

Human Rights
in Action



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Message from the Co-Chairs

In Ireland, 2015 will always be remembered for the historic marriage equality vote and, as our Executive Director highlights in his foreword to this annual report, the ICCL is very proud to have played a major part in securing full civil marriage for same sex couples.

The organisation’s “regular” work in areas such as policing accountability, reporting to United Nations mechanisms and assisting vulnerable victims to vindicate their human rights continued alongside the Yes Equality 2015 campaign and we would like to thank the ICCL’s staff for their exceptional efforts throughout a very busy year.

Financially, in 2015, both income and expenditure again topped the €1,000,000 mark. However, as we have frequently remarked in previous annual reports, there is no room for complacency where the organisation’s future income is concerned. For example, although the ICCL has secured a generous capital gift to support the purchase of its own headquarters, recent shifts in property market values mean that it will be necessary for us to raise additional funds (including from you, our members and supporters) in order to secure appropriate premises.

More generally, although the organisation has been very successful in diversifying its funding base, much of the funding obtained (for example, from the European Union) is “restricted” to expenditure on very specific projects and activities, rather “unrestricted” income to support the ICCL’s core costs. In order to address this, the Council plans a major fundraising drive to coincide with its 40th anniversary in 2016. The ICCL is almost unique amongst the significant NGOs in Ireland in that it does not accept any funding from the State. This is an essential guarantee of our independence, but it comes at a cost that, in future, we will be asking you to assist us to meet.

The ICCL’s mission to make human rights accessible to ever wider audiences continued in 2015, a particular highlight being our 7th Annual Human Rights Film Awards. The shortlisted films have always played to packed houses (both in Dublin and at the regional events at which they are re-screened), but more could be done to encourage their use in direct advocacy. This year, acclaimed US filmmakers Pamela Yates and Paco de Onis ran workshops for the shortlisted filmmakers designed to assist them to maximise the impact of their work in securing social change. In future years, we hope that the Film Awards will become even more ambitious in scope.



The Executive Board was strengthened in 2016 by the arrival of Andrew Forde, a Political Adviser at the Council of Europe and J.B. Terrins, Head of Business and Strategic Development at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway. We are pleased to report that the Board maintains a good gender balance and blend of skills.

Our own terms of office as Co-Chairs will end next year, as will the tenure of the ICCL’s long-serving Executive Director, Mark Kelly. It has been a pleasure and a privilege for us to chair the organisation during the last six years of growth and development and, with your future support for our work, we are confident that the ICCL will continue to flourish.



As usual, we would like especially to thank our Board colleagues, our Executive Director and his entire staff team for their remarkable work during another highly successful year for the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

Siobhán Cummiskey (Co-Chair - Policy)
Niall Mulligan (Co-Chair - Operations)

Executive Director's Foreword

2015 was the year Ireland said yes to marriage equality – the culmination of a very long campaigning journey by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, its partners, supporters and friends.

From its foundation in 1976 by Mary Robinson, Kader Asmal and others, the Council has focused on the need to secure full equality for same sex couples, of which full civil marriage is a crucial dimension.

Yes Equality 2015 was a campaign like no other, a sparkling edifice built on the solid foundations established over decades with old-established partners such as the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) and relative newcomers like Marriage Equality (formerly the KAL campaign). Its resonance was felt domestically and globally, not least because it demonstrated that Ireland was no longer in thrall to the theocratic influences that have blighted the lives of so many people.

The scale of the campaign was remarkable. 5000 Yes Equality posters were erected across the country, 500,000 TÁ and YES badges produced and 1.3 million leaflets delivered to 1.1 million homes. The campaign produced and distributed 465,000 lapel stickers, 1,420,000 flyers, 6300 t-shirts, 800 hi-visibility vests and

2,300 tote bags. Over 60 local Yes Equality groups – the true heart of the campaign – were established all around the country. Perhaps most remarkably, all of this was funded through small contributions made by people in Ireland specifically to ensure that marriage equality would be enshrined in law.

ICCL staff, members and supporters threw their hearts into Yes Equality 2015, from providing top-level strategic and tactical direction on the Campaign Executive Group, through managing communications, to driving funding and ensuring financial propriety, ICCL people brought their professionalism to bear on every significant aspect of the campaign. The 2015 staff photo in this annual report clearly shows the joy that all of us felt when the results became known at the RDS. On 25 May 2016, 1,201,607 people voted ‘Yes’ to placing the following words in the Constitution: “Marriage may be contracted in accordance with the law by two persons without distinction as to their sex.” Marriage equality became a constitutional right.

Never an organisation to rest upon its laurels, the ICCL was quick to ask: “what’s next?” The answer seems very clear: Ireland continues to flout its international human rights obligations by denying women access to safe and legal abortion and this must change. In 2016, the ICCL will throw its weight behind campaigning work to repeal the misogynistic 8th Amendment to the Constitution, which equates the existence of a foetus to the life of a living, breathing woman. Abortion law reform will be the organisation’s next big human rights win.

2015 also saw significant developments in other areas of the organisation’s work, including the establishment of a Policing Authority, the development of detailed proposals on hate crime and leadership of the civil society input into the United Nations Universal Periodic Review.



The leadership of Yes Equality 2015, Mark Kelly (ICCL), Gráinne Healy (Marriage Equality) and Brian Sheehan (GLEN) with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan TD and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at Dublin Castle, May 2015

It was a busy, productive and thoroughly rewarding year and I would like to thank the ICCL’s staff team and Board for their deep commitment to the organisation throughout 2015.

2016 will mark the ICCL’s 40th anniversary year and I have decided that it is time for fresh leadership to take the organisation forward into its fifth decade as Ireland’s independent human rights watchdog. It has been a real honour to lead the ICCL for the last decade, during which the organisation has contributed to some profound advances in the protection and promotion of human rights in Ireland.

The need for an organisation such as the ICCL is greater than ever and I trust, in future years, the Council will continue to enjoy your support.

Mark Kelly, Executive Director

Our People



The 2015 Executive Board

The ICCL is governed by an Executive Board drawn from academia, business and the law



Niall Mulligan (Co-Chair – Operations)



Siobhán Cummiskey (Co-Chair – Policy)



Alan D.P. Brady



Claire Hamilton



Clare Naughton



Jonah Mudehwe



Deirdre Miller



Andrew Forde



J.B. Terrins

The ICCL Staff



Emily Glen joined the ICCL in October 2015 as Communications and Campaigns Officer. Emily has a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations and an MSc in International Political Science from Trinity College, Dublin. Prior to joining the ICCL, Emily worked as a Policy & Campaigns Officer at the British Irish Chamber of Commerce.



Jason O’Mara joined the ICCL policy team as the Human Rights Administrative Assistant. Jason has a degree in English and Sociology from University College Dublin and an MA in Criminology from Dublin Institute of Technology.



In October 2015, the ICCL bade farewell to its Communications Manager, Walter Jayawardene. Walter has joined the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission as their Senior Human Rights and Equality Officer. Walter joined the ICCL in 2009 and was instrumental in building the organisation’s communications platform, as well as operating communications as a volunteer for the Yes Equality 2015 campaign.



Right: ICCL Staff 2015 (clockwise from left) Grace Mulvey, *JUSTICIA* Project Manager; Mark Kelly, Executive Director; Stephen O’Hare, Senior Research and Policy Programme Manager; Karen Ciesielski, Head of External Development; Joanne Garvey, Head of Administration; Deirdre Duffy, Deputy Director; Pia Janning, Human Rights Policy and Research Officer; Suzanne Handley, Organisational Development Manager; Walter Jayawardene, Communications Manager

The ICCL continues to deliver key research and information services as part of the Irish FRANET consortium for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). FRANET is the multidisciplinary research network, which has been in operation since 2011. It replaced two former research networks, the Racism and Xenophobia Information Network - RAXEN (formerly held by the ICCL), and the Legal Information Network FRALEX, (formerly held by NUI Galway and later also by the ICCL). The current consortium comprises a large number of key legal and academic expert personnel in Ireland and is led by a partnership of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. The function of the network is to provide relevant data to FRA on fundamental rights issues, to facilitate the comparative analyses of issues across the EU. This is achieved through the conduct of both primary (fieldwork) and secondary (desk based analysis) research activities. In general, requests from FRA will take the form of in-depth research studies, short thematic reports and requests for information on specific issues.

The consortium completed a number of research projects in 2015, including a short thematic report on The Right to Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Justice Proceedings in the EU, which was conducted by the ICCL. This research involved a survey of key stakeholders in the area of criminal justice in Ireland.

The Consortium has also contributed detailed information, case law and examples of good practices to both the 2014 and the 2015 FRA annual reports. These reports are compiled under the thematic areas of the FRA Multi Annual Framework 2013-2017.

These include:

- A Access to justice;
- B Victims of crime, including compensation to victims;
- C Information society and, in particular, respect for private life and protection of personal data;
- D Roma integration;
- E Judicial cooperation, except in criminal matters;
- F Rights of the child;



- G** Discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation;
- H** Immigration and integration of migrants, visa and border control and asylum;
- I** Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Multi Annual Framework is implemented to complement the work of other EU bodies, the Council of Europe and other international organisations involved in the field of human rights.

The ICCL expects to conduct a number of thematic research projects in the coming years under the current framework contract.

