the Commission's priority areas of work, as outlined in its *Plan for 2003-2006*, these areas have been:

- civil and political rights
(administration of justice)
- economic, social and cultural rights
- cross-cutting issues (including racism, immigration, disability, gender, equality and human difference, children and older people).

During the course of 2005 and as previously seen in 2004, communications relating to primarily 'cross-cutting' issues present as the dominant category of communications received in terms of the Commission's key areas of work. This is illustrated in Table 6. Table 6 also indicates the large number of communications relating to issues described as 'other': these are those issues which do not come within the Commission's key areas of work. Examples are matters primarily relating to private law disputes concerning property or land, industrial relations or family law.

Table 6: Categories of casework communications received by the Commission in 2005



International Work

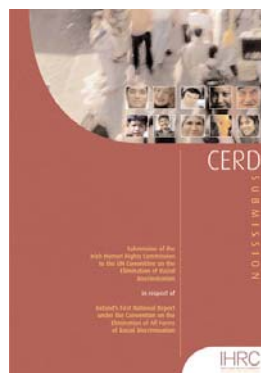
The mandate of the Commission includes participation in the Joint Committee of representatives of the Commission and of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement. It further includes consultation with international bodies or agencies having a knowledge or expertise in the field of human rights.

The Joint Committee

The Joint Committee met once in 2005, on 19 October, in Dublin. It was agreed at this meeting to establish a sub-committee to review the operation of the Joint Committee to date and to make proposals regarding future joint work. The sub-committee met in Belfast on 12 December and a number of proposals were agreed for submission to the next meeting of the Joint Committee in January 2006. The proposals concerned the membership of the Joint Committee, the frequency of meetings, Standing Orders, the establishment of 3 sub-committees and the provision of resources for the operation of the Joint Committee.

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

In January, the Commission submitted a detailed written submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Among the main issues highlighted by the Commission in its submission to the Committee were the status of the Convention in Irish law and Ireland's declaration under Article 4 of the Convention; the recorded data on the level of racism in Ireland; and freedom of expression and racist speech. The submission also looked at the position of particular groups such as Travellers, migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees and the intersection of gender and racial discrimination. In March, the Commission attended the



examination of Ireland's first and second periodic reports under the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination in Geneva. At that examination the Commission addressed the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in relation to certain aspects of the Commission's work. This was the first time a national human rights institution had addressed the Committee *qua* human rights institution and the Committee has subsequently amended its rules of procedure to make special provision for national human rights institutions to address it. The Commission also made extensive informal contact with Committee members during the examination of Ireland's reports.

UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

In January the Commission made a detailed written submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In its submission the Commission highlighted areas where the Irish Constitution fails adequately to reflect the standards contained in the Convention. In addition, the Commission highlighted the extent of women's poverty in Ireland and the situation of women experiencing multiple discrimination, including women with disabilities, migrant women, and women from racial and ethnic minorities such as Traveller women and older women.





Attending the European Co-ordinating Group meeting in the IHRC offices in Dublin in October 2005 were:

Front row (sitting) Maurice Manning, President IHRC; Joel Thorval, French Human Rights Commission and President of the European Co-ordinating Group; Standing: Thomas Hunecke, UN OHCHR; Noemie Bienvenue, Intern with French Human Rights Commission; Markus Jaeger, Deputy Director of Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights; Stephanie Dijan, Co-ordinator of the European Co-ordinating Group; Morten Kjaerum, Danish Institute for Human Rights and President of the International Co-ordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions; and Michel Forst, Secretary-General, French Human Rights Commission.

In July, the Commission attended the examination of Ireland's fourth and fifth periodic reports under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It submitted a brief note to the Committee outlining possible options around the standing of national human rights institutions before the treaty-monitoring bodies. The Commission also made extensive informal contact with the Committee members during the examination of Ireland's reports.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Continuing negotiations at the United Nations in New York on the text of a proposed international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities posed a major commitment for the Commission during 2005.

The Commission has the responsibility within the European regional group of national human rights institutions for coordinating the input of the European institutions into the negotiating process and developing common positions, where possible, on the various articles of the text being negotiated.

In this regard the Commission hosted, on the 16 April 2005, a meeting of European national human rights institutions on "Monitoring Options" for the proposed convention which enabled the Commission subsequently to draft an agreed text for transmission to the United Nations, the text of which can be found on the Commission's website at www.ihr.ie under Conferences/Events

The Commission was also represented at the two meetings of the United Nations *Ad Hoc* Committee which is tasked with drafting the text of the convention: fifth Session, 24 January to 4 February 2005 and sixth Session, 1 to 12 August 2005.

The International Co-ordinating Committee

The International Co-ordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights oversees, via a Credentials Committee, compliance by national human rights institutions (NHRIs) globally with the UN Paris Principles relating to these institutions. The Commission has been accredited as a fully compliant NHRI by the International Committee.

The International Co-ordinating Committee also serves as a forum for the co-ordination of the activities of NHRIs and the discussion of matters of common interest. It holds an annual meeting in Geneva to coincide with the consideration by the UN Commission on Human Rights of an agenda item on NHRIs.

The Commission was represented at the annual meeting of the International Co-ordinating Committee, which was held on 14 and 15 April. Apart from the regular agenda items, there was a thematic discussion on migration and NHRIs.

The European Group and European Co-ordinating Committee

There are four regional groups of NHRIs: one each for Africa, the Americas, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe. On 26 November 2004, the Commission was elected by the European Group as one of four European representatives to the International Co-ordinating Committee. The other three representatives were the Danish Institute of Human Rights, the French National Advisory Commission for Human Rights and Greek National Human Rights Commission.

The four representative national institutions together form a European Co-ordinating Committee for the European Group of NHRIs. The European Co-ordinating Committee met twice in 2005: in Paris on 16 February and in Dublin on 14 October. The Paris meeting was devoted to a discussion of the activities, working methods and future orientation of the Committee. A number of matters were discussed at the Dublin meeting, including a proposed technical co-operation programme for the creation and reinforcement of NHRIs in Europe, the role of NHRIs in light of the reform process of the UN Human Rights Commission and the proposed establishment of an EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

The European Group also met twice during the year: in Geneva on 12 April and in Paris on 25 November. Among the matters considered at the Geneva meeting were the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention of terrorism, the proposed EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the negotiations on a UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Paris meeting was convened to discuss the proposed technical cooperation programme for the strengthening of NHRIs in Europe.

European Committee of Social Rights

On 5 October, the Commission hosted at its premises a round table with the European Committee of Social Rights on the European Social Charter.

The Joint Equality and Human Rights Forum

The Commission is a member of the Joint Equality and Human Rights Forum which brings together many of the statutory equality and human rights bodies in Ireland and in the United Kingdom. The other members are the Equality Authority, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, and the Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission in Great Britain.

The Commission was represented at a meeting of the Forum in Belfast on 6 May at the offices of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

The Commission was also represented at two regional meetings in Britain, one in Edinburgh on 7 June and one in Cardiff on 14 October.

Corporate Services

Chief Executive

The legislation establishing the Commission provides that there shall be a chief executive of the Commission who shall manage and control the staff, administration and business of the Commission and perform such other functions as may be conferred on him or her. In July 2004, the Commission delegated to the chief executive its functions under sections 9(1)(b) and 10 of the Human Rights Commission Act, 2000 in respect of requests for an enquiry and applications for assistance. In 2005, the chief executive was Dr. Alpha Connelly.

