



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

Ireland and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Submission to the Committee on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities for the List of Issues Prior to Reporting**

June 2025

Published by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

Copyright © Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission 2025

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.

Contents

About IHREC	5
What is the UNCRPD?	5
What is a List of Issues Submission?	6
IHREC's List of Issues Submission	7
General observations	8
National Machinery	9
Public Sector Duty	10
Voices of Disabled People	11
Article 5: Equality and Non-Discrimination	12
Article 6: Women with Disabilities	13
Article 7: Children with Disabilities	14
Article 9: Accessibility	15
Article 11: Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies	16
Article 12: Equal Recognition Before the Law	17
Article 13: Access to Justice	18
Article 14: Liberty and Security of the Person	19
Article 15: Freedom of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	21
Article 16: Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse	22
Article 17: Protecting the Integrity of the Person	24
Article 18: Liberty of Movement and Nationality	25
Article 19: Living Independently and being Included in the Community ..	26
Article 20: Personal Mobility	27
Article 21: Freedom of Expression and Opinion, and Access to Information	28
Article 22: Respect for Privacy	29

Article 23: Respect for Home and the Family.....	30
Article 24: Education	31
Article 25: Health	32
Article 27: Work and Employment	33
Article 28: Adequate Standard of Living	34
Article 29: Participation in Public and Political Life.....	35
Article 30: Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure and Sport ...	36
Article 31: Statistics and Data Collection.....	37
Article 33: National Implementation and Monitoring.....	38
Further information.....	39

About IHREC



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.

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.



The **Government of Ireland** (the Irish State) has said it will agree to follow the UNCRPD.



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

What is a List of Issues Submission?



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



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



IHREC spoke to disabled people and other groups about disability rights in Ireland. IHREC sent this information to the UNCRPD Committee to help with the list of questions. This is called a **List of Issues Submission**.



Other groups – including **disabled people's organisations (DPOs)** – made List of Issues Submissions about disability rights in Ireland too.



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



The Irish State will then write its **Response to the List of Issues**. They will meet the UNCRPD Committee in 2028 to answer more questions.

IHREC's List of Issues Submission



The rest of this report is about IHREC's List of Issues Submission.



The Submission lists the things that IHREC thinks the Irish State needs to do better on for disabled people.



It lists the questions that IHREC thinks the UNCRPD Committee should ask the Irish State about disability rights.



The Submission uses the rights in the CRPD to talk about different parts of disability rights. You can find Easy-to-Read and video information about the CRPD on the IHREC website: <https://www.ihrec.ie/topics/disability>

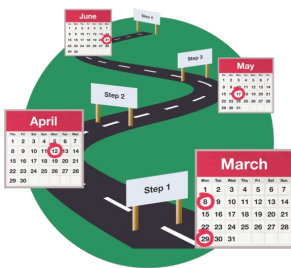


This submission talks about **intersecting identities**. This is when different parts of who we are cross over in ways that affect our lives. An example of a disabled person with an intersecting identity could be a Black woman with a learning disability, a young Deaf gay person, or a Traveller who is a wheelchair user.

General observations



These are issues that IHREC often talks about and asks the State to work on.



Does the State have a clear plan with a timeline to check all the laws and policies to make sure they protect disabled people's human rights?



Will disabled people and their organisations (DPOs) be included and listened to when the State checks all these laws and policies?



The State has said it will not follow some parts of the UNCRPD fully. These are called **reservations**. Will the State take away its reservations to the UNCRPD on these topics:

Equal rights before the law (Article 12),

Freedom and safety (Article 14), and

Work and employment (Article 27)?

National Machinery



There are different organisations, government departments and other groups that work together to protect the rights of disabled people in Ireland. This is called the National Machinery.



Will the new National Disability Strategy have enough money and staff to make it work properly?



The State has different equality plans for different groups, like disabled people, women, people who come to Ireland from different countries, Travellers, and others.

How will the State make sure that different equality plans work well together?

Public Sector Duty



The Public Sector Duty is a rule in Ireland that says all that all public organisations must:

1. Treat everyone equally,
2. Protect people's human rights, and
3. Think about these things when planning services, making decisions, and spending money.



Will the State tell all public organisations to follow the Public Sector Duty properly?



