



# Guidance for civil society on the reporting process under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

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The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission was established under statute on 1 November 2014 to protect and promote human rights and equality in Ireland, to promote a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding, to promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights and equality, and to work towards the elimination of human rights abuses and discrimination.

## What is this document about?



This document tells you how disabled people in Ireland can take part in the List of Issues for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2025.

## What is the UNCRPD?



The UNCRPD is a list of rights that all disabled people have. It tells countries what they have to do to make sure that disabled people get their rights.



Lots of countries have agreed to follow the UNCRPD. Countries that agreed to do this are called **States Parties**.



The government in Ireland has said it will agree to follow the UNCRPD.

## Who makes sure that countries do what they agreed?



The **UNCRPD Committee** is in charge of checking that States Parties like Ireland are doing what it says in the UNCRPD.



The **Government of Ireland** has to tell the UNCRPD Committee about the work it is doing to make sure that disabled people get their rights.



The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) gives advice to the government and makes sure they are following the UNCRPD and other human rights policies.



Other groups in Ireland can send information about disability rights to the UNCRPD Committee too. This is called a **submission**.



Disabled people can be involved in making submissions to the UNCRPD Committee in different ways.

It is better if submissions are made as part of a group or groups working together.

# How does the UNCRPD Committee check that countries are doing what they are supposed to do?



#### 1. State Report

Every few years the State Party writes a report about what they have done so far to follow the UNCRPD. This is called the **State Report.** 



The Government of Ireland sent its first report to the UNCRPD Committee in 2021.



#### 2. List of Issues

The UNCRPD Committee writes a list of questions to ask the State Party about the State Report. This is called the **List of Issues.** 



The UNCRPD Committee will write the List of Issues for Ireland in **September 2025**.



Disabled people in Ireland can write a submission to the UNCRPD Committee with ideas about what questions they should ask the Government.



#### 3. Response to List of Issues

The State Party answers the questions from the List of Issues and sends them back to the UNCRPD Committee.



The Government of Ireland will write their Response to the List of Issues.

They can also tell the UNCRPD Committee about things they have done since 2021.



#### 4. Dialogue

The State Party goes to meet the UNCRPD Committee in Geneva for two days. They have to answer more questions.



The Dialogue between the Government of Ireland and the UNCRPD Committee should happen in **2028**.



The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) will be at this meeting as part of their job.



Groups of disabled people and other groups can take part in this meeting as well.



IHREC will give more information about how disabled people can take part in the Dialogue in Geneva later.



#### **5. Concluding Observations**

The UNCRPD Committee will write to the State Party to tell what they need to change or do better to follow the UNCRPD.



#### 6. Follow-up Procedure

If the UNCRPD Committee is very worried about something, a year later they can ask the State Party for more information about what they have done to change it.

# How can disabled people in Ireland get involved?



The UNCRPD Committee will write the List of Issues or questions for the Government of Ireland in September 2025.



Disabled people in Ireland can get involved by writing a submission to the UNCRPD Committee. It is best to do this as part of a group.



A submission for the List of Issues should include questions that the UNCRPD Committee can ask the Government of Ireland.



Questions can be about things that the Government in Ireland has done, things they haven't done, and things that they should do to follow the UNCRPD.



The submission also needs to include your group's name, a short description of what your group does, and contact details.



It should have a summary that is no longer than one page.



Disabled people in Ireland can also ask to talk to the UNCRPD Committee.



IHREC will tell groups how they can arrange to talk to the UNCRPD Committee.



IHREC will also make a submission. Disabled people can tell IHREC what they think they should write about.

## **Further information**



If you have questions about the information in this document, IHREC will try to answer them. Contact us at our email address below:

crpd@ihrec.ie



Here is the contact email address for the UNCRPD Committee:

crpd@ohchr.org



The International Disability Alliance has made a guide about making submissions to the UNCRPD Committee. You can find it at this link: <a href="IDAGuide">IDAGuide</a>



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