Staff

The legislation establishing the Commission also provides for the appointment of staff by the Commission. In 2005, the Commission had 10 members of staff. They were:

- Administrator (Finance and Human Resources), David Carolan
- Assistant Caseworker, Gerry Finn
- Assistant Legislation and Policy Review Officer, Róisín Hennessy
- Clerical Officers, Hazel Murphy and Claire McCann. On 4 July 2005, Lesley O'Neill replaced Hazel Murphy, and on the same date Claire McCann commenced a career break and was replaced by Carol Waters for the period of the career break.
- Desk Officer, Teuta Bytyqi-Forde
- General Administrator, Gavin McSpadden
- Senior Caseworker, Des Hogan
- Senior Human Rights Awareness Officer, Mary Ruddy
- Senior Legislation and Policy Review Officer, Liam Herrick.



Staff Structure



Chief Executive
Dr. Alpha Connelly



Senior Caseworker
Des Hogan



Senior Legislation
& Policy
Review Officer
Liam Herrick



Senior Human Rights
Awareness Officer
Mary Ruddy



Assistant Caseworker
Gerry Finn



Assistant Legislation
& Policy Review Officer
Róisín Hennessy



General Administrator
Gavin McSpadden



Administrator
(Finance & Human Resources)
David Carolan

Position vacant
for part of 2005.
Lesley O'Neill
took up the
position in July
2005



Clerical Officer*

Clerical Officer
Claire McCann



Desk Officer
Teuta Bytyqi-Forda

*In addition to general clerical duties, one of the clerical officers
has special responsibilities to the President and one to the Chief Executive.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

A Performance Management and Development System was introduced in early 2004, which all staff members participated in throughout the year. This continued into 2005 and has been found beneficial by all staff.

Staff Training

The Commission is committed to the further development of its staff. In furtherance of this commitment during 2005 members of staff attended the following courses, amongst others:

- Financial Management (IPA) (Dublin)
- Freedom of Information Act Training (Dublin)
- Human Rights Education (Canadian Foundation for Human Rights)
- Minority Rights Summer School (Galway)
- Intensive course on the Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland)

Policies relating to Staff

During the year the following new policy relating to staff was introduced:

- Policy on special leave for staff without pay for a career break

During the year the following policies relating to staff were revised and updated:

- Staff Policy on the use of the computer network, e-mail and the internet
- Housekeeping policy
- Policy for Dealing with Abusive or Aggressive Customers and Upset Caused to Staff
- Equality Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Information Technology

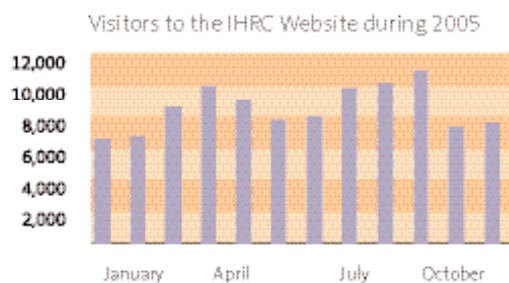
The Commission is committed to maintaining a high quality and modern IT infrastructure with support provided by a firm of external consultants.

During 2005, the Commission utilised on-line banking technology to make salary and other payments and in early 2006, switched to ROS (Revenue On-Line Service) to make tax returns to the Collector General.

Website

The Commission's website (www.ihrc.ie) was launched in December 2003 and is continually updated. The Commission website has Level Double-A Conformance to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0.

Visitors to the website can register for regular updates on the work of the Commission. In 2005, visits to the Commission's website were more than double those received in 2004, a total of 102,833 compared with 49,523 in the previous year. The following Table shows a monthly breakdown of visits to the website in 2005.



General

Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003

The Commission has put procedures in place to ensure conformity with the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003.

Prompt Payments Act 1997

The Commission incurred no interest payments in 2005 under the Prompt Payments Act, 1997.

Ethics in Public Office Acts, 1995 to 2001

At its plenary meeting in January 2004, the Commission approved a Register of Commissioners' Interests. The President and Commissioners are subject to the requirements of the Ethics in Public Office Acts and have completed appropriate statements of interest in 2004. All relevant staff holding prescribed positions have been made aware of their obligations under the ethics in public office legislation.

Official Languages Act 2003

The Commission has procedures in place so as to ensure compliance with the legislation insofar as it applies to the Commission.

Library

The Commission established a small library in 2004, and the services of a librarian were retained on a part-time consultancy basis to categorise and classify library purchases and to maintain the library.

EMILIE JOLIE, PART-TIME LIBRARIAN.

Finance

System of Internal Financial Controls

The system of internal financial control provides reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or other irregularities are either prevented or will be detected on a timely basis.

The Commission has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place by: defining responsibilities, establishing formal procedures and developing a culture of accountability.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administration procedures including segregation of duties, as well as delegation and accountability. It includes a comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget that is agreed and reviewed.

Regular reviews of periodic and annual financial reports take place to compare actual figures against forecasted ones.



The Commission is informed on matters of internal financial control by the work of its Finance and Audit Committee.

Statement of Responsibility of the Human Rights Commission, year ended 31 December 2005

The Commission is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Human Rights Commission and of the income and expenditure for that period.

In preparing those statements, the Commission is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards, and
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Human Rights Commission will continue in existence.

The Human Rights Commission is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Human Rights Commission and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with s.16 of the Human Rights Commission Act 2000. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Human Rights Commission and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles

General

Contained in this Annual Report is the total income received for the year and a breakdown of expenditure. The Commission accounts are prepared in accordance with section 16 of the Human Rights Commission Act, 2000 and presented in draft form to the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office for audit.

Grant

In accordance with section 22 of the Human Rights Commission Act, 2000, the Commission receives an annual grant from the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Starting in 2004, the grant took the form of a grant-in-aid.

Period of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements cover the period 1 January to 31 December 2005.

Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements are prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention in the format approved by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

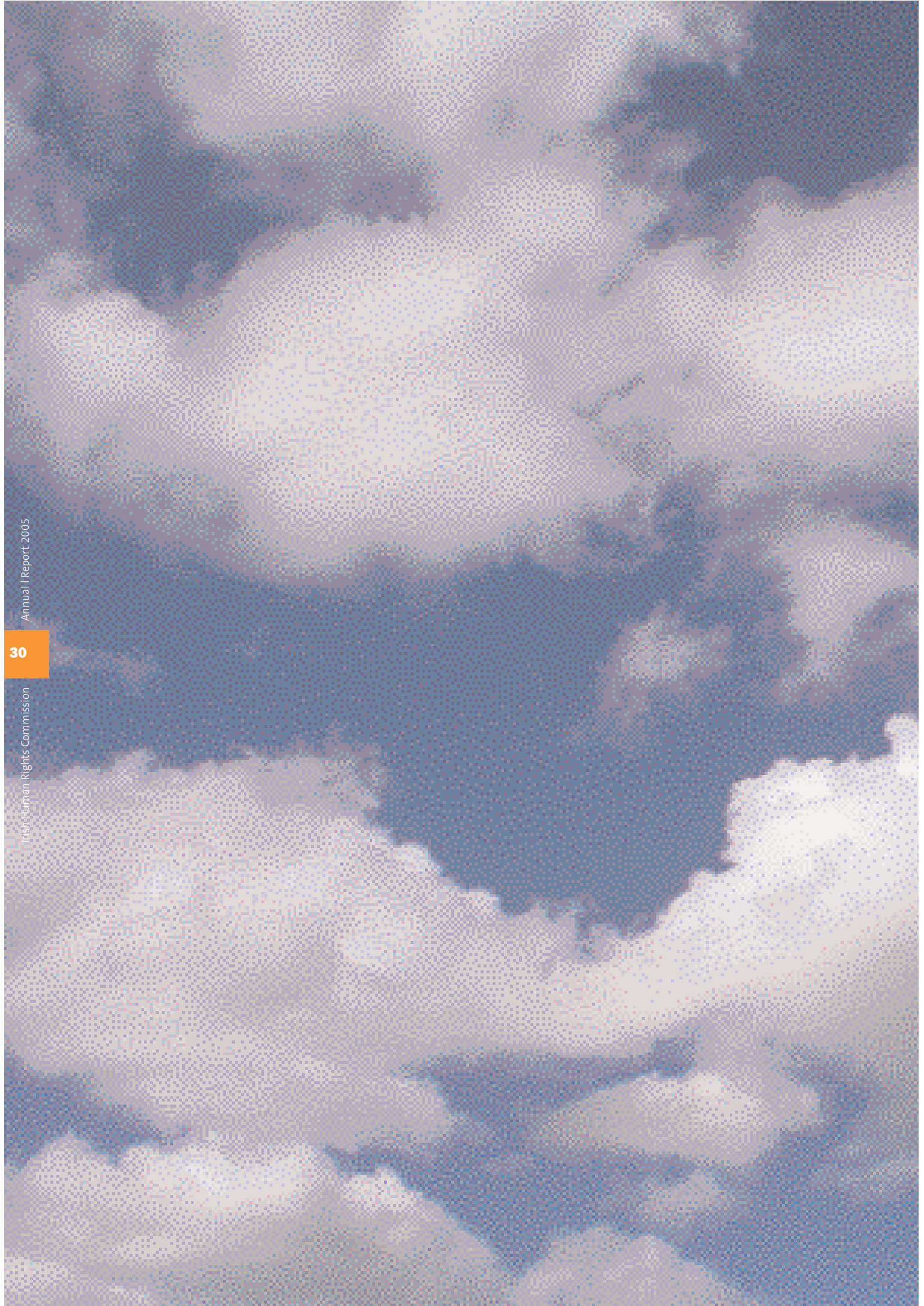
Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is calculated in order to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Buildings: 25 years SL