Will the new National Disability Strategy send a clear message that public organisations must follow the rules in the Public Sector Duty?



Will the State make sure that public organisations talk with disabled people's organisations and community groups and make sure that they think about people with intersecting identities?

Voices of Disabled People



IHREC wants to make sure that the voices of disabled people are listened to. This can be individual disabled people or Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs).



What plans does the State have to give enough money to DPOs so they can do advocacy and human rights work?



How will the State make sure that DPOs are included fully from start to finish in making policies?



How will the State make sure that DPOs have the power and the staff they need to check up on the work that the State is doing on disability rights?

Article 5: Equality and Non-Discrimination



Article 5 is about being equal.



When will the State publish the final report on updating our laws on equal treatment?



How will the State make laws stronger so disabled people will be treated equally when buying things and getting services?



What plans does the State have to make the Workplace Relations Commission and the Labour Court more accessible for disabled people?



How will the State improve our law to stop disabled people and people with intersecting identities being treated unfairly?

Article 6: Women with Disabilities



Article 6 is about disabled women being treated equally.



How does the State make sure that it treats disabled women fairly when it makes plans and policies?



How does the State make sure that disabled women and girls have equal treatment and outcomes in education, employment and health?



How does the State make sure that disabled women can take part in making human rights policies, from start to finish?



How does the State support women and girls when they have been hurt or abused? Do these support services understand the needs of disabled women and girls?

Article 7: Children with Disabilities



Article 7 is about disabled children being treated equally.



How will the State make sure that the needs of disabled children are included when the State makes plans and policies?



What is the State doing to make sure that children can get an Assessment of Need and that disabled children can get the supports they need?



What will the State do to fix children's mental health services and make them safe and accessible?



Will the State set up and run an independent advocacy service for disabled children?

Article 9: Accessibility



Article 9 is about making sure that disabled people have better access to things in all areas of life.

Universal design is when things are designed so that everyone can access them equally.



What is the State doing to make sure there is more universal design of new services, things and places?



What is the State doing to make sure that all public organisations follow the EU law to make their websites accessible?



How will the State make sure there are enough Irish Sign Language interpreters and make sure that people can get an interpreter when they need one?

Article 11: Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies



Article 11 is about making sure that disabled people are properly protected when there are risky situations for everyone. Examples of emergencies or risky situations are fires, floods, or pandemics like COVID-19.



What is the State doing to make sure disabled people are fully involved in emergency planning and management?



How is the State making sure that climate action plans include the needs of disabled people?



What is the State doing to make sure disabled people are included in the review of how COVID-19 was handled?

Article 12: Equal Recognition Before the Law



Article 12 is about being treated equally by the law.



The State still allows other people to make decisions for disabled people in some situations. This is not in line with the UNCRPD. Will the State change the law to make sure that all disabled people can make their own decisions with support?



What is happening to people who were Wards of Court under the old law? The State should give more information about this.



What support is the State giving to Wards of Court? Does the State make sure that Wards of Court can talk to a lawyer when they need to?



What is the State doing to make sure that the supports in the Assisted Decision-Making Act are accessible and safe to use?

Article 13: Access to Justice



Article 13 is about getting justice.



What is the State doing to make sure that disabled people can get help from lawyers for free when they need it?



How will the State make sure that disabled people can get independent advocacy services? Will the State make sure there is a right to advocacy in law?



What is the State doing to make sure that disabled people can make complaints in an accessible way about the justice, education, health, and social care services in their lives?

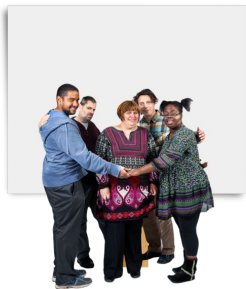


What is the State doing to make sure that the justice system is accessible for disabled people? What is the State doing to make sure lawyers, police, prison workers and others get training on disability access?



How will the State change the law to protect the rights of people in detention? This means people in prisons, mental health hospitals or other institutions.

Article 14: Liberty and Security of the Person



Article 14 says that disabled people should be free and safe, the same as everyone else. Disabled people should never be locked up just because they are disabled.



Will the State sign up to fully follow the United Nations Convention on Torture, a set of rules that help to stop torture and bad treatment in places like hospitals and institutions?