The ICCL wishes to acknowledge the contribution to the FRANET Consortium of former Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights and FRANET Consortium leader Prof Michael O’Flaherty. Prof O’Flaherty has recently been appointed as the new Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) replacing outgoing director Mr Morten Kjaerum. The ICCL wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Prof O’Flaherty for his work on the project to date and we wish him every success as he assumes this important role.

The ICCL also wishes to welcome Prof Ray Murphy of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUIG, who has taken over the role as Consortium Leader. We look forward to working closely with him in the coming years.



Prof Ray Murphy of NUIG

ICCL continues to support Survivors of Symphysiotomy in search for justice

In 2015, the ICCL continued to support the survivors of the cruel and barbaric surgical procedures relating to child birth known as Symphysiotomy and Pubiotomy.

Symphysiotomy and pubiotomy involve sundering the pelvis at either the symphysis joint (symphysiotomy) or the pubic bone (pubiotomy), supposedly to enable vaginal birth in obstructed labour. The surgeries were prevalent in a number of hospitals in Ireland, particularly in Catholic teaching hospitals, mainly from the 1940s to the 1980s, after Caesarean section had been accepted in other countries as the established treatment for difficult births.

In May 2015 the High Court dismissed a legal challenge brought by one of the survivors (with the support of Survivors of Symphysiotomy – a campaign group representing up to 400 survivors and led by Marie O’Connor) who claimed that she underwent a non-emergency symphysiotomy that left her with life-long pain, incontinence and restricted mobility. The procedure in this, a so-called ‘prophylactic symphysiotomy’ was performed in advance of labour when a consultant obstetrician deemed that a vaginal birth in her case would not be possible. The court found that the robust defence put forward by the defendant

made it impossible for the plaintiff to prove her case even though the judge would have taken “hold of twig or twine-thread” to uphold her case.

Speaking after the judgment, ICCL Director Mr Mark Kelly criticised what he described as the ongoing absence of effective remedies for women subjected to “this barbaric practice”. Speaking at the steps of the Four Courts, Mr Kelly added that ‘the onus remains on the State to ensure that, in all cases in which women allege that they have been subjected to degrading treatment of this nature, an effective investigation takes place and a remedy is provided,’ said Mr Kelly. “The case for a full independent inquiry into the practice of symphysiotomy can only be bolstered by [the] events in the High Court”.

In September 2015, the ICCL submitted its follow up stakeholder report to the UN Human Rights Committee, who had requested that Ireland provide follow-up information on its response to the Committee’s Concluding Observation on Ireland following its Fourth Periodic Examination under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in July 2014. In its submission, the ICCL noted that that the Irish Government has still not established an independent inquiry regarding the practice of

symphysiotomy, and it is abundantly clear from its follow-up replies that it does not intend to do so. In relation to the Surgical Symphysiotomy Payment Scheme established by the government to provide compensation to survivors, the ICCL noted that it provides for limited compensation and requires that extensive evidence is provided to support claims of ill health and complications that arose as a direct consequence of the procedure and the scheme that requires the women to waive their rights (including against both State and private actors) to seek further compensation. In its conclusion to the Committee, the ICCL noted that this was in flagrant contravention of Ireland's obligations under international human rights law, which requires that proactive steps be taken to combat impunity, including by identifying and, when necessary, punishing perpetrators of ill-treatment.

Up-to-date information on the scheme was provided to the UN Working Group on Ireland in relation to Ireland's forthcoming second periodic examination under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).



Marie O'Connor of Survivors of Symphysiotomy and Mark Kelly of the ICCL speaking to the media after the May 2015 High Court judgment

Your Rights. Right Now. – leading the civil society response to Ireland's UPR

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) involves a review of the human rights record of all UN Member States every four and a half years. The review is based on the human rights commitments made by UN countries.

The Government, the UN and civil society all prepare reports that provide information on the human rights situation on the ground in the country being reviewed. Ireland was reviewed for the first time under the UPR in 2011.



Pia Janning, Human Rights Policy and Research Officer, speaking at a UPR consultation

The ICCL travelled around Ireland to hear what people had to say about their lived experience of human rights and whether they felt any progress had been made since Ireland's first UPR. It held open consultations in partnership with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in Cork, Galway and Dublin and also held a number of thematic consultations together with our UPR Steering Group Partners. The ICCL produced an animated video *The Universal Periodic Review Explained* to explain the UPR process to people and made a short film about the consultations *Voices from the Ground: Your Rights. Right Now. UPR Consultations*. As part of the consultation, it also invited people to make written submissions, of which 56 were received.

In September 2015, *Your Rights. Right Now.*, a coalition of civil society organisations and trade unions, led by the ICCL, submitted its civil society report directly to the UN to inform Ireland's second UPR examination in May 2016. The report was endorsed by a wide range of organisations and individuals.



Before submitting the report to the UN, the ICCL held a National Review Event on 9 September to allow those who had taken part in the consultation process to review and comment on the draft report. The *Your Rights. Right Now.* report covers 20 thematic areas including, but not limited to: gender equality, the right to adequate housing, the rights of the child, the impact of the economic crisis, prison conditions, mental health, historical abuse of women and children in medical and institutional care, Traveller and Roma rights and reproductive rights.



Your Rights. Right Now. The UPR
Civil Society Stakeholder Report

The UN Human
Rights Council
Meeting Room

On 15 December 2015, the ICCL hosted a high profile launch of the report, moderated by RTÉ presenter and broadcaster Audrey Carville. The launch was attended by over 75 people, including members of the diplomatic corps, officials from Government Departments, and civil society representatives.

In 2016 the *Your Rights. Right Now.* coalition will continue its advocacy and lobbying work on the UPR in preparation for Ireland's review in September 2016.

The ICCL is delighted to announce that all of its activities from the first year of the new three-year framework agreement 2015-2017 with the European Commission have been successfully completed, with a number of significant outputs. The three year agreement sees *JUSTICIA* Network member organisations work to enhance both the domestic and regional impact of their work with an emphasis on the rights of victims of crime, procedural and defence (fair trial) rights.

Key outputs in 2015 include the following:

Victims of Crime

Monitoring Tool on the Victims' Directive

A Monitoring Tool has been developed to examine EU Member State compliance and document domestic practices in relation to the Victims' Directive, the roll-out of which will commence shortly.

Know Your Rights on the Victims' Directive

Additional translations of the previously produced *Know Your Rights on the Victims' Directive* were completed in 2015. This publication is now available in English, Estonian, Hungarian, Greek, Latvian, Lithuanian and Slovenian.

Procedural & Defence Rights

Know Your Rights to Access a Lawyer

This pack explains the rights set out for suspected and accused persons under the EU Directive on Access to a Lawyer.

Know Your Rights Animation

A new animated educational video was produced. This 3.5 minute long animation explains the procedural rights of suspected and accused persons in criminal proceedings contained within three EU Directives, i.e. the Directive on the Right to Interpretation and Translation, the Directive on the Right to Information and the Directive on the Right to Access a Lawyer in Criminal Proceedings. The video will also be a useful tool for key stakeholders within the criminal justice system, including police, legal practitioners, government departments, courts services, etc.

Research Project on the Right to Information

The aim of this project was to use a previously developed monitoring toolkit to facilitate an NGO-led assessment of Member States' compliance with the requirements of the Directive on the Right to Information.

Research Project on Vulnerable Suspected and Accused Persons

This research project was completed in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania and specifically focused on the protections in place for vulnerable adult suspected and accused persons in criminal proceedings. The aim of this research was to explore and identify promising or harmful practices.

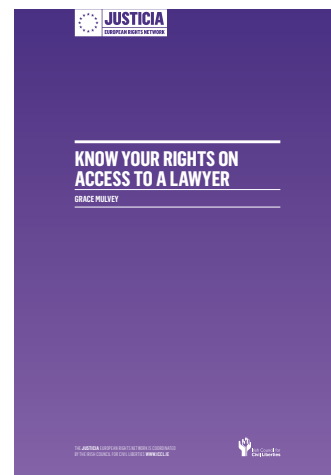


The JUSTICIA Network is financially supported by the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union

Know Your Rights to Information

Additional translations of the previously produced *Know Your Right to Information* were completed in 2015. This publication is now available in six network member languages - English, Spanish, Polish, Latvian, Czech and Greek.

All publications and videos are available to download from the JUSTICIA European Rights website www.eujusticia.net/index.php/resources



Know Your Rights on Access to a Lawyer, another new JUSTICIA publication

Realising the Directive on Access to a Lawyer in Criminal Proceedings: Best Practice and Implementation

In 2015, the ICCL continued to implement its two-year project entitled “Realising the Directive on Access to a Lawyer in Criminal Proceedings: Best Practice and Implementation”, funded under the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.

The EU Directive on the Right of Access to a Lawyer arose out of a Roadmap on procedural rights of suspected and accused persons, which was adopted in 2009 during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. The aim of the Swedish Roadmap is to strengthen the procedural rights of suspected and accused persons in the EU through the adoption of a series of measures to safeguard those rights in all Member States. It sets out common minimum standards for the protection of those rights. The Swedish Roadmap forms the action plan, in the area of procedural rights, of the Stockholm Programme 2010-2014, which set out the EU’s priorities in the area of justice, freedom and security.

The aim of these common minimum standards is to build on the principle of mutual recognition among EU Member States of judgments, judicial decisions and police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters having a cross-border dimension.

The Directive was adopted on the 22 October 2013 and must be transposed into national law by the 27 November 2016.