Office Equipment: 20% RB

Fixtures and Fittings: 20% RB



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year Ended 31 December 2005

	€	€
Income		
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Vote 19, Subhead B2		1,894,000
Transfer to Capital Account	(8,849)	
Amortisation of Grants in year	34,325	25,476
Bank Interest Receivable		781
Total Income for year		1,920,256
Summary of Expenditure		
Salaries	(i) 784,004	
Fees	(ii) 177,854	
Audit	7,200	
Cleaning	7,512	
Research / Consultancy	27,830	
Conference	35,159	
Insurance	18,972	
IT	8,272	
Legal Exp.	13,582	
Library	10,775	
Heating/Lighting	9,823	
Post/Couriers	6,240	
Office	42,359	
Premises	264,509	
Printing	63,990	
Telcos	13,665	
Training	4,760	
Travel and Subs.	83,503	
Depreciation	34,325	
Bank Charges	536	
Total Expenditure	1,618,782	
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	301,475	
Balance Brought Forward from 2004	512,765	
Balance Carried forward at end of year	814,240	

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2005

	€	€
Fixed Assets	(v)	314,691
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and on hand	881,822	
Debtors	(vi) 10,488	
	892,310	
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and Accruals	(vii) (78,072)	
Net Current Assets		814,239
Net Assets		1,128,930
Represented by		
Opening Capital Account		340,166
Transferred from(to) Income & Exp. Income used to acquire/(dispose) of fixed assets	8,849	
Grant amortised in year	(34,325)	
		(25,476)
Closing capital account		314,690
I & E Surplus/ (Deficit)		814,240
		1,128,930

Notes to the Financial Statements

(i) Salaries

Under section 18 of the Human Rights Commission Act, 2000, the Commission in determining the remuneration or other allowances of its staff shall have regard to Government or nationally agreed guidelines. The Commission shall comply with any directives with regard to such remuneration, allowances, terms or conditions which the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform may give to the Commission with the consent of the Minister for Finance.

Besides staff salaries, the salaries figure includes an annual payment, equivalent to that of a Judge of the High Court, to the President as approved by Government.

(ii) Commissioners Fees

Fees of € 12,697 are payable to each of the 14 Commissioners.

(iii) Superannuation

Under section 20 of the Human Rights Commission Act, 2000, a superannuation scheme was submitted to the Minister and in March 2003 the Minister for Finance agreed to the Commission's proposed scheme being put into operation as soon as possible.

(iv) Operating Lease

The Commission holds a 25 year lease from 17 November 2003, in respect of office accommodation in Jervis House. The annual cost of the lease is € 213,357 with a five year rent review.

(v) Fixed Assets

	Buildings SL Over 25 Yrs	Equipment 20% RB	Fixtures 20% RB	Total
Cost				
Balance 1st January	246,375	81,216	87,132	414,723
Additions	0	7,065	1,784	8,849
Disposals	0	0	0	0
Balance 31st December	246,375	88,281	88,916	423,572
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance 1st January	19,710	26,399	28,447	74,556
Charge for the year	9,855	12,376	12,094	34,325
As at 31st December 2004	29,565	38,775	40,541	108,881
Net Book Value				
Balance 31 December 2005	216,810	49,506	48,375	314,691

(vi) Debtors

	2005
Debtors	400
Staff Loan	0
Prepayments	10,088
	10,488

(vii) Creditors & Accruals within 1 year

	2005
Trade Creditors - (Purchases due at year end)	11,609
PAYE/PRSI	18,667
Fees owing to Commission Members	25,776
Accruals	22,113
	78,164

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Biographies of Members of the Commission



MANNING, Maurice (President)

Dr Maurice Manning was appointed President of the Commission in August 2002.

An academic by background, Dr Manning previously lectured in politics in University College Dublin and has been visiting professor at the University of Paris (Vincennes) and the University of West Florida. He is a member of the Senate of the National University of Ireland, of the Governing Authority of University College Dublin and was a member of the Governing Authority of the European University Institute at Florence.

Dr Manning has written several books on modern Irish politics. He was a member of the Oireachtas for twenty-one years, serving in both the Dáil and the Seanad. He was a member of the New Ireland Forum and the British Irish Inter Parliamentary Body. He served as both Leader of the Seanad and Leader of the Opposition in that House.



BINCHY, William

Professor Binchy is Regius Professor of Laws at Trinity College, Dublin. He was special legal adviser on family law reform to the Department of Justice, preparing legislation on family maintenance, protection of the family home and domestic violence. As Research Counsellor to the Law Reform Commission he advised on reform of law relating to the status of children. He has represented Ireland at the Hague Conference on Private International Law in the areas of marriage and inter-country adoption. He has actively contributed to public discussion of human rights issues, including those relating to divorce, abortion, Travellers and asylum seekers. He has participated in a programme on constitutionalism for the Tanzanian judiciary held in Dar es Salaam, is co-organiser of a training programme for the magistracy of Botswana and organiser of the annual African workshop on constitutionalism for the Chief Justices and senior judiciary of African states, held in Trinity College, Dublin, which is now in its eighth year. He was a Visiting Fellow at Corpus Christi College Cambridge for the Michaelmas term of 2002 and was a member of the Hederman Committee to Review the Offences Against the State Acts, which reported in May 2002.



BRAIDEN, Olive

Olive Braiden is former Director of the Rape Crisis Centre. In this context she campaigned for legislative reform in the area of rape and child sexual abuse. She initiated and published research on the law on rape in the EU. She established training programmes for community workers in the former Yugoslavia. In the aftermath of the war these programmes are continuing in Kosovo. She is a board member of the Courts Service, the Judicial Advisory Board and is Chairwoman of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency and chairwoman of the Arts Council. She has served on many Government Working Parties and Steering Committees and was a founding member of UNIFEM. Over a period of fifteen years she has lived in Spain, France, Belgium, the UK, Bahamas and Thailand. She recently completed a M.Phil in Gender Studies in Trinity College Dublin.



