

# Have Your Say On Ireland's Human Rights Record

Presentation 1  
The UPR Process



## How to Have Your Say

- On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Ireland's human rights record will be examined for the first time under a new United Nations (UN) process called the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**.
- The Review will be based on reports from the Irish Government, the UN and “**Stakeholders**” in Ireland including the Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and Civil Society.

## How to Have Your Say

- Stakeholders include NGOs, civil society organisations, academic groups, student groups, trade unions...
- You can contribute by submitting a report directly to the UN and/or highlighting your human rights concerns to the IHRC.

## What is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)?

- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is an examination of a country's human rights record by other countries.
- It takes place in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

## What is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)?

- Submitting a report for the UPR is a simple process
- You submit a report of 5 to 10 pages, depending whether you are a single NGO or a Coalition
- The aim of your report is to get recommendations on your issues included in the final report which will be given to Ireland

## Aim of Session

- The aim of today's session is to give you some ideas and a template for how you can submit a report and how you can increase the chances of getting your issue included in the final **recommendations to Ireland**

## Why is UPR Important?

- The Outcome Document of the UPR process will contain a set of recommendations to Ireland on areas where it needs to improve
- The Government will have to **explicitly accept or reject each recommendation** and then the Human Rights Council will monitor whether it is living up to its promises

## Who is involved in the process?

- The idea behind UPR is that everyone with an interest or concern can get involved.
- The **State** is required to prepare a report on its human rights record
- The **UN** will prepare a report on its interaction with the State (e.g. with treaty bodies)
- **'Stakeholders'** prepare their reports on the State's record, which the UN compiles into one consolidated report



## How are Submissions used?

- These 3 reports (State, UN and ‘Stakeholder’) are then given to all the countries of the UN, who will look at them and identify areas where they have concerns (usually on the basis of their own interest areas)
- These countries will prepare **recommendations** for Ireland which are then made directly to the Government during a 3 hour session in Geneva called the **Interactive Dialogue**

