

ICCL

ANNUAL

REPORT

2021



Irish Council for
Civil Liberties

FOR ALL OUR RIGHTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.



CONTENTS

Message from the Chair	04
Director's Foreword	05

OUR PEOPLE 06

Our Board	07
Our Staff	10

OUR WORK 14

Our Advocacy	15
COVID-19 and Human Rights	16
Criminal Justice Rights	18
Equality and Inclusion	21
Digital and Data	24
Democratic Freedoms	27

OUR COMMUNICATIONS 28

Media	29
Campaigns	30
Events	32
Following	34

OUR FUNDERS 36

Thanks to Funders	37
-------------------	----

OUR FINANCES 38

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



2021 marked 45 years of ICCL. In March 1976, Kader Asmal, Mary Robinson, and a small group of human rights activists founded the organisation “to promote human rights, to protect civil liberties, recover them where they have been removed, and enlarge them where they have been diminished”. We remain inspired by their vision, and we try every day to stay true to it.

2021 brought unprecedented challenges in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic and the concomitant restrictions on rights, and you can read more about the ICCL response in these pages. However, the staff also managed to continue with the work that has been central to ICCL over the last 45 years.

Issues such as the need to reform An Garda Síochána into a modern police force, diligent about respecting human rights, still drive ICCL. The past number of years have brought about huge changes in this arena, and the work of ICCL has been pivotal to that. 2021 was no different.

Over the past 45 years, ICCL has been a driving force for equality. 2021 saw the Government finally bring forward laws which would protect people from attack because of who they are, who they love, or what they believe. ICCL is still working to make sure these laws against hate crime serve the communities they are meant to protect.

ICCL has always supported activists and change-makers in our society. Our programme of work on democratic freedoms is crucial in ensuring that the voices of minoritised communities are heard as loudly and as clearly as the voices of those in big business.

2021 saw our new programme of work reining in Big Tech really take off. ICCL launched court cases in

three countries against the internet business model which uses information about us against us. This future-facing work also includes a new programme on artificial intelligence and the dangers it poses. This is crucial work as governments in this country and the EU struggle to effectively regulate new technologies.

Towards the end of the year, the staff and board came together to reflect on the past five years, and on what is to come. Reflective moments like this are so important, particularly at times of emergency. We discussed how we can build on the progressive changes in Irish society over recent years, including the historic referendums on marriage equality and abortion rights, to help Ireland become a true world leader on human rights and equality.

I'd like to pay tribute to the staff for their continuing work to seek change and hold the state accountable. They have continued to deliver on the normal programme of work, on top of the extra work demanded by the pandemic. The Board have also gone above and beyond what is expected of them to provide analysis and support whenever needed.

Lastly, I want to recognise the support of ICCL members. Not only do our members make a significant financial contribution to the organisation, but they give ICCL a legitimate voice. The past number of years has seen our membership grow significantly, and they have taken collective action on several key issues. As we return to in-person events, we look forward to thanking our members and steering a course for ICCL over the coming years.

Suzy Byrne

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzy Byrne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



For the whole country, 2021 was a year which brought enormous challenges and tested the resilience of our communities, our public services, and our institutions. The terrible impact of Covid and the associated restrictions on ordinary life dominated the year. The lessons to be learned from this period – in terms of our capacity to deal with emergencies, and the resilience of our social services and democratic processes – will take years to learn and will require open and frank processes of accountability. It is reasonable to assume that our institutions of government won't concede that accountability and learning without pressure.

For ICCL, asking the hard questions and demanding accountability as a matter of right is what we are about. Throughout the peak of the pandemic, when there was intense pressure from powerful interests and hostile voices on all sides, ICCL maintained a position of principle in defence of human rights. We made a crucial and consistent argument – that even in a national and international emergency, our Government remains bound by the rule of law and must measure and balance the impact on human rights of all their actions. Our voice helped shape the public debate on critical human rights issues around surveillance, quarantine, and criminalisation of aspects of ordinary life

Not only were we able to maintain our work, our staff managed to expand and increase our legal work, our engagement with the Oireachtas, and to make a greater impact on the protection of rights. We launched major reports on the coroners system bringing attention to a longstanding denial of justice. We launched major projects on hate crime, democratic freedoms, data rights, and artificial intelligence – all cutting-edge issues where ICCL is setting the agenda. And we were centrally involved in the debates on judicial reform, fair trial rights, garda reform, and the human rights impacts of Brexit. We are growing our programmes and our team and we see the next few years as presenting many exciting opportunities for even more impact and reforms across all key areas of ICCL's work.

Liam Herrick

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Herrick', positioned below the name.

WE ARE GROWING OUR PROGRAMMES AND OUR TEAM AND WE SEE THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS PRESENTING MANY EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVEN MORE IMPACT AND REFORMS ACROSS ALL KEY AREAS OF ICCL'S WORK.

OUR

PEOPLE

**IRISH COUNCIL FOR
CIVIL LIBERTIES**



In 2021, thanks to significant new funding streams (see section on Our Funders), we were able to expand our team significantly.

ICCL aims to understand equality and discrimination around all issues and communities we work with. We aim to be a diverse and inclusive team, so that we can represent the views of people from different backgrounds with confidence. However, we're also mindful that we need to be a safe employer for people from diverse backgrounds.

To both those ends, we organised information sessions from colleague organisations who

represent minoritised communities. We're particularly grateful to BelongTo, Pavee Point, and Intersex Ireland who have raised the consciousness of everyone working at ICCL. We will continue this programme into 2022.

2021 also saw the beginning of a suite of wellness measures for ICCL staff. This was in recognition of the difficult context, and of the hard work and dedication of the staff. ICCL now works a 9-day fortnight, with team members rotating every second Friday off. We have attended a series of wellbeing seminars with Act Build Change. 2022 will see the introduction of a wellbeing stipend for staff.