COLLINS, Martin

Martin Collins is Assistant Director of Pavee Point Travellers' Centre. He has extensive experience of community work with Travellers over 17 years. He is a former member of the Government Task Force on the Travelling Community which is generally regarded as a milestone in terms of offering a new analysis and framework for action on the problems experienced by Irish Travellers. He then went on to become a member of the Monitoring Committee set up to monitor the implementation of the 1995 Task Force Report. He is also a founding member of the Irish Traveller Movement which has a membership of over 80 Traveller groups. Through his work at Pavee Point he is involved in providing anti-racism training to a wide range of professions including the Gardaí, teachers and social workers. He was also actively involved in the campaign for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation, namely the Equal Status Act and the Employment Equality Act, which for the first time offered redress to Travellers who experienced unlawful discrimination.



DALY, Robert

Professor Daly is an expert on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, on the psychiatric effects of interrogation and torture and on the medical aspects of human rights in general. In the past he represented the Irish Government in the torture case against the UK at the European Commission on Human Rights, was a member of Amnesty International's Medical Advisory Board awarded the European Peace Prize, advised the American Civil Liberties Union, and has worked for victims of abuse in Latin American States and the Balkan Wars. He has evaluated programmes of the European Commission and the Council of Europe in many parts of the world. He has also been a trainer for the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, for human rights workers in the Kosovo conflict, etc. He has served as an expert witness in numerous human rights-related cases on both sides of the border and in the UK. He currently serves on the World Psychiatric Association's Committee dealing with allegations of abuse and, as Chairman of the Irish Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, advised the Minister for Health on changes in Mental Health law. He was formerly Dean of Medicine and head of the Psychiatry Department at University College Cork, Clinical Director in the Southern Health Board and a member of the Medical Research Council.



EGAN, Suzanne

Suzanne Egan has been a lecturer in International and European Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law in University College Dublin since 1992. She is a qualified barrister and holds a Master of Laws Degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. Prior to lecturing at UCD, she was the Legal Supervisor of an independent research centre on refugee law and policy in Canada (1989-1991) and a Research Assistant at the Law Reform Commission in Ireland (1991-1992). She is a founding member of the Refugee Protection Policy Group in Ireland, an independent group of lawyers, academics and others working in the field of refugee law and policy. She is also a former member of the Executive Committee of the Irish Refugee Council. She has published widely in the area of human rights, particularly with regard to refugee law and policy.



FARRELL, Michael

Michael Farrell was prominently involved in the Civil Rights movement in Northern Ireland in the 1960s and 1970s and has campaigned on many civil rights and human rights issues over the last 30 years. He was involved in campaigns for the Birmingham Six and other victims of miscarriages of justice in the 1980s and in the campaign against political censorship under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. He was vice-chair and then co-chair of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties for most of the 1990s and was involved in campaigns for gay rights, divorce, equality laws, refugee rights, against racism, and for the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into Irish law. He has an M.Sc. in Politics and was formerly a journalist and author. He is now a solicitor and has been involved in taking cases to the European Court of Human Rights and other international bodies. Born and brought up in Co. Derry, he lived for 20 years in Belfast before moving to Dublin where he now lives.



HARDING CLARK, Maureen

Maureen Harding Clark was called to the Bar in Dublin in 1975 following university education at Lyons, UCD, Trinity College and the King's Inns. She practiced first on the South Eastern Circuit and then as Senior Counsel in Dublin from 1991. She had a comprehensive legal practice establishing expertise in Criminal Law and Medical Negligence. She has acted for the families of the bereaved in many inquests and has represented the Government in a large number of children's special needs cases.

While a Senior Counsel, she served on the Bar Council. She was one of the first Judges ad Litem at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague. While serving as a Judge at the ICTY she was elected as a Judge of the International Criminal Court and was sworn in on March 11 2003. She has been appointed to serve as a trial Judge and will take up such duties only when the first case has completed its pre-trial and appeals stage. In common with the other Trial Chamber Judges of the ICC she has not taken up her full time position and has been engaged in reviewing and writing the new rules of practice for the Court.

Since her election Maureen Clark has been engaged extensively in outreach programmes for the Court. She has traveled to Chile, the US, UK and several European capitals to address ICC issues with judiciary, politicians and academics and students. She chaired the Lourdes Hospital Enquiry for the Department of Health and Children.



KELLY, Nuala

Nuala Kelly has worked at national and international level to ensure respect and enforcement of the human rights of Irish emigrants and prisoners abroad. As former Co-ordinator of the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, she helped co-ordinate campaigns to vindicate the rights of the Birmingham Six, the Guildford Four, the Maguire family and other victims of injustice and built a case service for all Irish prisoners abroad.

She continues her work with prisoner-related projects such as Expac and the Educational Trust, a cross-border body which allocates grants for education and training to ex-prisoners. She also does consultancy and research work with a focus on prison, migration and social policy issues.

She participated in the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation and was a member of the Consultative Forum of the EU Peace Programme. She was also a member of the Human Rights Working Group of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace and a board member of the Belfast-based Centre for Research and Documentation.

She was educated at Queen's University Belfast, holds an MSSc in Sociology and has trained in international human rights advocacy at Columbia University, New York. She has taught on human rights and adult education courses and participated in campaigns for the rights of women and communities.



McGRORY, Clodach

Clodach McGrory was born in Belfast. She was awarded a BA degree in Irish by Trinity College, Dublin in 1986 and subsequently was awarded a certificate in professional legal studies and an LLM degree in Human Rights and Emergency Law by Queen's University, Belfast.

She practised as a barrister in Northern Ireland and later worked at the Northern Ireland Law Centre. She was an active member of the Belfast-based NGO, the Committee for the Administration of Justice.

In 1997 she was appointed to the Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights in Northern Ireland.

Following the Good Friday Agreement, in 1998 she was appointed as a Sentence Review Commissioner. In this capacity, she had responsibility for the release of prisoners convicted under emergency legislation in Northern Ireland.

Since May 2002 she has held a part-time judicial appointment as a Chairperson of Social Security Appeal Tribunals.

In July 2002 she was appointed to the Life Sentence Review Commission, an independent body which makes decisions on the release of life sentence prisoners convicted under non-emergency legislation in Northern Ireland.



Ní AOLÁIN, Fionnuala

Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin is Professor of Law at the University of Ulster's Transitional Justice Institute and Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota Law School. She has previously been Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School (93-94); Associate-in-Law at Columbia Law School (94-96); Visiting Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs Columbia University (96-00); Assistant Professor of Law at the Hebrew University (97-99) and Visiting Fellow at Princeton University (01-02). Her teaching and research interests are in the fields of international law and international human rights law. She has published extensively in the fields of emergency powers, conflict regulation, and sex based violence in times of war. She is an elected member of the Executive Committee for the Belfast based Committee on the Administration of Justice, and is also a member of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. She was previously a representative of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at domestic war crimes trials in Bosnia (96-97). In 2003 she was appointed by the United Nations Division on the Advancement of Women as Special Expert on promoting gender equality in times of conflict and peace making. She is a native Irish speaker.



O'HIGGINS, Tom

Tom O'Higgins is a chartered accountant and is a graduate in Economics and History from University College Dublin and in Human Resources Management from Sheffield Business School. He is a former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a member of the Institute of Personnel and Development and of the Institute of Taxation.

He was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers from 1969 to 2000 where he was a senior audit partner and Head of Human Resources. He continues to assist organisations in recruitment and human resource issues and serves as a member of selection boards for the Civil Service Commission and for other bodies. A specialist in corporate governance, he is Chairman of the Coombe Women's Hospital, and is recent Chairman and a member of the Board of Concern Worldwide. He is chairman and a member of the audit committees of a number of State and semi-state bodies. He is also a member of the Change Partnership, an executive coaching and mentoring organization and is a director of a number of private companies.