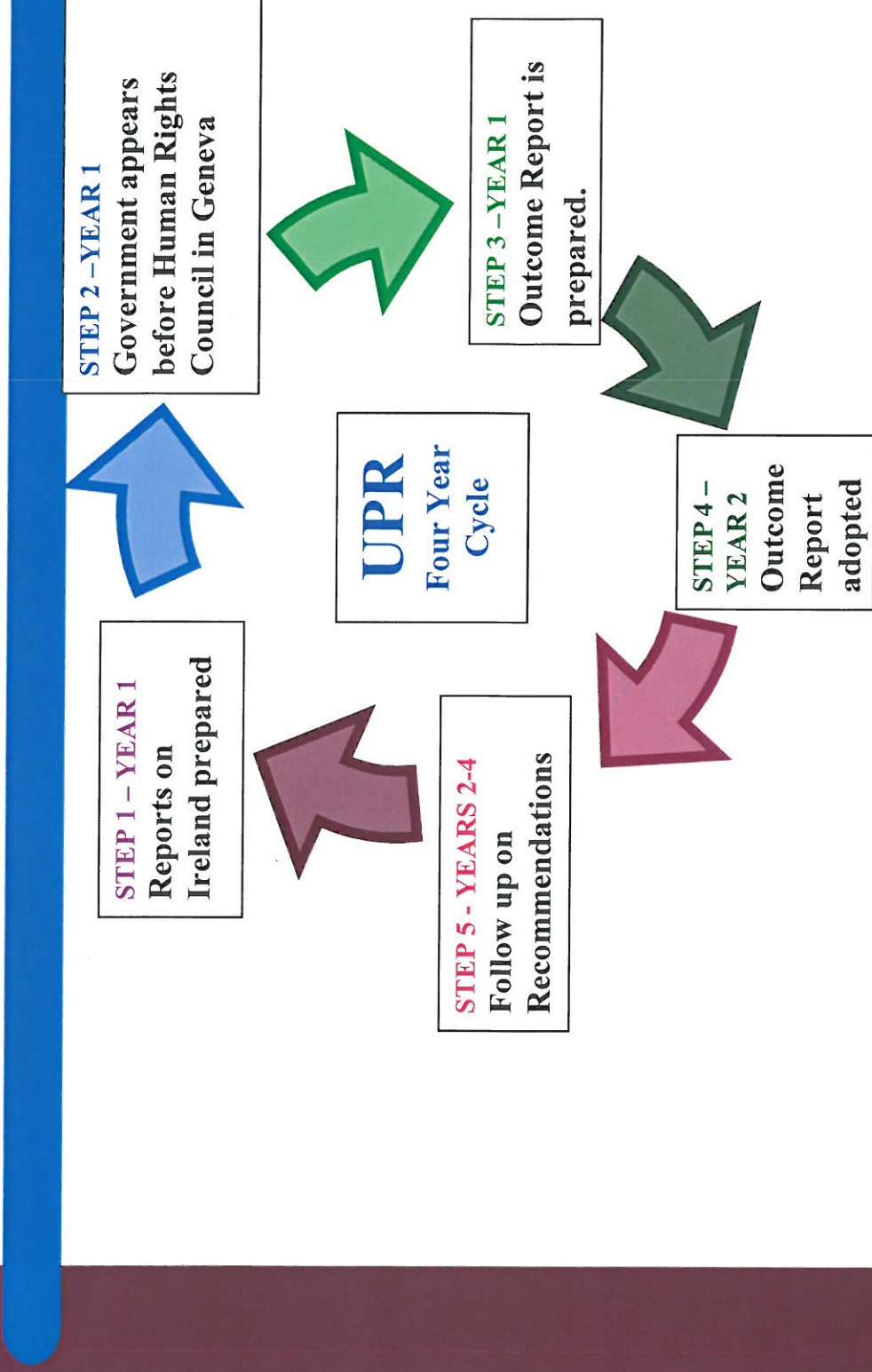
## If other countries ask the questions, how can I get my issue included?

- States will have 16 countries to consider at each session. They often take recommendations from the Stakeholder Report.
- Alternatively, you can provide them with **suggested recommendations** which they may make to the Government.

## What happens after all the questions are asked?

- These questions asked during the 3 hour session are compiled into a report and become the list of recommendations which will be given to Ireland so the **recommendations are very important**
- Therefore your aim should be to **get your recommendation made!**

## UPR Overview



# UPR IRELAND 2011-2012

**STAKEHOLDER  
DEADLINE**  
21 March 2011

**STATE  
REPORT  
DEADLINE**  
4 July 2011

**UPR SESSION**  
Geneva  
6 October  
2011

**Adoption  
of outcome  
by HRC**  
March  
2012

**PUBLICATION  
OF REPORTS**  
(3 Reports  
posted in  
OHCHR  
website, 10  
weeks before  
session)

**ADOPTION  
OF  
WORKING  
GROUP  
REPORT**  
2 days  
later

## For a simple overview of role of Stakeholders in the UPR process see:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iELrbViLjd>  
M&feature=related

# Have Your Say On Ireland's Human Rights Record

Presentation 2  
How to Prepare Your  
UPR Report



## How to Get Involved: UPR Stakeholders Report

- You can send a report to the UN on your issues of concern
- All these reports are combined into the **Stakeholders Summary** prepared by the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**.



## How to Get Involved: UPR Stakeholders Report

- **Members of the public** cannot directly submit to the UN but they can address correspondence detailing their human rights concerns to the IHRC at [upr@ihrc.ie](mailto:upr@ihrc.ie) or to NGOs involved in the process
- **Stakeholders** are invited to submit their views directly to the IHRC for consideration in the context of the IHRC's UPR report at [upr@ihrc.ie](mailto:upr@ihrc.ie)

## The Aim of Your Report is

To get your human rights concerns highlighted in the OHCHR Stakeholder Report which will result in recommendations being made to Ireland on that issue in the final UPR Report.