OUR BOARD



Chair of
Executive Board

**SUZY
BYRNE**



Executive
Board Member

**CLAIRE
BRUTON**



Executive
Board Member

**LIZ
CAROLAN**



Executive
Board Member

**DANIEL
HOLDER**



Executive
Board Member

**PROFESSOR
MAURICE MANNING**



Executive
Board Member

**BULELANI
MFACTO**



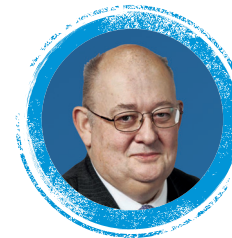
Executive
Board Member

**DR MARIA HELEN
MURPHY**



Executive
Board Member

**DAMIAN
O'BROIN**



Executive
Board Member

**DR MUIRIS
Ó CEIDIGH**



Executive
Board Member

**NATHALIE
WEADICK**



SUZY BYRNE

Suzy Byrne is a disabled woman, activist and broadcaster and has over 25 years paid and unpaid experience in the community and voluntary sectors working on equality and disability issues. She is currently working as a regional manager for the National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities. Suzy has worked in print and broadcast media on LGBT and other rights issues both nationally and internationally. She was co-chairperson of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) during the campaign to decriminalise homosexuality in 1993 and has also chaired the International Lesbian and Gay Youth Organisation. (IGLYO). An award winning blogger she has an interest in social media and harnessing it for social change and campaigning and more recently has worked on disability and reproductive rights campaigns and capacity building amongst disabled people. She has recently been appointed to the board of Iarnród Éireann by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.



CLAIRE BRUTON

Claire Bruton is a practising barrister based in Dublin specialising in employment and equality law. She represents and advises employers and employees before the Irish employment tribunals and civil courts including the Workplace Relations Commission, Labour Court, Circuit Court, High Court and Court of Appeal.



LIZ CAROLAN

Liz Carolan has been working at the intersection of technology, governance and democracy for over 10 years. Her work with government has included supporting elected leaders at the Institute for Government in the United Kingdom and working in the President's Office in Sierra Leone. She established the Open Data Institute's international program, supporting accountability efforts in 30 countries, including leading an open elections project in Burkina Faso. She later helped get the Open Data Charter off the ground as Director of Strategy. In 2018, Liz founded the Transparent Referendum Initiative (TRI) during Ireland's referendum on abortion. TRI built an open database of online political advertising, through a partnership of voters, civic tech groups, academics, parliamentarians and journalists to help uncover disinformation campaigns and attempts at overseas interference.



DANIEL HOLDER

Daniel Holder has been the Deputy Director of the Belfast-based human rights NGO the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) since 2011. He is also the Co-Convener of the Equality Coalition – a network of equality NGOs and trade unions jointly convened by CAJ and UNISON in the north. Prior to this he worked in the NI Human Rights Commission, ran a migrant worker equality project in county Tyrone and worked as a linguist in Havana, Cuba. He has a primary degree in Spanish and Sociology and an LLM in Human Rights Law, both from Queens University Belfast. He joined the ICCL board in 2021.



PROFESSOR MAURICE MANNING

Prof **Maurice Manning** is a former President of the Irish Human Rights Commission, as well as a former Senator and TD. He is currently Chancellor of the National University of Ireland. He has had a long careers as an academic, a writer and a politician and has served on several government and non-governmental organisation boards.



BULELANI MFACO

Bulelani Mfaco is spokesperson for the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland. MASI is a grassroots campaign group which campaigns against direct provision and deportations, defends the fundamental right to seek asylum, and agitates for a more humane asylum process. He cut his campaigning teeth in his native South Africa where from an early age he was involved in protests for adequate housing, access to land, healthcare and improved policing. Bulelani has a Masters in Politics from UCD.



DR MARIA HELEN MURPHY

Dr **Maria Helen Murphy** is an Assistant Professor in Law at Maynooth University who joined the ICCL board in September 2017. Her research focuses on the intersection between technology and human rights with a particular emphasis on privacy and freedom of expression. In addition to publishing in a variety of national and international journals, Maria has authored the book, *Surveillance and the Law: Language, Power and Privacy* (2019) and co-authored the book, *Information and Communications Technology Law in Ireland* (2017).



DAMIAN O'BROIN

Damian O'Broin is the founder and Managing Director of Ask Direct where he leads a team of talented fundraisers to help inspire more people to take action for the causes they care about because he believes that we'll only get a better world if people give their time, money and voice to build it



DR MUIRIS Ó CEIDIGH

Dr **Muiris Ó Ceidigh** holds a Doctorate in Governance from Queens University Belfast. He is a Trustee of the Institute for Conflict Research in Belfast, Northern Ireland. His primary degree was a BA in law and sociology from NUIG and this was followed by an LLB. He also holds an MBA from Trinity College and has also achieved an MSc (Economics) from Trinity. In addition, he has graduated with an MA in Public Management from the Institute of Public Administration. He practiced as a commercial lawyer with A & L Goodbody for several years and is currently CEO of the National Milk Agency. Muiris is a published poet and was recipient of the Francis Ledwidge International Poetry Prize.