QUINN, Gerard

Gerard Quinn is a professor of law at NUI, Galway. Called to the Irish Bar in November 1983, he holds a Harvard Doctorate in Juridical Science (S.J.D.). He is a former Director of Research at the Law Reform Commission and led the legal research team of the Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. He has worked with the European Commission on general human rights issues as well as on the preparation of EU policy instruments in the field of disability rights. He is Director of an EU Network of Disability Discrimination Lawyers. He is a member of the European Committee of Social Rights (Council of Europe). He is a member of the research advisory boards of Land Mine Survivors Network (Washington DC), Soros Foundation EU Monitoring Programme on Accession Countries on Disability (Budapest), AHEAD (Association for Higher Education Access and Disability), Dublin, and European Children-Our Concern (Brussels). He is a member of the United Nations Working Group convened to draft a treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities. He has published widely on economic, social and cultural rights, on the rights of persons with disabilities and on the EU and human rights.



TAYLOR, Mervyn

Mervyn Taylor is a former Minister for Equality and Law Reform and was a Dáil Deputy for over 16 years. He served as Assistant Government Chief Whip from 1982 to 1987. While in opposition he held various spokesperson positions including Education, Justice, Finance and Public Service, Industry and Commerce, and Employment Equality and Law Reform. He is a practising solicitor for 40 years, apart from the period in which he held Ministerial Office. He is a former member of the European Monitoring Committee on Racism and Xenophobia.



ZAPPONE, Katherine

Katherine Zappone is a philosopher, educator and independent public policy research consultant. As former Chief Executive of the National Women's Council in Ireland, she participated in a number of committees and working groups at national, European and international level to advocate women's social and economic rights and gender equality. She is a former member of the National Economic and Social Council of Ireland and has conducted a number of national research projects in public policy and gender equality, and equality in children's education. She is co-founder and Chair of An Cosán, a large community-based organization in West Tallaght, Dublin committed to eradicating poverty through education. She lectured for a decade in Trinity College Dublin in ethics and human rights, and has lectured in Canada, Australia, Europe, the USA and throughout Ireland. Widely published in feminism, ethics, equality issues and education, she conducts research, consults and teaches. Her most recent work includes: *Charting the Equality Agenda: A Coherent Framework for Equality Strategies in Ireland North and South* (2001) and *Re-Thinking Identity: The Challenge of Diversity* (2003). She holds a PhD in Education and Religion from Boston College.

APPENDIX 2

IHRC Committees as of 31 December 2005

Committee on the Administration of Justice:

Members: Maurice Manning (Con),
Michael Farrell, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, William Binchy, Maureen Harding Clark, Nuala Kelly, Clodagh McGrory (joined July '05)

Met 7 times

Terms of reference –

- 1 To further the Human Rights Commission's objectives in the Key Area of the Administration of Justice, including the issue of emergency laws.
- 2 To identify priorities and to develop strategy in relation to the Key Area of the Administration of Justice as set out in the Strategic Plan 2003-2006.
- 3 To examine how the Commission should engage with the issue of the Offences Against the State Acts, 1939-1989.

Casework Committee:

Members: Maurice Manning (Con), Robert Daly, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Mervyn Taylor, (Clodagh McGrory and Nuala Kelly resigned from the Committee in March '05)

Met 8 times

Terms of reference –

- 1 To establish procedures for the performance of the functions of the Commission under sections 8(f) (in relation to section 9 (1)(a)), 8(h) and (k) of the Human Rights Commission

Act, 2000 (the Act), subject to approval by plenary;

- 2 To consider proposals by the Chief Executive in relation to the performance of the functions of the Commission under sections 8(f) (in relation to section 9(1)(a)), 8(h) and (k) of the Act, and to report to the Commission sitting in plenary thereon;
- 3 To consider matters referred to it by the Chief Executive under sections 9(1)(b) or 10 of the Act and either make any recommendations thereon to the Chief Executive, or refer the matter to the plenary for its views;
- 4 To develop, subject to the direction of the Commission and subject to the delegation of any function to the Chief Executive, the Commission's policy and strategy with respect to casework and make recommendations to the Commission sitting in plenary thereon;
- 5 To consider requests by individuals or proposals by the Chief Executive, further to the Commission's *Amicus Curiae Guidelines*, that the Commission apply, further to section 8(h) of the Act, to the High Court or the Supreme Court for liberty to appear before the relevant court as *amicus curiae* in proceedings before the relevant court that involve or are concerned with the human rights of any person and to make recommendations to the Commission sitting in plenary thereon;
- 6 To consider requests by individuals or proposals by the Chief Executive that the Commission institute court proceedings seeking relief in respect of human rights matter, further to sections 8(k) and 11 of the Act and to make recommendations to the Commission sitting in plenary thereon.

Disability Committee:

Members: Gerard Quinn (Con), Maurice Manning, Katherine Zappone, William Binchy, Olive Braiden.

Met twice

Terms of reference –

- 1 To consider and make proposals to plenary in respect of the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Committee on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights:

Members: Katherine Zappone, Suzanne Egan, Maurice Manning (took over as Convenor in July '05), Martin Collins, William Binchy, Nuala Kelly, Gerard Quinn

Met 5 times

Terms of reference -

1. To carry out the Commission's policy on protection and progressive realisation of economic, social and cultural rights as set out in the Commission's Strategic Plan, and to work wherever possible in cooperation with other statutory and non-statutory bodies in the field.
2. To make proposals for the development of policy to the Commission, and proposals for research to the Commission's Research Committee.
3. To play a role in advancing awareness and understanding of the nature of economic, social and cultural rights, and to focus on appropriate means of giving them practical effect.

4. To keep under review those aspects of domestic law, policy and practice that impact on issues of poverty and poverty-reduction.

Finance and Audit Committee:

Members: Tom O'Higgins (Con), Maurice Manning, Mervyn Taylor, Alpha Connelly

Met 3 times

Terms of reference –

1. To advise the Commission and the Chief Executive on all questions relating to the expenditure and the budget of the Commission and the keeping and auditing of the Commission's accounts.

Committee on Gender & Equality:

Members: Katherine Zappone, Suzanne Egan, Olive Braiden, Maurice Manning (took over as Convenor in Sept '05)

Met 8 times

Terms of reference –

- 1 To ensure a rights-based perspective in the implementation of Government commitments to eliminate discrimination against women.
- 2 To carry out the Commission's policy on opposition to discrimination against women and the promotion of women's equality, working wherever possible with women's groups.
- 3 To oversee and contribute to the Commission's shadow report of Government's progress to UN Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. In this regard to:

- 4 Identify the scope of the Commission's submission.
 - 5 Identify primary areas of the Commission's intervention.
 - 6 Identify areas of research and evidence-gathering to provide the basis for comments on the Government report.
 - 7 Establish relationships with the women's human rights alliance (project coordinating NGO shadow report).
 - 8 Consider inviting external experts to work with the Commission.
 - 9 Meet with the UN Committee on the Commission's submission.
 - 10 To make proposals to the Commission for research related to, and for developments of, its policy on gender and women's rights.
- 3 Will continue to work with statutory and non-statutory bodies towards the development and implementation of the NAPAR. The basis of the Committee's work in this area will be the Commission's submission to the Steering Group on NAPAR.
 - 4 Will keep under review those aspects of immigration and asylum law and practice that impact on the issues of racism and interculturalism (the Committee could begin this work but because of the amount of legislation and agencies involved it might require a separate working group to research this area and formulate proposals).
 - 5 Will play a role in publicising and promoting international human rights standards relevant to issues concerning racism and methods of monitoring and enforcing the application of those standards, with particular reference to Travellers, asylum seekers, migrant workers, refugees and generally Irish people of diverse ethnic backgrounds.
 - 6 Will act as the Commission's representatives / or will delegate some of its members to act as the Commission's representatives on the Sub – Committee on Racism of the Joint Committee of the Commission and the NIHRC.