25 EU Member States will participate in the adoption and application of this Directive. While Ireland is not taking part in the adoption of this Directive, it is hoped that the State may in the future agree to be bound by its provisions.

The ICCL’s project is directed at upskilling legal practitioners and others on the Directive and also contains a cross-jurisdictional dimension aimed at providing the tools to help achieve effective implementation of the Directive in other EU Member States.

Over the course of 2015, the ICCL produced a number of training resources for practitioners on the right of access to a lawyer, including:

The EU Directive on the Right of Access to a Lawyer: A Guide for Practitioners;

Implementation of the Right of Access to a Lawyer: Training Manual;

Implementation of the Right of Access to a Lawyer: Training Manual Template for Adaptation in Other Jurisdictions;

Policing: Taking the Road to Reform in 2015

Check Your Knowledge: Quiz and Implementation of the Right of Access to a Lawyer:

Case Review Tool

Both the Guide for Practitioners and the Training Manual Template were translated into Polish.

In September 2015, the ICCL collaborated with the ‘Law Society of Ireland Professional Training’ seminar for legal practitioners on “Garda Station Questioning” and in November/December 2015 conducted a series of webinar training series on the right of access to a lawyer with participation from legal practitioners, academics, law students and NGO representatives.

Throughout 2015, the ICCL continued to be guided by its High Level Expert Group on the right of access to a lawyer, comprised of criminal defence lawyers and other leading experts in the field from Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland.

In late 2015, work also commenced to increase the interactive functionality of www.eujusticia.net by creating a training resources section for the website and introducing a live twitter feed, for use by practitioners and other key figures in the criminal justice system both in Ireland and beyond. Research is also ongoing to produce a compendium of international standards and good practice guidance on the right of access to a lawyer. It is anticipated that these resources will be available in early 2016.

Policing in Ireland underwent a major shift in 2015. The ICCL was an important voice informing the public, policy makers and public representatives on international human rights standards. For decades, the ICCL has been pointing to best practice in the management of police services globally as benchmarks which should be applied to the Irish context. One of our most enduring recommendations concerned the need for an independent Policing Authority. In 2015, this became a reality. The ICCL wholeheartedly welcomed the establishment of this new oversight structure concerning as it does one of our most critical State bodies.

The Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 hit our statute books towards the end of the year, and the Minister for Justice and Equality moved quickly to populate this new statutory body and allocate resources. The legislation provides the Policing Authority with extensive functions for oversight, review and standard-setting within An Garda Síochána. This will include the review of corporate governance, recruitment and internal performance assessment; examination of Garda resourcing; nomination of appointees to senior ranks; and target-setting for An Garda Síochána, including the approval of annual policing plans, strategy statements and codes of ethics.

Although there is widespread acceptance now in Ireland that best practice for public appointments must involve an independent recruitment process, the Government moved to choose its own Chairperson; in this instance, Ms Josephine Feehily, who was announced as chairperson designate in November 2015. The Authority’s ordinary members were appointed via an open call for expressions of interest through the Public Appointments Service (PAS). However, the devil is in the detail and, during 2015, the ICCL, through its expert analysis of the legislation, brought to public attention some lesser known provisions of the 2015 Act. One exempts the Government from the obligation to choose the Authority’s first members from amongst candidates proposed by PAS, effectively allowing the Government to ‘cherry pick’ the Authority’s membership. Another frees the Government from using the PAS process if it decides to re-appoint any of the initial members of the Authority.

As reported in 2014, when the wave of scandals hit the policing establishment in Ireland, the ICCL was consistently providing a neutral, informed commentary on the real issues at hand. After a sustained call for an independent inquiry, we were finally afforded a judicial-led investigation under the auspices of Mr Justice Nial Fennelly. In 2015, we saw the first fruits of that work

with the judge's interim report published late in the evening on 1 September 2015. This portion of the Commission's investigations focused on determining the sequence of events leading up to former Garda Commissioner Callinan's resignation in March 2014 in the midst of revelations about the decades-long practice of recording telephone calls in Garda stations.

Once again, the ICCL was quick off the mark, distilling the issues most relevant for the effective, democratic functioning of justice and policing in Ireland. Much of the discussion around the report's findings focused on the role played by Taoiseach Enda Kenny in the Commissioner's retirement. However, for the ICCL, the more significant long-term revelation arising from the report is the picture it paints of "serious information deficits and multiple failures of communication" within the Department of Justice and Equality. This assessment accords to that of Kevin Toland, who undertook a comprehensive review of the Department in 2014.

The ICCL has called on the Government to publish a clear plan to implement the recommendations of the 2014 Toland Review of the Department of Justice and appoint a suitable permanent Secretary General to oversee the implementation.

In the coming years, by our continued engagement at all levels, the ICCL looks forward to a fundamental, rights-based shift in the management, delivery and oversight of justice and policing in Ireland. The task is complex and not without potential political pitfalls. As such, the ICCL will continue to be a vital voice of independence and honesty through this transformative period.

Well-trained new officers will be central to the development of policing in Ireland





**YES
EQUALITY.**

Ireland Votes YES EQUALITY

On the afternoon of 23 May 2015, it was confirmed that 1,201,607 people had voted ‘Yes’ to placing the following 17 words in the Constitution: “Marriage may be contracted in accordance with the law by two persons without distinction as to their sex.”

Ireland had voted in favour of equal marriage by a majority of 62%. The ICCL had worked closely with its partners in Marriage Equality and the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) to create a national Campaign for Civil Marriage Equality; Yes Equality 2015. 23 May 2015 was a momentous day and the culmination of decades of work by the ICCL and others, building links, working relationships and strategic partnerships across the LGBTQ equality sector.



ICCL Deputy Director Deirdre Duffy with Yes Equality Campaigners

Yes Equality was the fruit of the efforts of countless campaigners across the country and a core campaign team based in Dublin’s Clarendon Street, made up of the ICCL, Marriage Equality and GLEN, alongside a host of volunteers.



Katherine Zappone and her wife Ann Louise Gilligan, pioneers of marriage equality

Through a national canvassing programme, a nationwide bus tour, a dynamic social media presence and a creative public relations plan, the campaign created a positive and open national conversation about the role of LGBT people in the nation’s fabric and the powerful changes that a Yes vote would bring.



Yes Equality founders, staff and volunteers

On 29 August 2015, President Michael D. Higgins signed this remarkable change into the Constitution. The commencement order on the Marriage Act 2015 was signed by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, who steered the legislation through the Oireachtas. The Tánaiste, Joan Burton TD signed an accompanying regulation under the Civil Registration Act 2002.

The new legislation giving effect to the will of the people expressed in the Marriage Equality Referendum took effect on Monday 16 November 2015.

Built by the ICCL, GLEN and Marriage Equality, the sheer graft of a small army of volunteers brought the campaign alive and changed Irish society for the better in 2015.

Dublin Castle Yard on the day of the historic marriage equality vote



The ICCL and the long road to marriage equality



1976

The ICCL is founded on 30 June 1976 by human rights lawyers Mary Robinson, Kader Asmal and others “to promote human rights, protect civil liberties, recover them where they have been removed, and enlarge them where they have been diminished”.

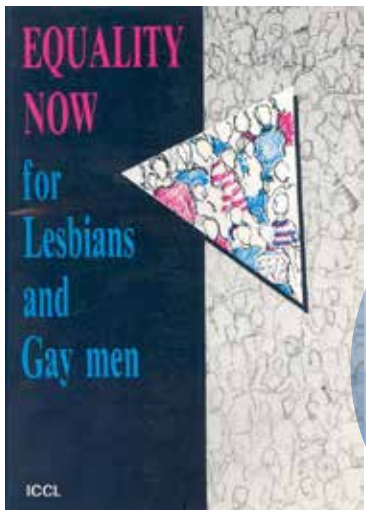
Picture — Kader Asmal with Mary Robinson at an ICCL meeting in 1976 (Photo courtesy of the Irish Times Archive)



1980s

ICCL Executive member Senator David Norris begins his series of legal actions in the Irish courts challenging the criminalisation of homosexuality with ICCL founding member Mary Robinson as his counsel. Senator Norris finally sees victory in Strasbourg in 1988 at the European Court of Human Rights.

Picture — David Norris pictured with Jeffrey Dudgeon in 1980, by Pat Langan



1990s

On 9 April 1990, the ICCL Working Party on Lesbian and Gay Rights publishes the ground-breaking *Equality Now for Lesbians and Gay Men*, which forensically charts the discrimination and prejudice faced by lesbians and gay men in Ireland. The publication has a central role in achieving decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1993. As the Irish Queer Archive says “It’s impossible to overstate the significance and influence of this publication in advancing and shaping both law reform and the subsequent introduction of anti-discrimination legislation that was a hallmark of the mid-90s.”