## For example:

### **Recommendation made by the NHRI, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights in its UPR submission to OHCHR (20<sup>th</sup> April, 2009)**

#### **6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

**21. Human Trafficking** - Norway is a recipient country of human trafficking. As an economically wealthy country in Western Europe, Norway is a market for human trafficking with the attached risks of sexual and labour exploitation. The Government has a plan of action against trafficking of women and children to Norway for 2006-2009. As a step in combating traffic for sexual exploitation, Norway has new legislation as of 1 January 2009 criminalizing the purchase of sexual services. NCHR recommends that Norwegian authorities follow up with an evaluation to determine impact of these measures and that adjustments are made to maximize their effectiveness.

## For example:

**Recommendation made in the ‘Stakeholder’ Report for Norway compiled by OHCHR & reviewed in the UPR Working Group of Human Rights Council (2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009)**

23. NCHR noted that Norway has a plan of action against trafficking of women and children for 2006-2009 and new legislation as of 1 January 2009 criminalizing the purchase of sexual services. NCHR recommended that the authorities follow up with an evaluation to determine the impact of these measures and make adjustments to maximize their effectiveness.

## For example:

### **Recommendation in the Outcome Document of the UPR Working Group Session (2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009) and adopted in Plenary by the Government of Norway (17<sup>th</sup> March 2010)**

- A - 32. Pursue efforts to counter trafficking in women and children (Belarus)
- A - 33. Evaluate its 2006-2009 national plan of action against trafficking of women and children to determine which actions were effective and should be continued in the future (France); evaluate the measures taken with regard to the action plan concerning combating human trafficking and strengthen its efforts in this regard through follow-up measures (Netherlands)

## Outcome

The Norwegian Government approved an Evaluation on Trafficking which was integrated to the NorAid 2009/11 Work Plan. The aim of this evaluation is to measure the effectiveness of Norway's anti-trafficking Plan of Action.

The logo for the Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) features the letters 'IHRC' in a large, bold, dark blue serif font.

AN COMISIÚN UM CHEARTA AN DUINE  
IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

# How to Prepare your UPR Report

A thick, solid blue horizontal bar spans the width of the page, positioned below the title.

- Preparing a report is **simple**
- However, there are some steps to follow...

## How to Prepare your UPR Report

1. Consult **UN technical guidelines** for stakeholder submissions
2. Identify **key human rights issues** you want to highlight in your report
3. Familiarise yourself with **Ireland's human rights obligations** and commitments in the area(s) you wish to highlight
4. Undertake **research and/or compile documentation** on key issues
5. **Draft report** based on a UPR template



# 1. Consult UN technical guidelines for stakeholder submissions

According to the OHCHR *Technical Guidelines for Submission*, Stakeholders Reports should comply with the following:

- **Page Limit:**

If you are an **individual NGO, civil society organisation or academic institution** you can submit a 5 page report to the UN.

If you are part of a **coalition or group of NGOs** you can submit a 10 page report to the UN.

**However**, annexes and supporting information may be attached for reference only. There is no limit to the size of annexes; however they should not include pictures, maps, organizations' annual reports or reports from other organizations.

- **Time Period:**

The UPR is scheduled to take place for each country every four years. As such, the scope of submissions is **limited to the previous four years**.

## **2. Become familiar with Ireland's human rights obligations and commitments**

Human rights issues you wish to highlight in your UPR submission should be considered in the context of Ireland's human rights obligations and commitments. This is because this is how the UN conducts its human rights assessments

## 2. Become familiar with Ireland's human rights obligations and commitments

These include:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The 'core' International Human Rights treaties ratified by Ireland including:
  - Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
  - Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
  - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment
  - Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
  - Convention on the Rights of the Child

### 3. Identify key human rights issues to be highlighted in the UPR report

- Reports should summarise 4-5 key issues and then focus on making **concrete recommendations** for improvement.