NATHALIE WEADICK

Nathalie Weadick is a curator of architecture and spatial practice based in Dublin. She is director of the Irish Architecture Foundation, an organisation committed to communicating the culture of architecture and urbanism to the public

OUR STAFF



Executive Director

LIAM HERRICK



NUI Galway Intern

CHERYL MELLETT



Office and Operations Manager

CHRIS MCCARTIN



Head of Legal and Policy

DOIREANN ANSBRO BL



Criminal Justice Policy Officer

DR ELIZABETH CARTHY



Procedural Rights Fellow

GEMMA MCLOUGHLIN-BURKE BL



Development and Engagement Officer

GRACE TIERNEY



Senior Fellow - Information Rights

DR JOHNNY RYAN FRHistS



Technology Fellow

DR KRIS SHRISHAK



Equality and Hate Crime Policy Officer

LUNA LARA LIBONI



NUI Maynooth Intern

MARGARET MUNTHALI



Policy Officer - Information Rights

OLGA CRONIN



Democratic Freedoms Policy Officer

RONAN KENNEDY



Criminal Justice Policy Officer

SARAH O'MALLEY BL



Communications Manager

SINÉAD NOLAN



LIAM HERRICK

Liam Herrick was appointed to **Executive Director** of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) in November 2016. Prior to his appointment, he worked as Advisor to President Michael D. Higgins for almost three years. Liam was Executive Director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) between 2007 and 2014. He has also worked as the first head of legislation and policy at the former Irish Human Rights Commission and with the Law Reform Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs. He is a former member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), a former Board member of the Children's Rights Alliance and the Minister for Justice and Equality's Strategic Review Group on Penal Policy (2012-2014). Liam graduated from University College Cork with a BCL and LLM and from University College Dublin with a Diploma in Human Rights Law.



CHERYL MELLETT

Cheryl Mellett is a 3rd year mature Law student. She previously worked as a legal administrator for a busy law firm. Cheryl served 10 years with the Defence Forces having served with both the Navy and Army. She is a former director of Athlone Sub Aqua Club and served 7 years as Public Relations Officer. She also volunteers with a number of animal rights organisations and various charitable organisations.



CHRIS MCCARTIN

Chris McCartin joined the ICCL as an Administrative Officer in September 2017 and is responsible for office operations. Chris has previously provided administrative support to key units in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Prior to joining the ICCL, he worked with University College Dublin's University Secretariat to support a number of governance and management committees.



DOIREANN ANSBRO BL

Doireann Ansbro is Head of Legal and Policy for the ICCL. She is called to the Bar of Ireland and to the Bar of England and Wales where she worked in criminal law and asylum and immigration law. She has previously worked as associate legal adviser to the International Commission of Jurists, consultant to the UN Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence and human rights attache to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in Geneva. She holds an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham, an LLB (Graduate) from Nottingham Law School and a BA from Trinity College Dublin.



DR ELIZABETH CARTHY

Dr Elizabeth Carthy joined ICCL as a Policy Officer in 2021. She has worked with legal and women's rights non-governmental organisations' on access to justice and projects addressing gender-based violence in Haiti, Somalia, and South Africa. She is currently finalising a PhD at the University College Dublin Centre of Humanitarian Action exploring aid organisations' efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers. She holds a Bachelor of Civil Law with French Law (BCL) from University College Dublin and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Harvard Law School. She is admitted to practice law in New York State.



GEMMA MCLOUGHLIN-BURKE BL

Gemma McLoughlin-Burke BL graduated from DCU with a First Class Honours Law Degree including a 1.1 in her dissertation on the Irish Rule of Remission in Sentencing. This was subsequently published in an amended form in the ICLJ. She has also published a number of articles in both civil and criminal law and worked as an editor for Decisis Law Ireland. She obtained her BL qualification from the Kings Inns in July 2018 and worked in commercial litigation for a number of years before coming to the Bar. Gemma practices in both civil and criminal law, with a focus on criminal defence and the rights of the accused. She is currently working on a number of high profile matters, including being instructed by the Dublin Senior Coroner in the Stardust Fire Disaster Inquests.



GRACE TIERNEY

Grace Tierney joined ICCL as Funding and Development Officer in November 2018. She previously worked as Fundraising Manager for Suas Educational Development. Grace holds a BA in Economics and Social Studies from Trinity College and a Masters in Public Policy specializing in human rights from University College Dublin. She is currently studying to qualify as a Barrister at the King's Inns.



DR JOHNNY RYAN FRHISTS

Dr **Johnny Ryan** FRHistS is interested in digital rights. *Protocol* named him “the thorn in Google’s side”. *Die Zeit* calls him “Google’s biggest pain”. His previous roles include Chief Policy Officer of Brave, Chief Innovation Officer of The Irish Times, Executive Director of the Innovation Academy at UCD, and Senior Researcher at the IIEA. He has testified at the US Senate, European Parliament, and European Commission. He is the author of two books, and his interventions have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *The Financial Times* and other leading media. He has a PhD from the University of Cambridge.



DR KRIS SHRISHAK

Dr **Kris Shrishak** joined ICCL as a Technology Fellow in 2021. He is focused on fairness, explainability and transparency in algorithmic decision making, surveillance, data rights, and privacy. Previously Kris was a researcher at Technical University Darmstadt in Germany where he worked on applied cryptography, privacy enhancing technologies and Internet infrastructure security.



LUNA LARA LIBONI

Luna Lara Liboni joined ICCL as Policy Officer on Equality and Hate Crime in April 2021. She has previously worked in a wide range of roles with national and international civil society organisations (including the *Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights* and the *Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration*) and at the *Council of Europe Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit*. She holds an LL.M in International Human Rights from the Irish Centre for Human Rights – NUI Galway and a Bachelor’s Degree in International Studies and European Institutions from the University of Milan. Her pronouns are she/her.



MARGARET MUNTHALI

Margaret Munthali qualified as a legal practitioner in Malawi in 2012. She is currently a legislative counsel for the Ministry of Justice but previously worked as a prosecutor for 5.5 years for the Ministry of Justice of Malawi. She is finalising her LLM (International Justice) at Maynooth University and she is a holder of an LLB (hons) degree from University of Malawi as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting from the International Legal Institute in Uganda. She is admitted to practice law in Malawi. Her pronouns are she/her.