When will new laws be ready to protect people's rights in mental health care?



What is the State doing to make sure that people who go to hospital for mental health care are not kept there when they want to leave?



What is the State doing to make mental health care for children and teenagers better? Are there enough services in the community that are safe and suitable for young people to stay in?



Will the State give an update on disabled people moving out of institutions into their own homes in the community?



What is the State doing to help disabled people in prison?



What is the State doing to make sure people with serious mental health problems are not put in prison?



What is the State doing to fix problems in private nursing homes for disabled people and older disabled people?

Article 15: Freedom of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment



Article 15 is about not being tortured, abused or treated cruelly.



What is the State doing to change mental health laws? Are there new plans or rules to give people care in the community, instead of forcing them to go to hospital or to have treatment that they don't want?



What is the State doing to people being locked up, left alone or held down in schools, hospitals and institutions?



What is the State doing to make sure children and adults who are locked up, left alone or held down in schools can make a complaint?



What is the State doing to collect good information about how often people are locked up, left alone or held down in schools, hospitals and institutions?

Article 16: Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse



Article 16 says that disabled people should be free from being used or abused.



What is the State doing to protect disabled people from abuse and harm? Are the laws are strong enough to keep people safe?



Are staff and disabled people being taught about disability rights and how to recognise abuse? Do they get someone to speak up for them like an advocate and a lawyer if they need one?



What happens when a disabled child or adult is abused in a hospital, institution or disability service?



What is the State doing to stop abuse and neglect in institutions, schools, and disability services?



What is the State doing to support disabled people who have been abused at home by their family or their partners?



What is the State doing when someone with an intellectual disability is a victim of a crime, but the person who did it is not taken to court?



What is the State doing to stop hate crimes and hate speech against disabled people?

Article 17: Protecting the Integrity of the Person



Article 17 is about making sure that disabled people are treated as people first, with the same respect and rights as others.



How does the State make sure that people in mental health hospitals know that they have the right to say no to treatment?



What is the State doing to make sure that people who are under the control of other can get clear information about their rights, and support from advocates and lawyers?



Forced sterilisation is when a person is stopped from having children using medicine or an operation without their consent.

When will the State make a law to stop forced sterilisation?

Article 18: Liberty of Movement and Nationality



Article 18 is about being able to move between countries and to live where you choose without being treated unfairly.



People come to Ireland from other countries where they are in danger and they ask the State to protect them. How will the State make sure that disabled people who leave their countries and come to Ireland are safe and treated fairly?



How will the State make sure that there is enough housing for disabled people from other countries who come to Ireland?



Will the State bring back assessments for all disabled people who come to Ireland so all their needs can be met?

Article 19: Living Independently and being Included in the Community



Article 19 is about living independently and being part of the community. It says that disabled people have the same rights as everyone else to choose where they live and who they live with.



What financial help does the State give to make sure that disabled people can live independently?



How does the State make sure that disabled people have enough personal assistance to live independently?



What is the State doing to make sure that there are enough accessible houses for disabled people to live in independently?



When will the State report on the Personalised Budgets pilot programme and roll it out to everyone who wants to use it?



What is the State doing to move disabled people out of institutions and nursing homes?

Article 20: Personal Mobility



Article 20 is about going places.



What is the State doing to make sure that plans for public transport, streets and public spaces are made with disabled people in mind?



How will the State make sure that disabled people can go to the all same places as other people do?

Article 21: Freedom of Expression and Opinion, and Access to Information



Article 21 is about having the right to say what you want and having access to information.



What is the State doing to put the Irish Sign Language Act into practice? How will it make sure that Deaf people have the right to use Irish Sign Language as their language?

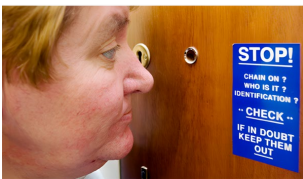


How is the State making sure that disabled people have the right to give their opinions in all parts of social and public life?

Article 22: Respect for Privacy



Article 22 is about the right to privacy.



What is the State doing to make sure disabled people's privacy is respected in places like disability services, the community and public spaces?



What is the State doing to help disabled people speak up if their privacy is not being respected?