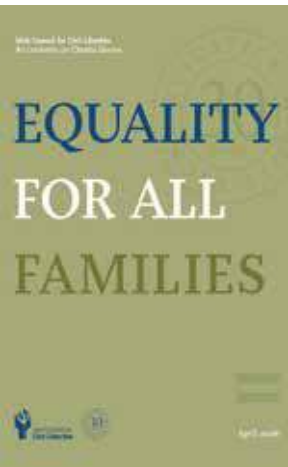
Picture — *Equality Now for Lesbians and Gay Men* cover 1990

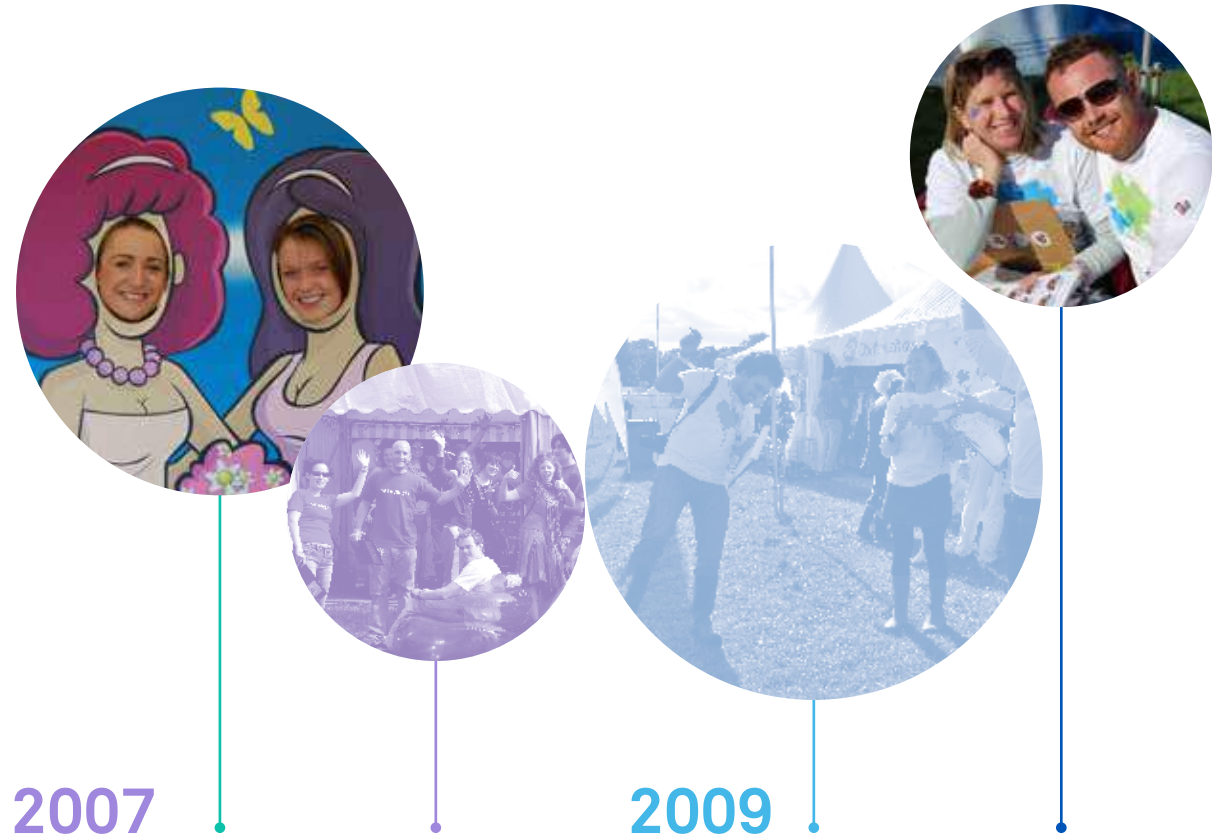


2006

In May 2006 ICCL founding member Kader Asmal launches *Equality for All Families*, an agenda-setting and hugely influential outline of the myriad reforms required in Irish family law to ensure all Irish families are treated equally. Chief amongst the publication’s observations is “since the State’s involvement in marriage is secular in nature, the current distinction between opposite-sex and same-sex couples cannot be justified”.

Picture — Khongorzul Battur, Kader Asmal and Daryl Donnery at the launch of *Equality for All Families*





2007

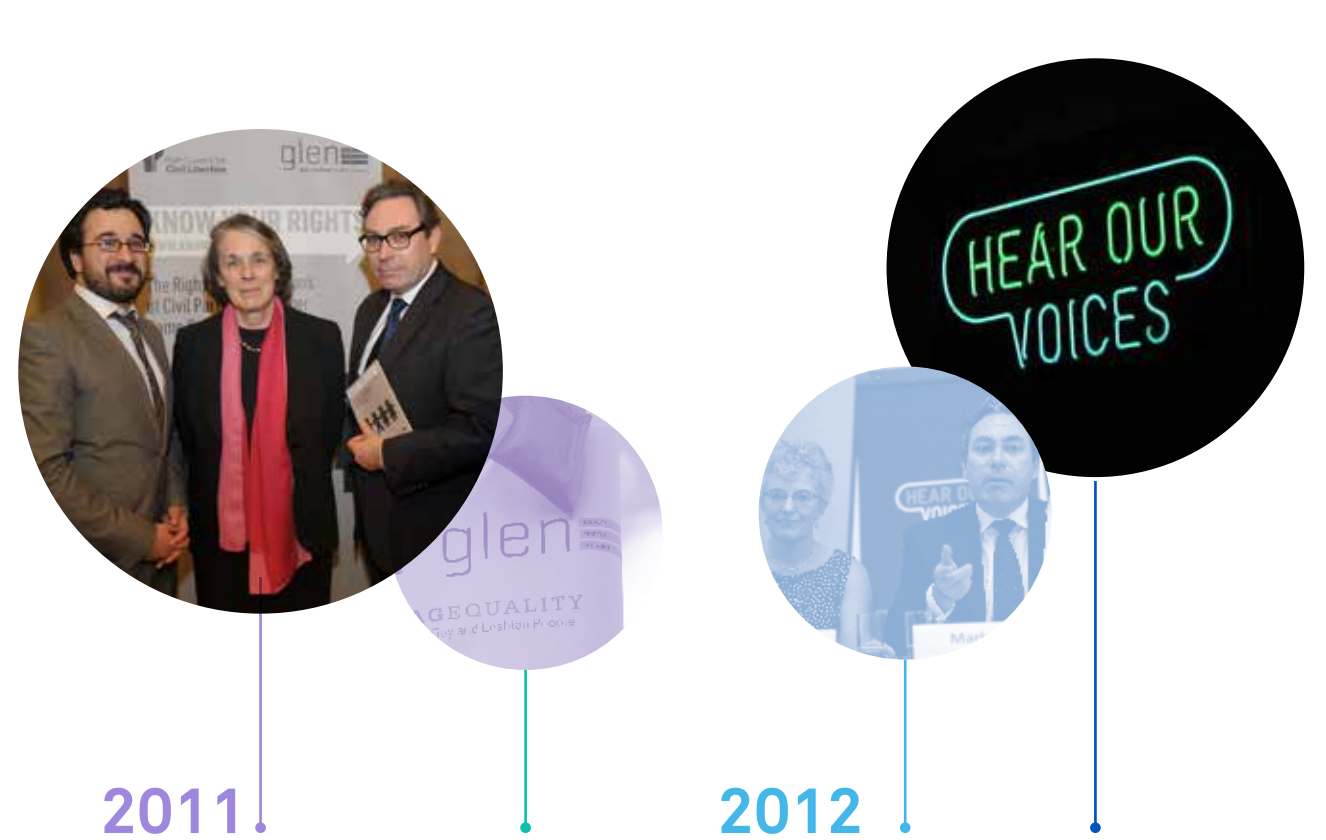
2009

The ICCL makes its first foray into campaigning for equal marriage at the Electric Picnic, where thousands put their name to a petition calling for the government to open up marriage to same sex couples.

Picture — ICCL at Electric Picnic

The ICCL joins forces with GLEN, Marriage Equality, BeLonG To, LGBT Noise, GCN and the NLGF to form the LOVEACTION LGBT rights collective, which campaigns at the Electric Picnic and other locations throughout 2009 and 2010. LOVEACTION and the working relationships it sparks form a crucial first step towards closer cooperation between the groups during the Constitutional Convention, and ultimately, Yes Equality.

Picture — ICCL joins forces with GLEN, Marriage Equality, BeLonG To, LGBT Noise, GCN and the NLGF at Electric Picnic



2011

2012

Civil partnership is made law in Ireland. The ICCL lends influential support to civil partnership, and the work of GLEN in achieving it, as an important stepping stone towards full marriage equality.

Picture — Chief Justice Susan Denham launches the ICCL/GLEN *Know Your Rights* guide to Civil Partnership at the Four Courts

The ICCL launches the *Hear Our Voices* initiative, calling on Government to ensure that civil society voices are heard as part of the mooted Convention on the Constitution. Detailed hearings from civil society groups form a central element in the Convention's deliberations.

Picture — *Hear Our Voices* launch with Mark Kelly and Katherine Zappone



The ICCL, Marriage Equality and GLEN join forces to deliver a joint presentation to the Convention on the Constitution making the case for civil marriage equality. The Convention overwhelmingly votes to recommend to government that it hold a referendum on marriage equality. In November 2013 the government formally commits to holding a referendum. The ICCL, Marriage Equality and GLEN commit to jointly campaign in favour of a Yes vote, and over the coming year work together on building the campaign.

Picture — Marriage Referendum press conference
(Credit: Sasko Lazarov Photocall Ireland)

On 9 March 2015 the Yes Equality campaign is launched jointly by the ICCL, GLEN and Marriage Equality. In the months to follow, Yes Equality becomes, in the words of Gay Community News, “the greatest grassroots civil rights movement in the Irish nation’s history”. Following a positive, colourful and transformative nationwide campaign, on 23 May 2015 it is announced that 62% of voters - 1,201,607 people – have voted in favour of opening marriage up to same-sex couples.