OLGA CRONIN

Olga Cronin is the Policy Officer on ICCL's and INCLC's shared Information Rights Programme. Olga worked in journalism for almost 15 years in various newspaper reporting and editing roles and at Broadsheet.ie for the past 10 years. Olga holds a BA in Print Journalism from Western Kentucky University and a MSc in Political Science from Trinity College Dublin.



RONAN KENNEDY

Ronan Kennedy is Policy Officer for the Democratic Freedoms initiative. He previously worked in a number of policy and advocacy roles in Early Childhood Ireland, The Social Democrats and the Institute for British-Irish Studies. He holds an MSc from University College Dublin on the topic of Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict Resolution and his research on democratic inclusion has been published in the British Journal of Politics and International Relations.



SARAH O'MALLEY BL

Prior to joining ICCL **Sarah O'Malley BL** (Sorcha Ní Mháille) worked for the lead victims' counsel at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia. She has previously worked on criminal justice, international law and human rights for NGOs, government and at the UN. She qualified as a barrister in 2018 and practiced criminal law. She holds an LLB in Law and Political Science from Trinity College Dublin and an LLM in International Criminal Law from the University of Amsterdam and Columbia University, New York.



SINÉAD NOLAN

Sinéad Nolan has been with ICCL since 2017. She is a board member of Peace Brigades International (PBI) Ireland, having spent a year working alongside activists at risk in northern Mexico with PBI. She has also worked with Front Line Defenders; with the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights defenders; and with the Caravana Colombiana providing protection to at-risk activists. Sinéad holds an MA in International Security and Conflict Studies and has voluntary experience working in homeless services and with sex workers in Dublin.

OUR

WORK

**IRISH COUNCIL FOR
CIVIL LIBERTIES**



OUR ADVOCACY

Our elected representatives, both TDs and Senators, work together in cross-party Oireachtas Committees. These Committees consider important policy questions and examine new legislation as the government or opposition bring it forward, making recommendations to the relevant Minister.

In 2021, ICCL were invited to speak to 7 Oireachtas Committee hearings. We spoke to the Justice Committee about the proposal to conduct exhumations at Mother and Baby Homes. We spoke to same committee about the urgent need to reform the Data Protection Commission (DPC); about two garda reform bills; and about covid restrictions. We also spoke to the Health Committee about covid restrictions, and we spoke to the Communications Committee about the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill which proposes to reduce harmful online content.

In 2021, we published 4 major reports: one on the government's response to Covid; one on

the coroners system; one on the lack of GDPR enforcement; and one to the UN's Universal Periodic Review of Ireland's human rights record.

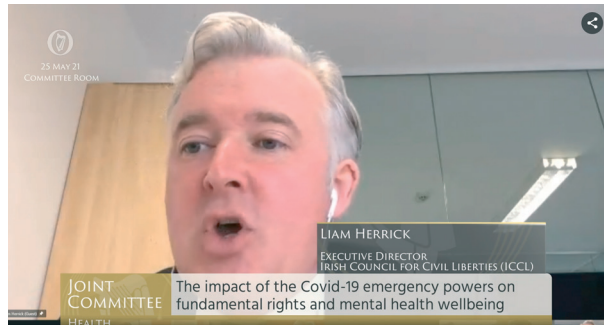
We made 21 written submissions to various Oireachtas committees and other governmental groups. We wrote 320 letters and emails to government officials, EU representatives and various governmental departments.



Dr Johnny Ryan testified at the European Parliament



Doireann Ansbro addresses the Oireachtas Justice Committee



Liam Herrick addresses Oireachtas Health Committee



1

Testimony at the European Parliament



7

Oireachtas Committee appearances



21

written submissions on legislation



4

major reports



320

letters and emails

COVID-19 AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Covid continued to deeply affect all our lives in 2021. The beginning of 2021 saw the longest hard lockdown of the pandemic, taking us to April.

ICCL supported the aims of the Government public health effort, but we monitored the laws and police actions closely to ensure restrictions on our rights were compliant with human rights law.

We wrote to the Government regularly and campaigned when we saw risks to our rights. In May, we published a major report outlining our assessment of the Government's compliance with human rights law in its overall pandemic response.

The extraordinary powers given to the Minister for Health to restrict our rights without consultation with human rights bodies or our democratic representatives were unprecedented. Each time the emergency powers were up for renewal we called for a proper Oireachtas debate. We called for better opportunities for scrutiny of all regulations restricting our rights and we secured a 'sunset clause' – a date at which the legislation would lapse – at each stage.

Throughout the pandemic, ICCL called for a human-rights impact assessment which would assess the impact of restrictions on rights, and whether that impact was proportionate to the threat posed by Covid-19. It would also have assessed whether certain groups suffered more under the restrictions. We continue to call for the pandemic response review to take human rights into account.

We called on Government to ensure mandatory hotel quarantine was subject to appeals, inspections and had human rights protections front and centre. We consistently challenged the use of this detention system and were glad to see it scrapped by the end of the year.

We expressed support for small, safe protests throughout the pandemic in line with decisions by Constitutional courts across Europe that a complete ban on protest was not rights compliant. We continued to call for guidelines for protesters on how to protest safely in a pandemic. We supported protest organisers threatened with prosecution and we welcome the DPP decisions not to prosecute those involved with Black Lives Matters and Sarah Everard demonstrations.

“THE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS GIVEN TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH TO RESTRICT OUR RIGHTS WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES OR OUR DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES WERE UNPRECEDENTED”



COVID PASSES

As society eased out of the long, hard lockdown of early 2021, the prospect of allowing only those who had been vaccinated access to society began to be suggested.

However, little consideration was given to the situation of people who could not get the vaccine for medical reasons or because of their age, or people who would choose not to be vaccinated. Significantly, it was never demonstrated that the system of vaccination certificates would actually help curb the spread of COVID-19.