Committee on Racism:

Members: Michael Farrell (Con), Nuala Kelly, Martin Collins, Maurice Manning, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Tom O'Higgins

Met 11 times

Terms of reference –

- 1 Will carry out HRC policy on opposition to racism and support for interculturalism as set out in the Commission's Strategic Plan and submission to the Steering Group on a National Plan Against Racism (NAPAR), working wherever possible in cooperation with other statutory bodies in the field and bodies representing minority ethnic groups.
- 2 Will make proposals to the Commission for developing its policy on racism and interculturalism.

Research Committee:

Members: Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (Con),
Maurice Manning, William Binchy,
Suzanne Egan

Met twice

Terms of reference –

- 1 To develop, subject to the direction of the Commission, the Commission's policy and strategy with respect to research and to oversee and co-ordinate the Commission's research activities.

Committee on Governance and Management:

(Established at the 46th ordinary meeting of the Commission on 31st March 2005)

Members: Tom O'Higgins (Con),
Katherine Zappone, Robert Daly,
Olive Braiden

Terms of Reference –

1. To listen fully to the concerns of the President and Chief Executive with a view to developing protocols relating to working arrangements and respective roles, and to clarifying operational and governance matters relating to future work, which are acceptable to the parties and to the Commission.

Remuneration Committee:

Members: Maurice Manning (Con),
Olive Braiden, Tom O'Higgins

Terms of reference –

1. Following on the adoption by the Commission of the scheme of performance related awards at Assistant Secretary level in the civil service, to progress the application of the scheme to the Chief Executive.
2. To recommend to plenary the design and establishment of a scheme for the payment of performance related bonuses to the Chief Executive.

Ad Hoc Committee on "Extraordinary Rendition":

(Established at the 53rd ordinary meeting of the Commission on 15 December 2005)

Members: Michael Farrell, Suzanne Egan,
Gerard Quinn, Maureen Harding
Clark

Terms of reference –

1. To produce a Commission document on the issue for the President to sign off and send to Government.

Ad Hoc Committee on an "Away Day":

Members: Maurice Manning (Con),
Katherine Zappone, Clodagh
McGrory, Alpha Connelly

Terms of reference –

1. To examine the structure of an "Away Day" and recommend a programme to plenary.

APPENDIX 3

Seminar on Treaty Monitoring Options for proposed UN Human Rights Disability Treaty

MacNeill Theatre, Hamilton Building, Trinity College Dublin, Saturday 16 April, 2005.

The ongoing drafting of the United Nations treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities is probably the single most important development in the disability field at the global level. It will potentially affect 600 million persons with disabilities in the world.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide an open forum to explore the most effective mechanism for the supervision and monitoring of the implementation of the draft United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The seminar is open to the public and its purpose is to provide an open forum for participants to explore the most effective supervisory mechanism that might be developed to monitor the implementation of the proposed Convention. In many respects the Convention will only be as good as the monitoring or 'enforcement' mechanism it provides and it is important that the views of all are fully taken on board.

The Seminar is open to all members of the public. There is no registration fee.

Advance booking is recommended. Please complete registration form if you wish to attend.

Programme

9.00 - 9.10	Welcome & Opening of Seminar <i>Maurice Manning</i> , President of the Irish Human Rights Commission.
9.10 - 9.30	Background to the Drafting of the Treaty. <i>Gerard Quinn</i> . Member of the Irish Human Rights Commission and representative of Rehabilitation International to the UN Ad Hoc Committee.
9.30 -10.00	Context: How the Existing Treaty Monitoring System Works & Reform Proposals. <i>Mara Bustelo</i> . Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva.
10.00 -11.00	Monitoring Options for the Disability Treaty. International Perspectives: <i>Ms. Anuradha Mohit</i> . Representative of International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions to the UN Ad Hoc Committee and member of the Asia Pacific Forum. European Perspectives: <i>Lars Lööw</i> . Swedish Disability Ombudsman Irish Perspective. <i>Mary Keogh</i> . Forum of People with Disabilities in Ireland. Latin American Perspective. <i>Maria Veronica Reina</i> , President, Centre for International Rehabilitation (USA) with responsibility for International Disability Rights Monitor Project.
11.00-11.30	Coffee
11.30 -12.45	The Importance of Monitoring in an Irish Context Panel Discussion & Open Forum Panel Moderator: <i>Nigel Brander</i> , Chairman, People with Disabilities Ireland. <i>Claire O'Connor</i> , Director, National Disability Authority. <i>Kevin McLoughlin</i> , Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. <i>Eilis Barry</i> , Legal Advisor, Equality Authority <i>Dr Donal McAnaney</i> . Group Director, Research, Innovation and Business Excellence, Rehab Group. Secretary, RI-Ireland.
12.45 -1.00	Rapporteur's Report. <i>William Binchy</i> , Member of the Irish Human Rights Commission and representative of the European NHRIs to the UN Ad Hoc Committee.
1.00	Close of seminar

APPENDIX 4

Human Rights Commission and Law Society of Ireland Public Conference

Date Saturday 15th October 2005

Venue Presidents' Hall, Law Society, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7

Theme Migrant Workers and Human Rights Law

20.9.05

Time	Theme	Speakers
8.45	Registration	
9.15	Welcome	<i>Dr. Maurice Manning</i> , President, Irish Human Rights Commission <i>Owen Binchy</i> , President of the Law Society of Ireland

The context of Migration *Chair: Dr. Maurice Manning*

9.30	The proposed Immigration and Residence Bill	<i>Paul Burns and Brian Ingoldsby</i> , Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
10.00	The UN Convention on Migrant Workers and their Families, the international economic and legal context	<i>Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam</i> , Chairman of the UN Committee on the International Convention on Migrant Workers and their Families
10.30	Migration in the Irish economic context	<i>Piarras Mac Éinrí</i> , Migration Studies Unit, Department of Geography, UCC
11-11.20	Coffee	

The Irish legal context *Chair: Brian Gallagher, Human Rights Committee, Law Society*

11.20	Personal experiences of migration	<i>Sancha Magat</i> , Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
11.30	Reform issues in Irish law and practice	<i>Noeline Blackwell</i> , solicitor <i>Aisling Ryan</i> , solicitor
12.00	The Employment Permits Bill 2005	<i>Catherine Cosgrave</i> , Immigrant Council of Ireland
12.30	Practical issues and practical solutions	<i>Mike Jennings</i> , SIPTU
	Q&A	
1.00-2.15	Lunch	

Models of migration law *Chair: Commissioner Nuala Kelly, Human Rights Commission*

2.15	EU policy and legislation	<i>Cathryn Costello, Worcester College, Oxford</i>
2.45	UK immigration law – lessons to be learned	<i>Louise Christian, UK Solicitor and immigration law practitioner</i>
3.15	US immigration law – lessons to be learned	<i>Bruce Morrison, ex US Congressman</i>
3.45	Q&A, Panel Discussion	
4.15	Close of Conference	

APPENDIX 5

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CROSS BORDER CONFERENCE Teaching: Learning: Living Human Rights Implementing the United Nations World Programme of Action for Human Rights Education

Hosted by: Lift Off Initiative, IHRC and NIHRC in Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.
On Thursday, 20th October, 2005.