## 4. Undertake research and/or compile documentation on key issues

- Given the strict five-page limit, it is important that submissions are **clear and focused**.
- If you feel the need to do additional research, the following areas may be useful:
  - Legal Cases
  - Provisions of national laws and regulations
  - Testimony of affected individuals
  - News articles
  - Academic research
  - NGOs reports
  - Statistics
- It is important to make sure your resources are **reliable and up to date**.

## 5. Draft report based on a UPR template

- The OHCHR has created an outline of the headings for NGO submissions.
- Following these guidelines will make it easier for your organisation to get your message across and to achieve more effective results.
- To assist you in this process the IHRC has drafted a UPR Shadow Report template

# Outline of the OHCHR Summary Stakeholder Submissions

## Executive Summary

Summary of the key human rights issues explored in the report

## I. Background and Framework

- Outline of the work of the submitting organisation.
- Methodology and consultation process (where relevant) used for preparation of the report.
- Constitutional and legislative framework including progress on implementation of the international human rights obligations.

## II. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the Ground

Main body of the report which outlines key human rights issues.

**Slide 31**

---

**KJR.1**

this should be based on teh template and examples  
KRoberts, 11/12/2010



# Outline of the OHCHR Summary for Stakeholder Submissions

## **III. Achievements, Best practices, Challenges, and Constraints**

Main achievements, best practices and challenges to human rights.

## **IV. Key National Priorities, Initiatives, and Commitments**

Initiatives and commitments that should be undertaken to overcome challenges and constraints to improve human rights.

## **V. Capacity-building and technical assistance**

Expectations for capacity building and the need for technical assistance.

## **Recommendations**

# Tips for a successful NGO Report

- **Highlighting recommendations**  
The UPR report should focus on solutions and not problems.  
Concrete recommendations should be made.
- **Opportunity to work as a coalition**  
Groups of NGOs can emphasize key issues which may assist in getting them into the summary report and raised in the UPR session itself.

Alternatively to working in a coalition, liaising with colleagues in other NGOs is important to ensure coverage of issues and support on key concerns.

## Tips for a successful NGO Report

- **What not to do**
  - Do not reproduce concluding observations and recommendations of human rights treaty bodies or special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
  - Reports submitted should be final as it is not possible to make revisions once submitted.

## How to Submit your UPR Report

- UPR Reports should be sent to:  
[uprsubmissions@ohchr.org](mailto:uprsubmissions@ohchr.org)

The OHCHR secretariat will electronically confirm receipt of your message.

Stakeholders are discouraged to fax/mail a hardcopy of their report to the OHCHR but in the case of technical difficulties may do so at +41 22 917 90 11

# How to Submit your Report

- The email message with your report attached should include:
  - **Title of the e-mail message:**  
e.g. Children's Coalition – Joint UPR – Ireland – October 2011
  - **Text of the e-mail message:**  
Details of the relevant contact person and a paragraph describing the main activities of the submitting organisation/coalition
- If your submission is **prepared jointly**, the names of all submitting stakeholders should appear at the beginning of the submission text (not in the relevant email message).

## Submission Deadline

**Reports must be submitted to the  
OHCHR by 11am on 21<sup>st</sup> March  
2011.**

## Q & A

- For more information and to download the IHRC Submission template please see [www.ihrc.ie/upr](http://www.ihrc.ie/upr)

**IHRC**

AN COMISIÚN UM CHEARTA AN DUINE  
IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

# Have Your Say On Ireland's Human Rights Record

## Presentation 3

Next Steps for Stakeholder Involvement





## Stakeholder Involvement in the following submission of Report

Following submission of a report, Stakeholders may also:

1. Engage in consultations with Government on its report
2. Lobby Government and other countries
3. Attend the UPR Working Group session – Interactive Dialogue
4. Participate in the Human Rights Council
5. Follow-up work to ensure implementation of the recommendations

## 1. Engage in consultations with Government

- The UN strongly encourages Member States to consult with Civil Society in the preparation of the country's national report.
- This will help Stakeholders inform topics the government's report will address, identify the strengths and weaknesses, and fill any gaps in the State Report.
- The first Government consultation on the UPR took place on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at the DFA-NGO Forum.
- The Government will hold additional consultations in Jan/Feb 2011

## 2. Lobby Government and other countries

- NGOs may attend the Human Rights Council UPR Working Group session, but not speak at it – only diplomats/representatives of Member States may speak.
- Hence, lobbying countries about key human rights issues is the best way to ensure recommendations will be raised during the Review.