Across Europe, most countries who introduced systems of access to services on the basis of proof of vaccination or recovery also offered the option of access with a negative covid test. Ireland never introduced incorporated negative tests in the vaccine certificate system, which would have considerably lessened the human rights implications of the system.

“IRELAND NEVER INTRODUCED INCORPORATED NEGATIVE TESTS IN THE VACCINE CERTIFICATE SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLY LESSENED THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE SYSTEM.”

Throughout 2021, ICCL spoke out extensively against the domestic vaccine certificate in the media and in correspondence with members of the Oireachtas. We continually called on the Minister for Health to articulate the purpose of the cert; produce evidence to show it had helped curb Covid-19 transmission; and explain why a testing option was omitted. We also highlighted that people who were unable to get vaccinated, or did not wish to be vaccinated, were being unfairly excluded from society.

Our work on the vaccine pass system culminated in a letter sent to NPHET, copied to the Minister for Health, Taoiseach and Tánaiste on 19 January 2022, calling for its use to be scrapped. We argued that the Government had not demonstrated how the system passed the human rights test. We also said that the Work Safety Protocol spotlighted a glaring discrepancy in Government policy between the Department of Enterprise and Department of Health. The protocol warned employers not to create “a false sense of security or undermining of other public health measures” by focusing on an employee’s vaccination status, while the vaccine pass system for hospitality was doing just that.



IMPACT

On 24 January 2022, after the end of the vast majority of Covid restrictions were announced by the Taoiseach, he cited ICCL’s correspondence at a press conference. ICCL understands our January 2022 letter was discussed at a critical NPHET meeting where it was decided to abandon the certificate system. Legislation had been in place allowing for the cert pass system to be in place until March 2022.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RIGHTS

POLICE REFORM

CCL has campaigned for robust human rights based reform of An Garda Síochána since our establishment. 2021 saw a raft of key police reform legislation published – largely as a result of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland, whose final report ICCL's work informed.

After years of work in this area we are finally seeing real progress. In 2021, three draft laws were published which will shape the reform process and we are working on making sure these Bills place human rights front and centre. We have made submissions to the Oireachtas and Department of Justice on the three Bills and answered questions at Oireachtas Justice Committee Hearings.

We're particularly concerned that the Garda Síochána (Digital Recording) Bill proposes to expand garda surveillance powers despite their poor track record on data protection, including new dystopian proposals on facial recognition technology. We're concerned that the Garda Síochána Powers Bill includes some provisions to expand garda powers of arrest, length of pre-trial detention without judicial scrutiny and access to private data on phones. We are working to ensure that the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill finally delivers effective oversight and complaints mechanisms. We will continue to engage at every step as these Bills progress through the Oireachtas to ensure they require the highest human rights standards from An Garda Síochána.

"ICCL HAS CAMPAIGNED FOR ROBUST HUMAN RIGHTS BASED REFORM OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA SINCE OUR ESTABLISHMENT."



Doireann Ansbro addresses a conference on policing North and South of the border

IMPACT

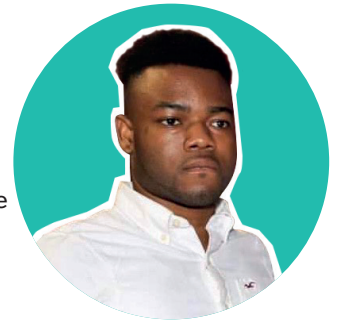
So far in the legislative process, the Oireachtas Committee has taken many of our recommendations on board, including recommending that gardaí would not have the power to compel your phone password without a warrant, protected characteristics should be recorded of those stopped and searched, and that the right to a lawyer in custody would be protected

GEORGE NKENCHO KILLING

The fatal shooting of George Nkencho outside his home in Dublin 15 on 30 December 2020 by members of An Garda Síochána was a painful reminder that Ireland is not immune to the police use of lethal force against minority communities we see in other countries. George was suffering from mental health difficulties at the time he was killed.

In late January 2021 we wrote to GSOC setting out the human rights standards which their investigation must meet, including the requirement to investigate potential racial bias, and expressing concern that eyewitness statements had not yet

been taken from George Nkencho's family. His family were present at the time of his killing.



GSOC responded to our letter but failed to finish the investigation by the end of the year as promised. Since then we've started a research project on racial profiling in policing in Ireland and we've raised our concerns about the Nkencho investigation with the United Nations Human Rights Committee. We are also working in coalition against the far right who launched a smear campaign after the killing which aimed to stir up racist hate.

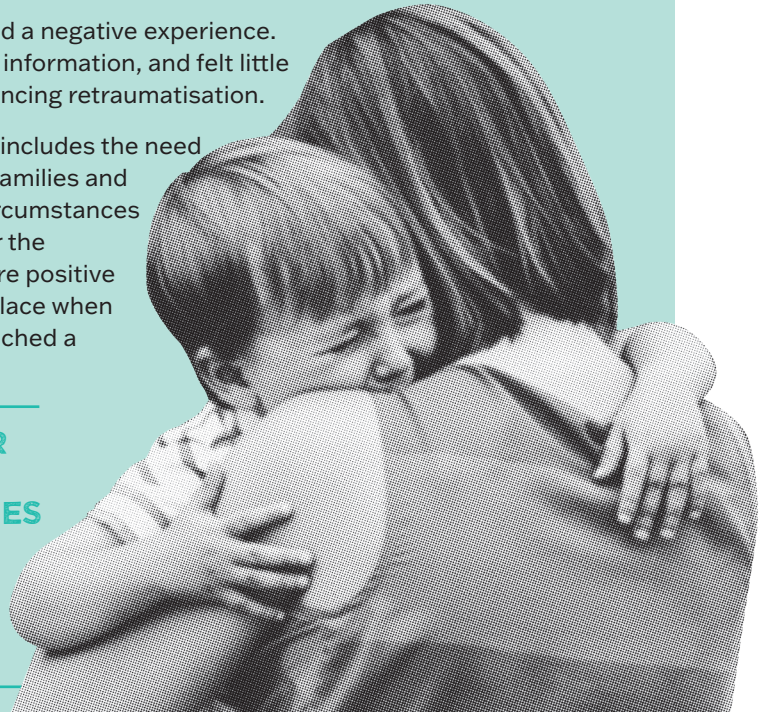
CORONERS REFORM

The coroner system in Ireland is in need of root-and-branch reform. In 2021 we published a report authored by Professor Phil Scraton and Dr Gillian McNaul. They had interviewed families, coroners, lawyers and others involved in the system. Their findings were shocking.