Agenda

9.30 -10.15	Coffee and Registration
10.15 a.m.	<p>Welcoming Addresses:</p> <p><i>Dr. Maurice Manning</i>, President Irish Human Rights Commission <i>Monica McWilliams</i>, Chief Commissioner, Northern Irish Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Implementing the World Programme on Human Rights Education</p> <p><i>Chair: Avril Hall</i>, Assistant General Secretary, Ulster Teachers' Union and partner in Lift Off Initiative</p> <p>Video presentation involving children who have participated in the Lift-Off Initiative</p> <p><i>Mary Hanafin</i>, Minister for Education and Science, RoI <i>Angela Smith</i>, Minister for Education, NI <i>Elena Ippoliti</i>, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</p>
11.30 a.m.	Coffee
11.50 a.m.	<p><i>Prof. Alan Smith</i> UNESCO Chair in Education for Pluralism, Human Rights and Democracy, University of Ulster</p> <p><i>Robin Richardson</i>, Educationalist and Writer on Identity, Equality and Inclusion in Education</p>
12.20 p.m.	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Session 1: Curriculum</p> <p><i>Presenter: Brian Ruane</i>, Lift Off Initiative</p>
1.00-2.10pm	Lunch

2.10	Opening of Afternoon Session
2.15	Session 2: Colleges of Education <i>Presenters: Barbara Gill, Development and Intercultural Education Project (RoI), Norman Richardson, Stranmillis University College (NI)</i>
3.00	Session 3: Whole School Project <i>Presenter: Jennifer Campbell, Principal, DH Christie Memorial Primary School, Coleraine</i>
3.45	Open Forum <i>Chair: Catherine Byrne, Deputy General Secretary and General Treasurer, INTO</i>
4.15	Concluding Remarks <i>Dr. Colm Ó Cuanacháin, Amnesty International</i>
4.30	Close of Conference

APPENDIX 6

Conference on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Models of Enforcement

A major conference will be hosted by the Irish Human Rights Commission on the 9th and 10th December, 2005, in Croke Park, Dublin. The conference will be addressed by leading scholars and advocates in the field of economic, social and cultural rights.

Friday, 9th December, 2005

8.30 – 10.00	Registration	Chair: Dr. Maurice Manning, President, IHRC
10.00	Welcoming Address	Dr. Maurice Manning, President, Irish Human Rights Commission
10.15	Keynote Address:	Mr. Martin Scheinin, Professor of Law, Åbo Akademi University of Finland
11.00	IHRC Discussion Document – models of enforcement for economic, social and cultural rights:	Fionnuala Ni Aolain, member of Irish Human Rights Commission
Coffee		
12.00 – 1.00	ESC Rights as Human Rights	Mara Bustelo, Co-ordinator Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues in UN OHCHR
	ESC Rights as Legal Rights	John O'Dowd, School of Law, University College Dublin
12.45	Q & A	
1.00 – 2.15	LUNCH	
Chair: Katherine Zappone, member of the Irish Human Rights Commission		
2.15 – 3.15	Implementation & enforcement of ESC Rights at the international level	
	Collective complaints on economic, social and cultural rights in Council of Europe system	Regis Brillat, Executive Secretary, Social Charter Committee, Council of Europe
	Towards a formal complaints procedure-	Catarina de Albuquerque, Chairperson-Rapporteur of Working Group to draft the Optional Protocol to the International

	the Optional Protocol	Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
3.00	Q & A	
3.15 – 3.45	COFFEE	
3.45 – 5.30	Implementation & enforcement of ESC Rights at the domestic level	
	South African experience: Constitutional provisions and monitoring role of South African Human Rights Commission	<i>Vinodh Jaichand</i> , Centre for International Human Rights Law, National University of Ireland, Galway.
	Canadian experience: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms	<i>Bruce Porter</i> , Director, Social Rights Advocacy Centre (Canada)
	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Ireland: Judicial and Non-judicial enforcement.	<i>Gerry Whyte</i> , Law School, Trinity College Dublin
	Q & A	
5.30	Close of Day 1	

Saturday 10th December: International Human Rights Day

Chair: Dr. Alpha Connelly, Chief Executive, Irish Human Rights Commission

9.30 a.m. Realising Economic, Social & Cultural Rights

	Using the UK's Human Rights Act to enforce economic, social and cultural rights	<i>Colm O'Cinneide, Faculty of Laws, University College London</i>
	Making Rights Real:	<i>Maggie Beirne, Committee on the Administration of Justice and member of Steering Group of Rights in Practice Project</i>

11-11.30 Coffee

11.30 Focus on the right to housing

	Implementing the Right to Adequate Housing in the United Nations system	<i>Miloon Kathari, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing</i>
	Soft law and housing rights in the European Union system	<i>Padraic Kenna, Law Faculty NUI Galway and author of <i>Housing Rights and Human Rights</i></i>
	Litigation strategies to enforce housing rights	<i>Aoife Nolan, Legal Officer, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions</i>

1.00 Closing Comments: *Gerard Quinn, member of IHRC*

1.15-2.30 Lunch

APPENDIX 7

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION Combating racially motivated crimes through legislation

hosted by Irish Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International (Irish Section) in association with the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism

Wednesday, 8th June 2005 Bedford Hall, Dublin Castle, Dublin

9.30	Introduction and Welcome:	<i>Mr. Jim Loughran</i> , Campaigns Manager, Amnesty International (Irish Section)
	Recent Developments in Ireland and in the EU	<i>Philip Watt</i> , Director NCCRI
	UK experience of dealing with racially motivated crime	<i>Jagdish Patel</i> , UK Monitoring Group
	Recent developments in Northern Ireland	<i>Nazia Latif</i> , Investigations Worker, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
	Council of Europe approaches and legal developments under European Convention on Human Rights	<i>Tarlach McGonagle</i> , University of Amsterdam

Michael Farrell, member of the Irish Human Rights Commission and member of the Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the National Action Plan Against Racism, will chair the roundtable.

APPENDIX 8

Attendance by the President at Official Events 2005

20th January	Spoke at Launch of <i>Participation and Practice of Rights</i> , organised by ICCL, Committee on the Administration of Justice, Combat Poverty Agency, ICTU and Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (Mansion House, Dublin)
27th January	Attended the Launch of National Action Plan Against Racism (Government Press Centre, Dublin)
31st January	Lecture on the Role of Human Rights Commissions as part of the <i>Law & Policy Lecture Series</i> (Law Faculty in UCC, Cork)
3rd February	Meeting with the Omagh Support and Self Help Group (Omagh)
4th February	Meeting with Professor Nohyun Kwak, Secretary General of the South Korean Human Rights Commission (Jervis House, Dublin)
8th February	Chaired public meeting of the National Disability Strategy organised by the <i>Rights Make a Difference Campaign</i> (RDS, Dublin)
16th February	Meeting of the European Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (Paris)
23rd February	Appearance before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs, Sub-Committee on Human Rights re the powers and functions Human Rights Commission (Leinster House, Dublin)
2nd March	Appearance before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights re Garda Síochána Bill and Criminal Justice Bill (Leinster House, Dublin)
7th March	Launch of the Human Rights Commission's submission on International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Jervis House, Dublin)
9th March	Lecture on the Role of the Human Rights Commissions to LLM in Human Rights class (UCD, Dublin)
14th March	Participated in High Level Seminar <i>Progressing Human Rights Based Approaches in Ireland</i> organised by Amnesty International (Dublin)
15th March	Opening Address at <i>Implementing the National Action Plan on Racism: the Role of Community Development and Local Development Organisations</i> organised by NCCRI, ADM, Family Support Agency and Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Croke Park, Dublin)
16th March	Meeting with Group of Judges from Tanzania (IHRC, Dublin)