## Tips for successful lobbying

- **Lobby the Irish Government** to make **voluntary commitments** and to accept specific recommendations to advance human rights.
- **Identify countries to lobby** and meet with delegates in Geneva to inform them on key issues and suggest specific recommendations before the review.
- **Compile a list of issues and recommendations** that your organization wants to see raised during the interactive dialogue. Distribute the list to delegations of countries that you have identified to lobby in Geneva.

### 3. Attend the UPR Working Group session – Interactive Dialogue

- **Organize a side event** to highlight human rights issues in Ireland.
- NGOs should **attend the UPR Working Group Session**, although they cannot make any oral statements at the Session meetings.
- NGOs should push to **meet with delegates of the Irish Government** both before the interactive dialogue session, as well as in the 48 hours afterwards, to try and influence the Government's decision on accepting or rejecting key recommendations.

## 4. Participate in the Human Rights Council

- NGOs may **participate in the UPR plenary** of the Human Rights Council – which takes place three to four months after the review.
- Only accredited organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC may attend the session.

## 4. Participate in the Human Rights Council

- NGOs may **make oral or written statements**, and make comments or ask questions to the Irish Government before the adoption of the Outcome Report.
- Twenty minutes of the session are allocated for oral statements from NGOs. Each speaker has **2 minutes** to make its comment.
- It is important that organizations **prepare joint statements** during the session as coalition statements will be prioritized.
- NGOs should be prepared to **attend the session early** in order to be one of the first names on the list of speakers.
- NGOs can also **submit written statements**, however, they will have less impact than oral statements.

## 5. Follow-up work to ensure implementation of recommendations

- The **Irish Government** is responsible for implementing the recommendations set out in the Outcome Report.
- However, **Civil Society** also plays a key role during the implementation of recommendations.



## 5. Follow-up work to ensure implementation of recommendations

Some ways to get involved and influence the implementation of outcomes include:

1. **Organize a press conference** to publicize the accepted recommendations and voluntary commitments made. Also highlight recommendations that were rejected and/or put on hold.
2. **Use the media** to spread the word, inform the public, and put pressure on the government to fulfil its UPR obligations.
3. **Organize meetings** to discuss the relevance of the outcome document with your community, and how community members can engage in the implementation process.

## 5. Follow-up work to ensure implementation of recommendations

4. **Develop a strategy to monitor implementation** during the 4 years between reviews.
5. **Participate in implementation** by engaging in dialogue with the government to share expertise in the human rights field of concern.
6. **Organize a live web casting** of the UPR Working Group and Plenary Sessions to inform Civil Society of the results of the review.

**IHRC**

AN COMISIÚN UM CHEARTA AN DUINE  
IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

# Q & A



# IHRC

AN COMISIÚN UM CHEARTA AN DUINE  
IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## Key contacts on the UPR

### **Universal Periodic Review Project**

Irish Human Rights Commission  
Fourth Floor, Jervis House,  
Jervis Street, Dublin 1, Ireland  
Tel: 01 858 9601  
Email: [upr@ihrc.ie](mailto:upr@ihrc.ie)

### **OHCHR Human Rights Council Branch**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
8-14, Avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10 – Switzerland  
Tel: + 41 (0)22 917 92 69  
Fax: + 41 (0)22 917 90 11

### **Human Rights Unit**

Department of Foreign Affairs,  
79-80 St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 4780822