Almost all the families they interviewed reported a negative experience. They felt marginalised, were not given the right information, and felt little closure during the process, sometimes experiencing retraumatisation.

We're calling for full reform of the system. That includes the need for a proper professional national service with families and loved ones of people who die in unexplained circumstances at the centre of the service. The steps taken for the reopened inquests into the Stardust disaster are positive and show that professional inquests can take place when the will and the resources are there. We've launched a campaign and are advocating to politicians.

"THAT INCLUDES THE NEED FOR A PROPER PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL SERVICE WITH FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES OF PEOPLE WHO DIE IN UNEXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE CENTRE OF THE SERVICE"



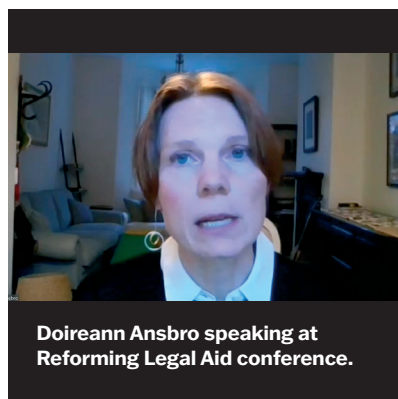
IMPACT

The Oireachtas Justice Committee are now considering if and how to reform the coroners system. There is also a new Bill to reform inquest jury selection before the Oireachtas.

FAIR TRIAL RIGHTS

CCL continues to work with partners across the EU on joint projects aimed at strengthening fair trial rights. We researched evidence gathering procedures and the use of evidence in Court, interviewed lawyers, held conferences and trainings for lawyers and published a joint report with our partners. We called on Government to strengthen legal aid and reform disclosure rules.

Building on Professor Claire Hamilton's 2020 report for ICCL on the exclusion of unconstitutionally obtained evidence, we called on the courts to clarify the impact of the judgment in case of *JC v DPP* on the rights of accused people would be. This judgment would allow evidence gathered in breach of constitutional rights to be admitted in Court if the breach by a Garda was "inadvertent".



Doireann Ansbro speaking at Reforming Legal Aid conference.

IMPACT

In 2022, the Oireachtas Justice Committee recommended investigating the Exclusionary Rule as part of the Garda reform process. A rights-based framework is envisaged for the codification of police powers in the proposed Garda Powers Bill.

SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT

The Special Criminal Court is a non-jury court. It allows people to be convicted based on inferences and secret evidence.

The Special was established in 1972 as a temporary, emergency measure to respond to the threat from paramilitary organisations, mainly operating in Northern Ireland. However, it is still in existence, 50 years after it was set up and 27 years after the state of emergency ended in Ireland. The continuance of this emergency court during peace time is a stain on our rights respecting democracy.

The Special also allows people to be convicted of being a member of an illegal organisation on the "belief" of a garda. If you are sent for trial to the Court by the DPP it is almost

impossible to challenge that decision.

In July 2021 we published our submission to the Group. Our position is as clear as it was back in the 1970s: the non-jury court breaches fair trial rights and is not necessary. We are calling for the court's abolition. In the meantime, we have set out a comprehensive suite of interim measures and steps that can be taken to better protect the right to a fair trial, even where there are serious security concerns, such as the use of special advocates. We will continue to fight for this.

Our position is that the Court should be abolished, but at the very least we demand that there is significant reform of the current system.

IMPACT

After years of ICCL campaigning, an Independent Review Group was established to review the legislation and make recommendations on whether we still need a Special Criminal Court.

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

HATE CRIME

CCL has campaigned for years for laws against hate crime. Hate crimes are message crimes, intended to silence entire communities.

If someone suffers an assault because of who they are, that is not currently tracked by the Irish justice system.

In late 2020 we welcomed the Minister for Justice's announcement that she would bring forward legislation.

In 2021, as ICCL took up the role of chair of the Coalition Against Hate Crime Ireland, the legislation began to pass through the Oireachtas. Together with seventeen organisations representing targeted minoritised communities - including LGBTI+ people, Roma and Travellers, and disabled people - we played a leading role in shaping the discussion around the new law.

We voiced our concerns around the legislation - which also revises the existing provisions on extreme forms of hate speech - in two pieces of policy work: an individual ICCL submission and a joint Coalition Against Hate Crime submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice.

We continue to call on the Oireachtas to make sure they hear from representatives of all affected communities as it considers the Bill. We are also calling on the Government to roll out a public awareness campaign alongside the legislation, as well as the introduction of a solid set of measures needed to implement the law. These include the development of a national action plan against hate crime, training, and better data collection.



“IN LATE 2020 WE WELCOMED THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE’S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SHE WOULD BRING FORWARD LEGISLATION.”

IMPACT

In 2022, when the Justice Committee published their report, most of our concerns and recommendations were taken on board. These included the need to address hate crime and hate speech in separate laws to avoid confusion. They included our call to review the legislation in 3 years and our call to monitor its implementation with groups it would affect. They also took on board our call to ensure that hate crimes against people who are perceived to be members of protected communities are also recognised as hate crimes.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

In 2021, three years after the massive vote for repeal, women and pregnant people were still travelling for abortion.