Picture — Yes Victory press conference. ICCL calls for swift enactment of legislation enshrining SSM (Same Sex Marriage)

Repeal of the 8th Amendment: It’s Time

2015 saw Ireland talking about abortion in a different way. The right of access to abortion came into focus as the human rights and equality issue that it is - the right to access healthcare and a woman’s right to bodily autonomy.

This movement owed much to the positive force of the Yes Equality victory and the unparalleled sense across Ireland that people did have the power to make changes to our laws which really reflected our lived experiences.

It is also a testament to the international advocacy which the ICCL, together with partners such as the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), have been carrying out for many years at the UN Human Rights Council and before the UN Committees. In 2014, we reported the first major recommendation by an international human rights treaty body to Ireland regarding constitutional reform in order to protect a woman’s right to access an abortion. This was followed in 2015 by a recommendation from the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the same effect.

Within this context, and as it is with many issues, the international matters in as much as it moves the debate nationally. And last year, we saw those strong UN recommendations gain traction at home. We saw also the steady growth of the Coalition to Repeal the Eighth Amendment, an ever-developing advocacy and campaigning group of over 50 civil society organisations comprising trade unions, medical associations, campaigning and human rights NGOs. As a leading pro-choice organisation within the coalition, the ICCL was proud to elucidate on the international human rights standards regarding access to abortion services, at the Coalition conference in September 2015.





2015 Annual March
for Choice

The ICCL will continue to lend our support and expertise to the governance of the coalition and the roll out of its activities, towards the common goal of repealing the eighth amendment during the lifetime of the next government.

Preliminary findings of ICCL-Backed Study Finds Hate Crime Must ‘Come out of Shadows’

On 13 July 2015, the ICCL launched the preliminary findings of its ambitious research project into hate crime in Ireland. The research was commissioned from the University of Limerick’s Hate and Hostility Research Group led by Amanda Haynes and Jennifer Schweppe. The key findings from the report, entitled “Out of the Shadows: Legislating for Hate Crime in Ireland”, indicate that while hate crime is common in Ireland, it remains in the shadows of the State’s criminal justice system. The research is supported by a consortium of NGOs comprising NASC – the Immigrant Support Centre, the Immigrant Council of Ireland and the Irish Traveller Movement.

The project is Ireland’s only cross-sectoral project examining the potential for legislative reform to combat hate crime and is based on wide-ranging interviews with victims of hate crime, members of An Garda Síochána and legal professionals. The report also undertakes a detailed review of international best practice on tackling hate crime.

Contrary to State claims that hate crime is being adequately addressed under the current legal framework the new research shows that, in fact, hate crime remains largely invisible in the criminal justice process. A system-wide failure to recognise the harms of hate crime, and to provide victims with appropriate protection under the law were identified.

The experiences of those interviewed during the course of research included hate-motivated assaults, vandalism, property damage and threats. The research concludes that there is an urgent need for the legislature to send a clear message to society that this behaviour is not tolerated.

The research flows from the work of the NGO Working Group on Hate Crime, established by Minister Aodhán Ó Ríordáin in 2013. The group, led by the ICCL, includes: Doras Luimní, the European Network Against Racism Ireland (ENAR), the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Inclusion Ireland, the ICCL, the Irish Refugee Council, the Irish Traveller Movement, NASC, Pavee Point, PILA, Sports Against Racism Ireland, and the Transgender Equality Network of Ireland.

The research will shortly be concluded and a final report is expected to be published in 2016.

ICCL leads major new pan European study on legislation for hate crime

In August 2015, an ICCL led consortium of European NGOs and universities was awarded funding under the European Commission’s Rights Equality and Citizenship research programme to look at models of best practice concerning legislation to combat hate crime. The project, entitled *Lifecycle of a Hate Crime - Best practice in the prevention and prosecution of Hate Crime*, will examine the application of criminal laws and sentencing provisions for hate crime across five EU Member States – Ireland, Czech Republic, Latvia Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Its aim is to capture best practice in the legislative tools used to combat hate crime across Europe, as it relates to strategies of legal intervention and the implementation of these rules. Over the past 10-15 years EU Member States have sought to combat and prevent hate crime by enacting penal provisions that enhance the punishment of hate-motivated offenders. The application of provisions has not been uniform, with some countries creating new bodies of legislation to criminalise hate crime offences (UK), others amending criminal codes to aggravate existing offences (Sweden; Czech Republic; Latvia), and some with no specific hate crime provisions (Ireland). This project will detail the operational realities of hate crime legislation by gathering experiential accounts of the legislation ‘in action’ from legal professionals.



Out of the Shadows: Legislating for Hate Crime in Ireland

Jennifer Schweppe with Minister of State Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Mark Kelly



It will also look at differences in both victims’ and offenders’ experiences of the criminal justice system according to the legislative and policy context and seek to identify shortfalls in the legislative responses to Article 4 of the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia as well as existing hate crime legislation among participating Member States. The ICCL is acting as project coordinator and is joined by leading Irish researchers on hate crime Amanda Haynes and Jennifer Schweppe from the Hate and Hostility Research Group at the University of Limerick.

Mark Walters from the University of Sussex will lead the research from the UK and will be joined by Görel Granström from Umea University (Sweden), Klára Kalibóva, Director of the Prague based legal NGO IN IUSTITIA and Anhelita Kamenska, Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights. The research is expected to take two years, at which time the findings will be presented in 2017. The findings of the research will be presented to representatives from key EU policy makers and stakeholders, including the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, members of the EU Parliamentary Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Expert Group on the implementation of the Framework Decision on Combatting Racism and Xenophobia through the Criminal Law.



Seventh annual ICCL Human Rights Film Awards

The 2015 Human Rights Film Awards saw the international scope of Ireland’s only human rights themed film competition broaden further than any previous year, and this was reflected in the diversity of themed portrayed in the entries.

At the Gala, acclaimed filmmakers Hamzy Ramezan and Rungano Nyoni were awarded the Awards’ 2015 Grand Prize for their Danish short film Listen- a tense fictional examination of cultural barriers and bureaucratic miscommunication set in a Copenhagen police station. The film follows a woman in a burqa who brings her young son to file a complaint against her abusive husband. But the translator assigned to her is unwilling to convey the true meaning of her words. The drama that plays out is a chilling reminder of the isolation that many victims can face when dealing with the authorities in a language not their own. The unanimous choice of the Awards’ Jury, the film also casts a light on a core area of the ICCL’s own work in promoting the need for adequate translation and interpretation facilities for victims and accused persons dealing with the authorities.

The 2015 ICCL Human Rights Film Awards Gala saw second place prize go to Spanish film Barcelone ba Barsakh, a dramatization of the struggles facing migrants crossing the Mediterranean, by Nacho Gil and Cristina Vergara. Third place prize went to Let the Devil Sleep, by Alan Whelan, Eoghan Rice and Elena Hermosa - a documentary following survivors of the Rwandan Genocide and their journey of reconciliation. Shortlisted filmmaker Simon Hipkins also accepted a Special Jury Award for his film Moving Lives: Misan, a portrait of the life of a migrant Dublin Bus driver.



Grand prize recipients Helen Granqvist and Valeria Richter on the red carpet in Dublin’s Lighthouse Cinema



Jury members John Kelleher, Pamela Yates, Paco de Onís and Senator David Norris



Valeria Richter accepts grand prize



'Misan' director Simon Hipkins pictured with Orighomisan Ulori and filmmaker Niyi Babade



Nacho Gil, David Moliner and Jesus Martinez, director, producer and star of 'Barcelone ba Barsakh'



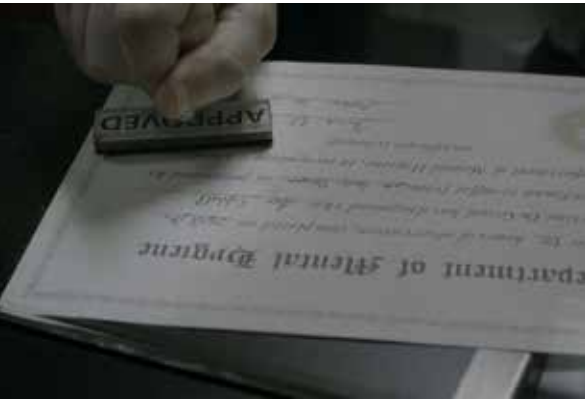
Moving Lives: Misan
Director: Simon Hipkins

Moving Loves: Misan, directed by London based film director and writer Simon Hipkins, tells the story of an Irish citizen, father and bus driver working in Dublin. Misan fled his country of birth at a young age due to armed conflict, but that is all we are told about his past. Looking to the future, Misan now sees Ireland as his home. This documentary explores some of the challenges he faces, particularly the racial abuse he regularly experiences while on his Dublin Bus route. Misan is part of the Immigrant Council of Ireland's Moving Lives series that uses film portraits to draw attention to issues of racism, integration, human trafficking and family reunification.



Let the Devil Sleep
Directors: Alan Whelan, Eoghan Rice and Elena Hermosa

Filmed in Rwanda between January and February 2014, *Let the Devil Sleep* follows two Tutsi women, Marie Mukagasana and Frida Kamuizma, who in 1994 were persecuted, subjected to horrific violence and who lost family members at the hands of Hutu militias. It also follows Jean Baptiste Gatera and Juvenal Moudenge - neighbours of these women - who took an active part in the genocidal violence that swept the country. Through a series of calm and reflective testimonies delivered individually and together, this documentary tells the story of these four individuals' unlikely journey of confession, forgiveness and reconciliation.



