



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

**CEDAW  
Report  
2025**

# Poverty

## Issues

### **Poverty**

The majority of women living in poverty today have experienced intergenerational poverty. 4.8% of women live in consistent poverty. This persists due to the State's lack of consistent poverty reduction measures. Lone parent households, headed by women, and low-income families are more at risk of poverty.

### **Social Protection**

Women suffer disproportionately from an inadequate, arbitrary, and overly bureaucratic social welfare system, which is not benchmarked against the cost of living or indexed against national wages.

### **Homelessness**

Rates of women's homelessness remain persistently high. Lone parent families headed by women make up a large proportion of families in homeless accommodation.

## IHREC Recommendations



Gender-proof a national action plan to eradicate poverty, with targeted long-term supports for lone parents and low-income households.



Change from a charitable model of social protection to a rights-based model, which benchmarks social protection payments against rising cost of living or indexes them against national wage to lift people out of poverty.



Gender-proof the response to homelessness to ensure gender-sensitive and accessible prevention, support and housing services are available and appropriately resourced, and develop an action plan to end homelessness by 2030.