The obstacles to full reproductive rights include:

- the mandatory three-day waiting period
- the threat of prosecution for doctors
- the lack of country-wide services
- the obligation to attend two appointments
- the lack of care for fatal foetal abnormalities that don't meet the legal threshold for abortion
- the 12-week limit

ICCL is part of the Abortion Working Group. We worked to ensure the government's review of the 2018 legislation focused on removing continuing obstacles to abortion provision.



SAFE ZONES

One of the obstacles to access to treatment and care is the persistence of anti-choice pickets at places where abortion is provided. Not only are these pickets deeply disturbing for people in need of care, they also impede GPs from providing services.

ICCL strongly supports the right to peaceful protest, but this right does not extend to a right to obstruct people accessing their right to access healthcare.

In 2021, we worked closely with Together for Safety, a Limerick based advocacy group seeking safe, protest-free zones around abortion providers. We advocated for *small, narrowly defined* safe zones to protect women and pregnant people's right to access healthcare with dignity, in privacy and safely.

"ICCL STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL PROTEST"



IMPACT

In 2022, thanks to joint efforts, there is a draft law on safe zones passing through the Seanad. We are campaigning for the swift passage of this Bill.

MOTHER AND BABY HOMES

The Mother and Baby Homes Commission published its final report in early 2021.

Heartbreakingly for survivors, the report was fundamentally flawed because it didn't take a rights-based approach to the abuses that took place in the Homes. Survivors were left feeling silenced – yet again – after so many decades of silencing when they didn't see their testimonies reflected.

We told the Government we identified the gravest human rights violations, including torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances, and modern

slavery as having occurred in the homes, and within the broad system of forced family separation.

We called for a new investigation, with real teeth, into the entire system of family separation, including forced adoption, which operated in Ireland in the 20th century.

We wrote to the UN Special Rapporteur on transitional justice and we wrote to the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Trafficking of Children and the Sale of Children to ask them to call on Government to take a human rights based approach to redress for survivors.

“WE TOLD THE GOVERNMENT WE IDENTIFIED THE GRAVEST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT, ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES, AND MODERN SLAVERY AS HAVING OCCURRED IN THE HOMES, AND WITHIN THE BROAD SYSTEM OF FORCED FAMILY SEPARATION.”

IMPACT

A group of 8 UN Special Rapporteurs - including the three we wrote to – wrote to Government highlighting their concerns about the very serious abuses which took place at Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes.

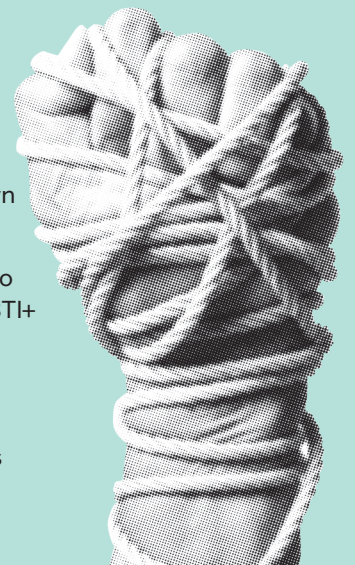
We made submissions on the Institutional Burials Bill, the Adoption and Tracing Bill and on the Redress Scheme for survivors calling for human rights compliance at every step. We saw some reforms to these proposals, but we continue to monitor Government's response and support survivors, where we can.

IRELAND'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD EXAMINED (UPR)

All countries receive recommendations on their human rights record every four years from other UN member states. This process is known as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and in 2021, Ireland was up.

We petitioned other countries to make recommendations for improvement to Ireland. We particularly highlighted the Mother and Baby Homes report, LGBTI+ rights, and the urgent need to reform the Data Protection Commission.

We were glad to see many recommendations to Ireland from other States reflecting our concerns. We are following up on these recommendations in our report to the UN Human Rights Committee (a separate body of experts tasked with assessing our compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) in 2022.



DIGITAL AND DATA

ICCL TAKES ON BIG TECH

ICCL's work to promote and defend everybody's digital rights expanded dramatically in 2021. We launched litigation against the online surveillance industry in Ireland and Germany, led a group of complainants against consent spam in Belgium, and launched a complaint against the European Commission, too.

"WE LAUNCHED LITIGATION AGAINST THE ONLINE SURVEILLANCE INDUSTRY IN IRELAND AND GERMANY, LED A GROUP OF COMPLAINANTS AGAINST CONSENT SPAM IN BELGIUM, AND LAUNCHED A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, TOO."

International press took notice. *Tagesspiegel* nominated ICCL's Senior Fellow, Dr Johnny Ryan, as one of the digital people who shaped 2021. The leading German broadsheet *Die Zeit* ran a full page profile on Dr Ryan and dubbed him "Google's biggest headache". ICCL's digital work featured in *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *Le Monde*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *El País*, *Corriere della Sera*, and other major press across the globe.

This year we also built a budget to examine artificial intelligence and the hidden algorithms that shape modern life, thanks to the European AI Fund. In September we hired technologist Dr Kris Shrishak as ICCL's Technology Fellow in the area of Artificial Intelligence. In October, we began intensive engagement with European legislators to fix serious loopholes in a new European regulation to govern high risk artificial intelligence system

THE FIGHT AGAINST ONLINE SURVEILLANCE ADVERTISING

ICCL supported lobbying efforts to insert a ban on online surveillance-based advertising into the new EU Digital Services Act. We provided Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) with research and expertise. In February, Dr Johnny Ryan gave the keynote at the launch of the European Parliament "Tracking-Free Ads Coalition", and testified at the European Parliament in November.



"ICCL SUPPORTED LOBBYING EFFORTS TO INSERT A BAN ON LINE SURVEILLANCE-BASED ADVERTISING INTO THE NEW EU DIGITAL SERVICES ACT"

IMPACT

In 2022, we convinced 28 European privacy watchdogs to make a joint decision against the so-called Transparency and Consent Framework.