Article 23: Respect for Home and the Family



Article 23 is about respect for the home and the family. It is about making sure that disabled people have equal rights to personal relationships, having a family, and marriage.



What is the State doing to make sure all disabled young people get education about sex and relationships that is easy to understand?



What is the State doing to make sure that disabled people can get family planning services near where they live?

Article 24: Education



Article 24 is about the right to education.



What is the State doing to make sure that all disabled children have a school place?



How is the State making sure that disabled children and children without disabilities can go to school together and learn together?



What is the State doing to make sure that disabled people can go to college or third level education?

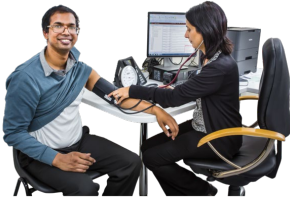


What is the State doing to support disabled people as they move through different stages of education?



How is the State making sure that all teachers and staff in schools and colleges are trained to include disabled people and teach them well? What is the State doing to increase the number of disabled teachers?

Article 25: Health



Article 25 is about making sure that disabled people have the right to the best possible health, including access to health services and family planning.



Can the State give a timeline for when it will provide free healthcare for everyone?



What is the State doing to reduce waiting lists for Assessment of Needs, as well as for services and supports for disabled people?



What is the State doing to fix mental health services for adults and children to make them safe and accessible for everyone?



What is the State doing to make sure healthcare services are accessible and inclusive for people with different disabilities?

Article 27: Work and Employment



Article 27 is about having the right to work and to be employed fairly.



Ireland is one of the countries in Europe with the lowest numbers of disabled people who work. How will the State change this?



What is the State doing to make it easier for disabled people to find work? How does the State consult with disabled people about this?



How does the State make sure that disabled people get decent work and work conditions?



What is the State doing to make sure that disabled people can get the support they need at work to be able to do their jobs?

Article 28: Adequate Standard of Living



Article 28 is about disabled people getting help to improve their standard of living to be the same as everyone else.



What is the State doing to make sure people can cover the extra costs that come from being disabled? What is the State doing to make sure disabled people have enough money to live a good life?



What is the State doing to make sure disabled people do not lose support or payments if they get a job or earn more money?



What is the State doing to make it easier for disabled people to use the social welfare system?



Is the State listening to disabled people to find out how to fix these problems?

Article 29: Participation in Public and Political Life



Article 29 is about being involved in politics and in making policy.



What is the State doing to make it easier for disabled people to take part in politics?



What is the State doing to learn more about disabled people in politics? How can the State help more disabled people become leaders and make decisions?



What is the State doing to help DPOs so they can speak up and be a part of public life and be involved in political decisions?

Article 30: Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure and Sport



Article 30 is about the right to take part in sports, leisure and cultural life.

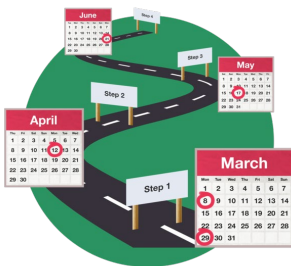


How does the State make sure that disabled people can enjoy things like art, music, sports, plays, reading, and having fun just like everyone else?

Article 31: Statistics and Data Collection



Article 31 is about how the State collects information about disability and uses it for planning and policy.



Has the National Equality Data Strategy improved how disability rights information is collected and used?



How is the State making sure that information about the rights of disabled people is collected and published in accessible ways?



Will the State update the law on collecting information about being treated equally? How will the State make sure the EU laws about collecting information are followed?



What will the new National Disability Strategy say about collecting information on disability?

Article 33: National Implementation and Monitoring



Article 33 is about the different ways to check that the State is doing its job on disability rights.



How is the State making sure that DPOs have the money and staff they need to check up on the State's work on the UNCRPD?



How will the State make sure that IHREC has enough money and staff to do its work of monitoring the State's work on the UNCRPD?



Can the State find better ways of working with other people, including IHREC and DPOs, to make sure the UNCRPD is being followed properly?



Are the reports the State writes about its work on the UNCRPD accessible and easy to understand?

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: [IDA Guide](#)



This document was created by the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of Galway, for the Irish Human Rights and Equality commission using a mix of Photo Symbols and open licence images.