26th April	Appeared before the All Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution hearing on the Family (Leinster House, Dublin 2)
3rd May	<p>Meeting with Jody Kollapen, Chair of South African Human Rights Commission and other Commissioners (Johannesburg, South Africa)</p> <p>3rd May Roundtable lunch with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jody Kollpen, Chair, South African Human Rights Commission; • Pumla Madiba, CEO, Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural Religious and Linguistic Communities • Ponatshego Mogaladi, Personal Adviser to Public Protector • Joyce Piliso Seroke, Commission on Gender Equality • Vincent Saldanha, Legal Resources Centre • Yasmin Sooka, Foundation for Human Rights • Ahmed Motala, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation • Gerry Corr, Ambassador of Ireland in South Africa • Pat Curran Head of Development, Embassy of Ireland in South Africa • Nicole McHugh Development Specialist, DCI (Johannesburg, South Africa)
3rd May	Visit to Hillbrow Police Station with Gareth Newham of Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (Johannesburg, South Africa)
3rd May	Tour of Constitutional Court with Judge Albie Sachs (Johannesburg, South Africa)
4th May	Meeting with Deputy Minister for Justice, Johnny de Lange (Pretoria, South Africa)
4th May	Meeting with Ashley Green Thompson, Director of Themba Lasiswe - The South African Network of Trauma Providers (Pretoria, South Africa)
4th May	Meeting at Centre for Conflict Resolution, University of Cape Town with Stan Henkeman, Programme Manager: Prisons Transformation Programme and Neeran Naidoo, Senior Communications and Fundraising Manager (Cape Town, South Africa)
5th May	Visit to the Saartje Baartman Centre with the Foundation for Human Rights (Cape Town, South Africa)
5th May	Visit to ARV treatment site in Khayelitsha township with the Treatment Action Campaign (Cape Town, South Africa)
5th May	Meeting with Kader and Louise Asmal (Cape Town, South Africa)

20th May	Keynote Speaker at Mental Health Ireland Annual Conference on <i>Equity in Mental Health</i> (Letterkenny, Co Donegal)
25th May	Chair of Session on Health at <i>Integrating Traveller Working Groups and Strategy</i> working groups Meeting (Ennis, Co Clare)
13th July	Speech to General Council of County Councils on the role of the Irish Human Rights Commission at UCD (Dublin)
22nd July	Attended Launch of Mental Health Commission Annual Report 2004, Conrad Hotel, Dublin
27th July	Speech at Launch of Africa Centre Strategic Plan at Wynn's Hotel (Dublin)
29th July	Dinner – British Presidency of EU, British Embassy, Glencairn, Sandymount, Dublin
13th August	Courtesy Call by Taiwanese Representative in Ireland (IHRC, Dublin)
23rd August	Interview Panel, National Disability Authority, (Dublin)
3rd September	Official Opening of Offices of the Ombudsman for Children (Dublin)
5th September	Meeting with Police Human Rights Advisor for Northern Ireland (Dublin)
19th September	Meeting with Representatives of the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland (IHRC, Dublin)
21st September	Presentation to the Garda Síochána Human Rights Training Unit (Templemore)
21st September	Attended Holocaust Educational Trust (Mansion House, Dublin)
23rd September	Roundtable on <i>A Better Understanding</i> organised by Rotary International (Dublin)
27th-30th September	Speech entitled 'Human Rights: The Role of the National Human Rights Commission' to Conference <i>Developments in Human Rights</i> organised by Dublin Solicitors Bar Association (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
3rd October	Meeting Special Olympics, Dublin Castle
5th October	Launch of IHRC Annual Report 2004 (Dublin)
5th October	Chaired Roundtable on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (IHRC, Dublin)
5th October	Speech at Launch of <i>Irish Mental Health Law</i> by Ann Marie O'Neill (NDA, Dublin)
6th October	Speech at Launch of <i>Public Interest Law and Litigation in Ireland</i> by Mel Cousins organised by FLAC (Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin)

10th October	Speech 'Policing Means Human Rights' at Conference - <i>Policing in a Multi-Ethnic Society</i> organised by Irish Council for Civil Liberties and Amnesty International, Irish Section (Guinness Storehouse, Dublin)
12th October	Meeting with Mr David Hanson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in Northern Ireland (IHRC, Dublin)
13th October	Frontline Conference (Dublin)
14th October	Meeting of European Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (IHRC, Dublin)
15th October	Welcome Speech at Conference <i>Migrant Workers and Human Rights</i> (Law Society, Dublin)
18th October	Opening Remarks at Roundtable on Coalition Building organised by Integrating Ireland (Ozanam House, Dublin)
19th October	Joint Committee Human Rights Commissions, Morrison Hotel, Dublin
19th October	Reception in honour of Mr Peter Hain, Secretary of State, Northern Ireland (Kildare Street Club, Dublin)
3rd November	Meeting with Professor Peter McCutcheon, University of Limerick at IHRC Offices
3rd November	Meeting with Ambassador of Lesotho Mannete Ramaili (Dublin)
8th November	Opening Remarks at Launch of <i>Charter of Rights</i> , Brothers of Charity, Galway Bay Hotel, Galway
9th November	Chaired Literature and History Debate, UCD
15th November	Attendance at Launch of Law Reform Commission Report on the Establishment of DNA Database (Law Reform Commission, Dublin)
16th November	Lecture 'Human Rights – The Role of the National Human Rights Commission' to Law Students Dublin Institute of Technology (Aungier Street, Dublin)
16th November	Attendance at <i>Get Ahead</i> Conference, Buswell's Hotel, Dublin
17th November	Meeting with Mr Luxius Wildhaber, President of the European Court of Human Rights, (Iveagh House, Dublin)
25th November	Attendance at Meeting of European Group of National Institutions, Paris
1st December	Speech 'Human Rights – The Role of the National Human Rights Commission' (Harvard Law School, Boston)
2nd December	Speech 'Human Rights – The Role of the National Human Rights Commission' (Boston College, Boston)

2nd December	Speaking on Human Rights – The Role of the National Human Rights Commission, North Eastern University, Boston, USA
8th December	Launched <i>Fight for your Rights – A simple guide to the ECHR</i> by Ballymun Human Rights Project (Dublin)
8th December	Attended reception at National Forum on Europe, Dublin Castle
9th December	Chaired IHRC Conference on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Croke Park, Dublin)
12th December	Meeting of the Joint Committee Sub-Committee, Belfast
14th December	Addressed Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs on Fundamental Rights Agency
14th December	Address to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Human Rights Re Irish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2004
19th December	Lecture to students on ‘The Role of the Human Rights Commission’, Law Society of Ireland (Dublin)

APPENDIX 9

Speeches and Presentations made by the Chief Executive in 2005

Speeches:

8/4/2005	European Network Against Racism Ireland on “Roma and Travellers in the European Union” (chaired).
16/4/2005	Meeting of European NHRIs (chaired).
27/4/2005	Round Table meeting chaired by the National Consultative Committee on Racism & Interculturalism in association with the European Monitoring Centre on Racism & Xenophobia on the future mandate of the proposed EU human rights agency.
5/10/2005	Launch of the IHRC Annual Report 2004

Media:

7/3/2005	Interview on Pat Kenny Show (RTE 1), Newstalk 106 Lunchtime News and Anna Livia regarding CEDAW submission.
8/3/2005	Interview on Eamon Dunphy on Newstalk 106.
12-13/7/2005	Interview with Matt Cooper Last Word Show (12/7) and with INN and Q102.
6/10/2005	Interview with East Coast Radio.

Presentations:

2/2/2005	“The Respective Roles of Commissioners and Chief Executives and External Expectations”, presentation to the British Council International Workshop for Chief Executive Officers and Senior Managers of National Human Rights Institutions of the Commonwealth, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
3/3/2005	Presentation to the International Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the enquiry function of the Commission, Geneva, Switzerland.
26/4/2005	Address to the All Party Oireachtas on the Constitution regarding the Commission’s submission to the International Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.
29/11/2005 – 1/12/2005	Presentation on “Implementing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Modes and Modalities” to an International Round Table on NHRIs and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, New Delhi, India.