Nightmare

Director: Bob Gallagher

Following the Marriage Equality referendum, Ireland is set to be one of the most progressive countries in the world for the recognition of gender identity. However, Transgender citizens across Europe continue to face significant challenges to vindicate their rights. Commissioned by Transgender Europe, *Nightmare* puts these challenges into fast-paced and dramatic perspective, illustrating the many bureaucratic and medical barriers placed before Transgender citizens in order for their gender identity to be recognised. These include obligatory sterilisation, enforced divorce and the requirement of a diagnosis of mental illness. What may seem like a nightmare to most European citizens is a reality for many others.



Where is Don?

Director: More Raça

Panic and apprehension are the emotions that dominate the 10 minute duration of the short film *Where is Don?* However for many journalists and human rights defenders, such feelings do not just last the length of a short film, but are constant. Around the world, journalists and activists face persecution and severe danger for exercising the right to free expression. Such dangers are often compounded due to the inaction or complicity of the authorities. Filmmaker and women's rights activist More Raça explores this phenomenon in her native Kosovo, telling the tense tale of a journalist living in constant fear of threats, harassment and intimidation due to her writing.



Barcelone ba Barsakh

Directors: Nacho Gil cid De Diego and Cristina Vergara Sequeiro

Barcelone ba Barsakh is a fictional short film that tells the story of Demba, a Senegalese immigrant in Spain. Arriving on a human trafficking ship, Demba has faced great hardship to reach Barcelona. While this film's story is fictional, the issue is all too real. An estimated 1,800 migrants lost their lives in the Mediterranean Sea in the first five months of 2015 alone. The film also examines the treatment of immigrants once they arrive in Europe, where they face nostalgia for their families and home culture, discrimination and the constant fear of deportation. *Barcelone ba Barsakh* puts a face on the many immigrants who are forced to take their chances on Barsakh and 'the beyond' by crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

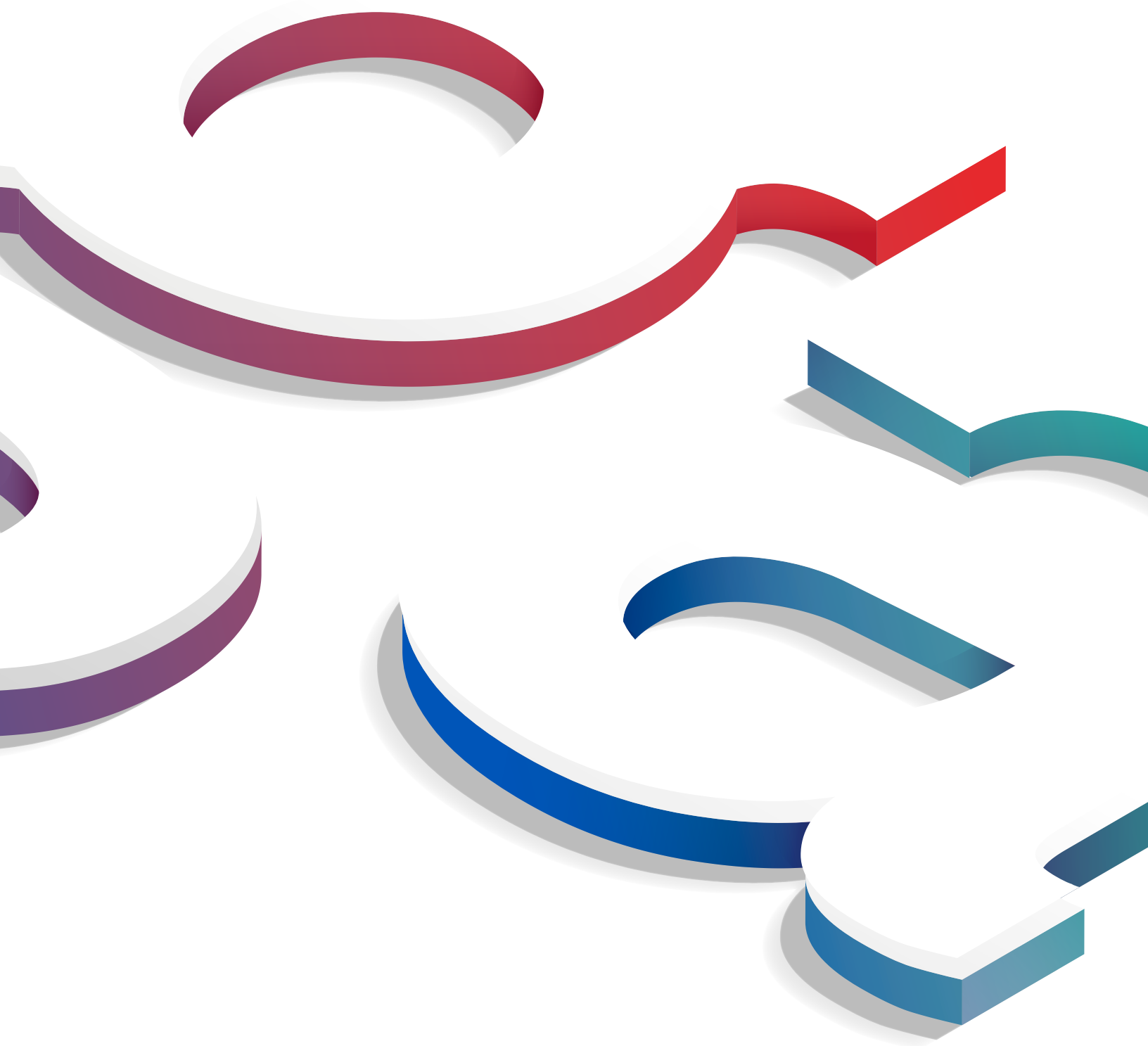


Listen

Directors: Hamy Ramezan and Rungano Nyoni

What if you were a victim and wanted to speak out? But every time you spoke, what you say is watered down, distorted or contradicted? This is a very real problem facing thousands of vulnerable people across Europe today, who, due to language barriers and insufficient interpretation and translation facilities, are unable to interact properly with the authorities. Hamy Ramezan and Rungano Nyoni skilfully dramatise this problem in *Listen*, a tale of a woman in a Copenhagen police station seeking assistance to report and escape her abusive husband. But her interpreter seems unwilling to convey the true meaning of her words.

Organisational Development



Building a Sustainable Future for Human Rights Protection and Promotion in Ireland

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our members, supporters and friends for your continued support, without which our work of protecting and promoting human rights in Ireland would not be possible.

We are deeply grateful to the Atlantic Philanthropies and the Sigrid Rausing Trust for their steadfast commitment to our work. We would also like to thank the Community Foundation for Ireland and The Ireland Funds for supporting our human rights education and awareness-raising projects.

During 2015, we continued our work in relation to organisational development and sustainability, with the aim of strengthening and expanding our community of supporters while raising funds to ensure that the ICCL is able to fulfil its remit as Ireland's independent human rights watchdog and has the resilience to withstand future challenges.

The European Commission selected the ICCL for a sixth consecutive operating grant in relation to our criminal justice work, enabling us to deliver a range of activities and projects in this key policy area through the ICCL-led *JUSTICIA* European Rights Network, which has 19 members in 17 EU Member States.

Together with the Irish Human Rights Centre at NUI Galway, the ICCL's work as the Fundamental Rights Agency's National Focal Point continued throughout the year, comprising data collection and research services in relation to fundamental rights issues. We also continued to lead a two-year project funded by an action grant from the European Commission. This project, which focused on best practice and implementation of the Directive on Access to a Lawyer in Criminal Proceedings, involved leading criminal law practitioners and partner organisation Open Society Justice Institute and provided a forum for analysis, information and knowledge exchange in relation to the rights of suspected and accused persons.

On 18 June 2015, the ICCL held its 7th annual ICCL Human Rights Film Awards, Ireland's only human rights-themed short film competition, where we welcomed 260 guests to Dublin's Light House Cinema to acknowledge and celebrate the work of the six shortlisted filmmakers. The Human Rights Film Awards shine a light on human rights in both an Irish and a global context while showing how film can be an emotive, powerful tool to help us understand human rights – and why they matter to all of us.

We are deeply grateful to our Jury and Panel members, especially Jury Chair John Kelleher, and to all of our sponsors, friends and supporters, including the Light House Cinema, IFCO, Filmbase and Windmill Lane, who continue to make the project possible each year by donating funds, equipment, services, prizes, vouchers, time and expertise. We also extend our huge gratitude to over 70 funders, who contributed support through our 4th successful online crowdsourced fundraising campaign and helped to cover the costs of the Human Rights Film Awards. We would also like to extend a special thanks to all of our volunteers and interns Katie Coyle and Niall Cremen, who brought their energy, skills and talents to the project.

We are deeply grateful to our Jury and Panel members, especially Jury Chair John Kelleher, and to all of our sponsors, friends and supporters, including the Light House Cinema, IFCO, Filmbase and Windmill Lane, who continue to make the project possible each year by donating funds, equipment, services, prizes, vouchers, time and expertise.

Your support in action:

With the strength of our members and supporters, we are able to intervene where needed to shape public debate, ensuring that human rights are part of the discussion when developing policy and legislation in Ireland. We can also act quickly and meaningfully when our rights are under threat. The support of our friends and members also makes it possible for us to engage in outreach and education work around human rights.

The ICCL is working to become fully sustainable, which will enable the organisation to carry out its day-to-day work while meeting future economic and political difficulties which may arise, so that rights in Ireland remain protected for generations to come.

We would again like to thank all of our members, supporters and friends who contribute their time, energy and financial support to ensuring a secure future for Ireland's independent human rights watchdog.

Publications and Events



January

‘ICCL welcomes Mother and Baby Homes Inquiry; calls for justice for Magdalene and Symphysiotomy survivors’, press release, 9 January 2015

ICCL Presentation to Oireachtas Health Committee, Seanad Eireann, 9 January 2015

Meeting with Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and European Commission Vice-President, 12 January 2015

‘We are the 80% says ICCL, welcoming pre-campaign equality poll’, Press Release, 14 January 2015

‘Advocacy and rights groups join in criticising government’s Magdalene Bill as unacceptable, unfair and full of broken promises to survivors’, press release, 19 January 2015

‘Historic Day as Government Publish Wording for Referendum on Marriage Equality’, Joint Press Release by Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) and Marriage Equality, 21 January 2015

JUSTICIA, Joint Statement on Legal Aid, 29 January 2015

February

Yes Equality 2015 – National Volunteer Day, 2 February, 2015

‘ICCL calls on Government to release AG’s “legal advice” on foetal abnormality legislation’, press release, 10 February 2015

‘Rights groups welcome Commission’s Policy Statement on access to civil marriage’, Joint statement by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), Marriage Equality and the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), 12 February 2015

JUSTICIA - Know Your Rights on the Victims’ Directive translated to Lithuanian, Electronic, 21 February 2015

Yes Equality 2015 - Launch of Pledge to Vote Campaign, 23 February 2015

Meeting of the FRA Associates in Ireland, NUI Offices, Dublin, 26 February 2015

March

- Yes Equality 2015 – Official Launch of Yes Equality 2015; The Campaign for Civil Marriage Equality, Rotunda Pillar Room, 9 March 2015
- ‘ICCL welcomes new Parliamentary Rights and Equality Body’, press release, 25 March 2015
- The EU Directive on the Right of Access to a Lawyer: A Guide for Practitioners*, 26 March 2015
- JUSTICIA* - High Level Expert Group Meeting on Access to a Lawyer, Dublin, 26 March 2015
- ‘*Know Your Rights – The Rights of Children and Young People*’ launch, Dublin, 28 March 2015
- President of Ireland’s Ethics Initiative, Áras an Uachtaráin, 28 March 2015
- Yes Equality 2015 – Launch of Families for Yes event, Smock Alley, 30 March 2015



Launch of the Yes Bus Nationwide Tour

April

- Campaign Groups calling for repeal of ‘1871 Lunacy Act’ to present petition to Oireachtas Human Rights Sub-Committee, 1 April 2015
- Yes Equality 2015 – “I’m Voting Yes” event, National Library of Ireland, 8 April 2015
- Yes Equality 2015 – Business for Marriage Equality launch, Digital Exchange, Dublin, 16 April 2015



Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan launches Yes Equality Get Out the Vote Campaign

May

- JUSTICIA* - Snapshot of Legal Aid in twelve EU Member States, 5 May 2015
- ‘*Your Rights. Right Now.*’, Z Card: The Universal Periodic Review: What, How, Where, Who?, published 8 May 2015
- Yes Equality 2015 – Launch of Yes Equality Mythbusters Fact Sheets, 14 May 2015
- Yes Equality 2015 - Lawyers for Choice launch Series of Animated Short Films, 18 May 2015
- YES Equality 2015 – “The Kids are Alright” Press Conference, Dublin, 18 May 2015
- ‘New Policing Body: Rights Watchdog calls for full independence’, press release, 18 May 2015
- Yes Equality 2015 – “The Final Push” photocall with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, 21 May 2015
- ICCL meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Dublin Castle, 25 May 2015



Final Push for Yes

June

- ‘ICCL Welcomes Changes to Gender Recognition Bill’ press release, 4 June 2015
- International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO) Meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1 – 5 June 2015
- Presentation to Joint Committee on Public Oversight and Petitions, 10 June 2015
- Your Rights. Right Now., The UPR Explained* – Animated short video, 17 June 2015
- 7th Annual ICCL Human Rights Film Awards, The Lighthouse Cinema, 18 June 2015
- “Hear me now” say filmmakers scooping top human rights prize’, press release, 18 June 2015
- Your Rights. Right Now., A Plain English Guide to the Universal Periodic Review*, revised 2015, 25 June 2015



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Yes Equality Leadership at Dublin Castle

ICCL presentation to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Public Oversight and Petitions, 25 June 2015	‘ICCL-Backed Study Finds Hate Crime Must ‘Come out of Shadows’, press release, 13 July 2015
YES Equality 2015 – ICCL Director Mr Mark Kelly Grand Marshall (with Brian Sheehan and Gráinne Healy) at Dublin Pride, 27 June 2015	Launch of ‘Out of the Shadows: Legislating for Hate Crime in Ireland’, Fitzwilliam Hotel, Stephen’s Green, 13 July 2015
Opinion: Green Guards and Good Faith: the Exclusionary Rule and DPP v. JC, Claire Hamilton, Executive Board Member, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Law Society Gazette, June 2015	‘Rights watchdog welcomes latest outworking of marriage equality vote’, press release, 16 July 2015
	<i>Your Rights. Right Now.</i> , Civil Society Consultations, Galway, 16 July 2015
	<i>Your Rights. Right Now.</i> , Civil Society Consultations, Cork, 28 July 2015
	<i>Your Rights. Right Now.</i> , Disability Rights Civil Society Consultation, Dublin, 29 July 2015
	<i>Your Rights. Right Now.</i> , Civil Society Consultations, Dublin, 30 July 2015
	Rights News, Film Awards Special, Issue 30, Summer 2015
July	
ICCL attend Repeal the 8th Coalition Press Conference, Buswells Hotel, Dublin, 2 July 2015	
‘Out of the Shadows’ – Launch of ICCL commissioned research report and draft Heads of Bill by the University of Limerick Hate and Hostility Research Group, , Fitzwilliam Hotel, Stephen’s Green, 13 July 2015	



Launch of ‘Out of the Shadows’ report with Mark Kelly, Executive Director of the ICCL; Jennifer Schweppe, University of Limerick; and Amanda Haynes, University of Limerick



Mark Kelly, Grand Marshal of the 2015 Dublin Pride, with Gráinne Healy and Brian Sheehan

August

Your Rights. Right Now. Consultation meeting with HIV Ireland, Dublin, 31 August 2015

September

‘Fennelly report indicates need for “root and branch” reform of Garda policy, says ICCL’, press ‘release, 1 September 2015

‘ICCL welcomes commencement of Gender Recognition Act 2015’ press release, 4 September 2015

ICCL at Repeal the 8th Conference, Gresham Hotel, Dublin, 6 September 2015

‘ICCL welcomes publication of Marriage Bill 2015’, press release, 16 September 2015

Garda Station Questioning, Training seminar for lawyers in Cork in conjunction with the Law Society of Ireland, Dublin, 17 September 2015



Broden Giambrone of TENI with Dr Lydia Foy as the Commencement Order for the Gender Recognition Act 2015 was signed

Your Rights. Right Now., Civil Society Stakeholder Report for Ireland’s 2nd Universal Periodic Review submitted to UN, 18 September 2015

ICCL at International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO) Conference on Religious Freedom and Equal Treatment, Cardozo Law School, New York, 21 – 23 September 2015

Rights News, Issue 31, Autumn 2015

October

Implementation of the Right of Access to a Lawyer: Training Manual, published 6 October 2015

Implementation of the Right of Access to a Lawyer: Training Manual Template for Adaptation in Other Jurisdictions, published 6 October 2015

Right of Access to a Lawyer: Check Your Knowledge Quiz, 6 October 2015



Your Rights. Right Now. regional consultation

<i>Right of Access to a Lawyer: Case Review Tool</i> , launched 6 October 2015	‘Signing Istanbul Convention will positively impact women - if followed through, says human rights watchdog’, press release, 5 November 2015
<i>Know Your Right to Information</i> - Translation to Spanish and Polish, 6 October 2015	ICCL Submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence & Equality on the review of Ireland’s approach to possession of limited quantities of certain drugs – 5 November 2015
‘ICCL extends condolences to family of Garda Golden’, press release, 12 October 2015	‘Power crime probe closure “clears the path” for incitement to hatred complaint, says ICCL’, press release, 10 November 2015
ICCL at Launch of Lifecycle of a Hate Crime project, London, 19 October 2015	Right of Access to a Lawyer – Webinar 1- Regional and International Standards on Access to a Lawyer, 12 November 2015
ICCL at FRA Associates in Ireland meeting and report launch, 27th October 2015	Right of Access to a Lawyer – Webinar 2 - The Right of Access to a Lawyer: Law and Practice in Ireland, 26 November 2015
‘Special Criminal Court Decision ‘Flouts Rule of Law’ says ICCL’, press release, 29 October 2015	ICCL at Expert Group Meeting on EU Framework Decision on Combatting Racism and Xenophobia Through the Criminal Law, Brussels, Belgium, 16 November 2015
“Abolition timeline” needed for emergency courts, watchdog says’, press release, 30 October 2015	ICCL at Official Signing of Marriage Act 2015 commencement order, Dublin Castle, Dublin, 26 November 2015
ICCL Annual Report 2014	

<i>‘Marriage equality commencement order “brings down the curtain” on successful Yes Equality coalition’, press release, 7 December 2015</i>	<i>Your Rights. Right Now.</i> , Launch of Civil Society Stakeholder Report for Ireland’s 2nd Universal Periodic Review, The Westbury Hotel, Dublin, 15 December 2015
Yes Equality 2015 – Yes Equality 2015 campaign honoured with ‘Community Group of the Year’ award at the RTÉ/REHAB People of the Year Awards 2015, 7 December 2015	<i>JUSTICIA</i> - Know Your Rights on Access to a Lawyer, 16 December 2015
‘Rights Group Scoops “Community Group of the Year” Award for Yes Equality Campaign’, press release, 7 December 2015	<i>JUSTICIA</i> - Know Your Right to a Fair Trial Animation 16 December 2015
‘ <i>Your Rights. Right Now.</i> Rights Audit Launched ahead of UN Scrutiny of Ireland’, press release, 15 December 2015	ICCL welcomes establishment of Policing Authority; deplores “political” appointment process’, press release, 30 December 2015
	<i>Your Rights. Rights Now</i> , Voices from the Ground – video from UPR consultations, 15 December 2015
	Rights News, Issue 32, Autumn/ Winter 2015

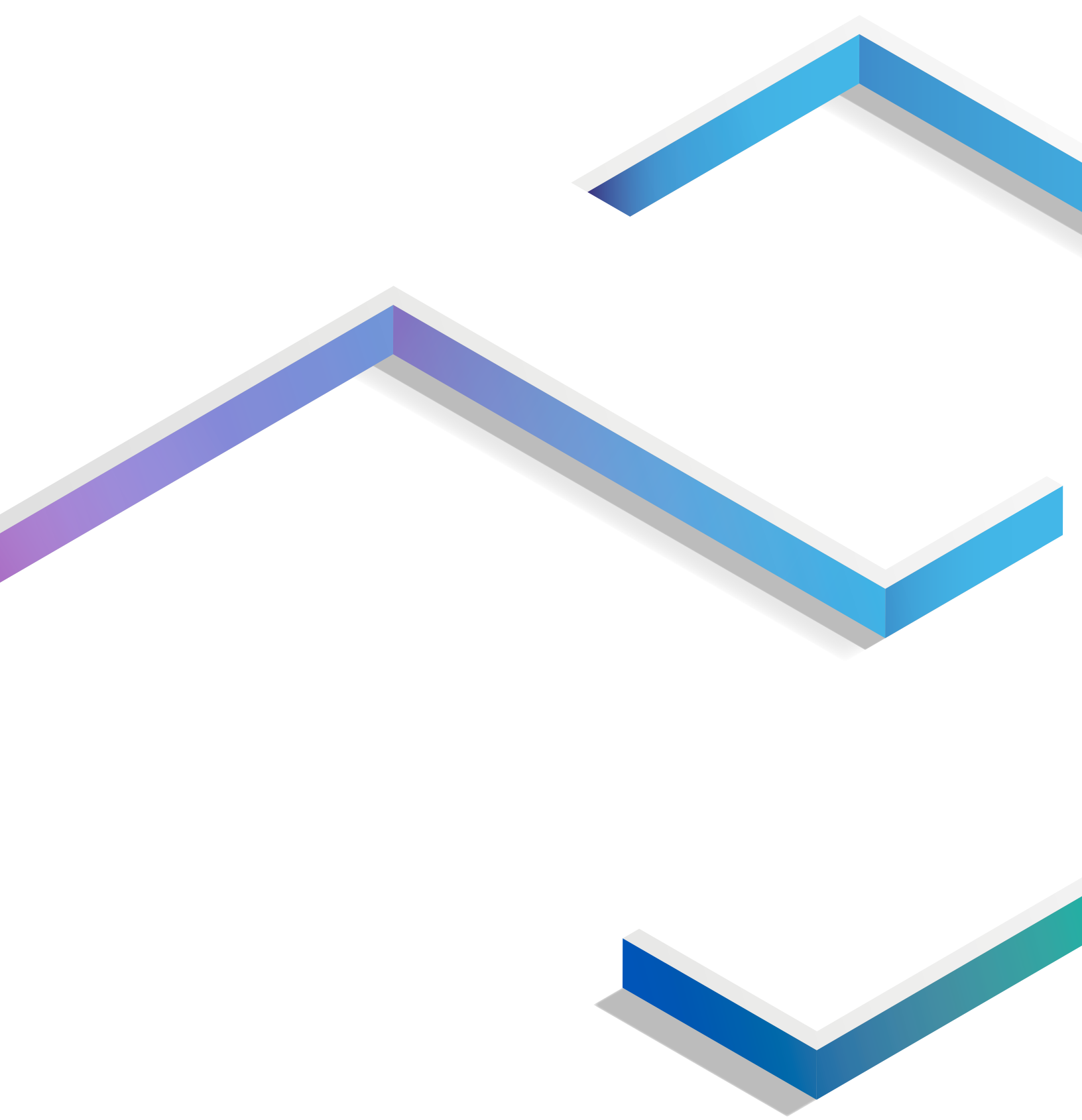


ICCL receives Community Group of the Year for Yes Equality Campaign, alongside its partners GLEN (the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network) and Marriage Equality



Rights News Autumn/Winter 2015 publication

Our Finances



The ICCL consists of two organisations – the ICCL Association and ICCL Ltd., a company limited by guarantee. All of our day-to-day activities are managed by ICCL Ltd., including promotional and awareness-raising initiatives, research and policy activities, fundraising campaigns, staff costs and general overhead expenditure.

The ICCL Association is a membership organisation. The ICCL Association's financial statements reflect all income generated through membership fees and additional donations made by members.

The ICCL receives income from individual members, supporters and a small number of foundations and trusts in order to carry out the work of the organisation. The ICCL expends its income on research, campaigning and promotional costs across the four main 'pillars' of the organisation's work (monitoring human rights, promoting justice, securing equality and organisational development).

Information is provided to all donors, including individuals, trusts and foundations, on a regular basis regarding developments, activities and programmes to ensure that the ICCL operates in a manner that is transparent and accountable. The ICCL complies with all legal and regulatory requirements, in line with best practice for NGOs.

The ICCL financial statements for 2015 have been audited by Squires & Co. Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors, 32 Merrion Street, Dublin 2.

		2015 (€)	2014 (€)
Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 December 2015	Income		
	Grants	2,500	0
	Membership	6,063	5,943
	Donations	5,120	0
	Other income	0	0
		13,683	5,943
	Special funds	0	0
	Total Income	13,683	5,943
	Expenditure on Activities of Strategic Plan		
	Capacity Building	31	(14)
	Research & Policy Development	9,162	0
	Campaigning and Communication	70	70
	Lobbying and Advocacy	0	0
	Networking	0	0
	Fundraising	0	0
	Total Expenditure	9,263	56
	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	4,420	5,887

		2015 (€)	2015 (€)	2014 (€)	2014 (€)
Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2015	Fixed Assets				
	Current Assets				
	Prepayments				
	Bank and Cash	32,441		28,021	
			32,441		28,021
	Current Liabilities				
	Trade Creditors	0		0	
	Accruals	0		0	
			0		0
	Net Assets		32,441		28,021
	Cash Carry Forward		28,021		22,134
	Surplus of income over expenditure		4,420		5,887
			32,441		28,021

		2015 (€)	2014 (€)
Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 December 2015	Income		
	Total Income	1,131,183	1,233,971
	Expenditure		
	Costs of campaigns, publications and awareness and fundraising activities	(951,542)	(1,065,058)
	Support Costs (Governance, administration and capacity building costs)	(177,872)	(168,918)
	Total Expenditure	(1,129,414)	(1,233,976)
	Bank Interest	12	5
	Surplus before taxation	1,781	0
	Tax on surplus	0	(0)
		1,781	0
	Retained Surplus brought forward	31,450	31,450
	Retained Surplus at the end of the year	33,231	31,450

The company had no recognised gains or losses in the financial period other than the surplus for the above two financial years.

The above figures are taken from the ICCL Ltd., audited financial statements for the year end (31 December) 2015.

		2015 (€)	2015 (€)	2014 (€)	2014 (€)
Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2015	Fixed Assets				
	Computer Equipment		14,111		3,351
	Furniture & Fixtures		1,354		3,406
			15,465		6,757
	Current Assets				
	Debtors	328,203		103,204	
	Cash at bank and in hand	182,733		116,059	
		510,936		219,263	
	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(493,170)		(194,570)	
	Net Current Assets/ Liabilities		17,766		24,693
	Total assets less current liabilities		33,231		31,450
	Reserves				
	Retained Surplus		33,231		31,450

The above figures are taken from the ICCL Ltd., audited financial statements for the year end (31 December) 2015.

Contact

Irish Council for
Civil Liberties
9 –13 Blackhall Place
Dublin 7, Ireland

T: +353 1 799 4504

F: +353 1 799 4512

E: info@iccl.ie

www.iccl.ie



**YES
EQUALITY.**