In June we launched a major court case in Hamburg that takes aim at Google, Facebook, Amazon, Twitter, Verizon, Microsoft and the entire online advertising/tracking industry by challenging industry rules. We litigated in Hamburg because it allows us to target the industry standards body IAB TechLab. IAB TechLab is based in New York, but that does not protect IAB TechLab from European law. We can litigate against it in Hamburg because it has a European operation there. This case is ongoing. We also have other related litigation in other jurisdictions, too.

Throughout the year we led a group of complainants in a major complaint against consent spam popups, at the Belgian Data Protection Authority. The consent popup system known as the “Transparency & Consent Framework” (TCF) is on 90% of the European internet. The tracking industry claimed it was a measure to comply with the GDPR. Today, GDPR enforcers ruled that this consent spam has, in fact, deprived hundreds of millions of Europeans of their fundamental rights. That’s because it didn’t matter whether internet users consented to cookies or not, their information was still being shared.

ENFORCING EU DATA LAW - REFORMING THE DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION

We are pressing at national and EU level to ensure there is effective enforcement of GDPR, which requires reform of the Irish Data Protection Commission (DPC). Europe is unable to police how Facebook, Microsoft, Apple, and other Big Tech firms use people’s data because of the DPC’s central role as lead enforcer of EU data protection law.

Throughout the year we appealed in writing to the Government for an independent review to strengthen and reform the DPC. We backed this up with evidence of the current problems with enforcement.

First, in February we revealed years of continuing delay and mounting costs in a critical DPC internal reform project. A former DPC employee told us that using the DPC’s antiquated system to organise and handle complicated GDPR complaints handling and investigations is “like trying to run your payroll system with an abacus”.

Then, in April, ahead of an important Oireachtas hearing about the DPC’s effectiveness, ICCL published a report on the Economic & Reputational Risk of the DPC’s Failure to Uphold EU Data Rights. ICCL very strongly criticised the DPC at the hearing. This led to the Oireachtas Justice Committee issuing a highly critical report on the DPC that urged the same corrective measures that ICCL has called for.

Finally, in September, we published *Europe’s Enforcement Paralysis*, which examined every data protection authority in Europe, and every cross-border decision made under the GDPR so far. The report made it inescapably clear that the Irish DPC is the bottleneck of enforcement of EU data protection law against Big Tech. This report framed the discussion at European level about Ireland’s role as the bottleneck of enforcement of digital rights.

We are in ongoing correspondence with European Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, regarding his failure to act against Ireland. In November, ICCL launched a complaint against the European Commission at the EU Ombudsman. This complaint has led to a request to Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, from the EU Ombudsman. The matter is ongoing.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND ONLINE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

ICCL advocated against the Online Safety and Media Bill to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht.

We do not believe the approach to harmful online content taken in the Bill is the correct approach. Experts like Frances Haugen have warned that content moderation i.e., identifying and removing harmful content, will not work. Not only could it be ineffective, but it poses a significant threat to freedom of expression.

Opaque algorithms and recommender systems select what people see in their social media feeds, and what groups and discussions will be promoted to them. It is now known that they amplify unlawful material at an enormous scale. The vast majority of content on platforms is never seen by many people.

Therefore, identifying and removing this material will not address the harm caused by the distribution and amplification of harmful content.

ICCL is urging the Irish Government to focus on ensuring that the new European legislation addresses the virality and amplification of harms caused by opaque algorithms and that recommender systems which use personal data should be *off* by default.

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE APPROACH TO HARMFUL ONLINE CONTENT TAKEN IN THE BILL IS THE CORRECT APPROACH.

SOLIDARITY WITH ROHINGYA PEOPLE

One example of where opaque algorithms and recommender systems can cause real world harms is in Myanmar, where Rohingya Muslims allege genocide against them. Facebook has admitted they had a role in the atrocities, by allowing hateful content to spread on the platform.

In December, ICCL assisted a number of young Rohingya in the process of making a complaint against Facebook Ireland. We worked with Victim Advocates International (VAI) who submitted the complaint to the OECD National Contact Point (NCP) in Ireland.

The remedy the complainants are seeking is education facilities at the Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh. Facebook is refusing the request which would cost a mere \$1m. ICCL assisted VAI to get media coverage around the complaint and raise awareness of it with other NGOs, civil society groups in Ireland. ICCL also wrote to Irish members of the UN Security Council to make them aware of the complaint while highlighting that Ireland's handling of the complaint may impact Ireland's reputation.



The substance of the Rohingya complaint is tied directly to ICCL's proposed amendment on the EU Digital Services Act (to turn recommender systems which use personal data *off* by default). It demonstrates why tackling algorithm/recommender system opacity is so important and how the current business model of social media, such as Facebook, is fundamentally harmful.

DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS

FUNDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

2021 was a period of consolidation for ICCL's work on democratic freedoms. Our work co-ordinating the Coalition for Civil Society Freedom (CCSF) stepped into high gear in January 2021 with the publication of the draft Electoral Reform Bill. The primary functions of this Bill are to establish an Electoral Commission, regulate online political advertising, and update the voting registration process.

Our focus in the Bill was to undo the undemocratic restrictions which limit the ability of civil society to raise funds and engage in the democratic process.

IMPACT

After extensive engagement with the committee examining the draft Bill, the resulting report containing our recommendation to address these restrictions was published in July. The redrafted Bill will be published in early 2022. A number of ICCL standalone recommendations on the other aspects of the Bill such as the composition of the Electoral Commission and the need to regulate "issue-based advertising" were also included in the report.

WHY CAN'T CHARITIES WORK ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

2021 also saw a continuation of our work to have the Charities Act amended to include the promotion of human rights as a valid charitable purpose. The Coalition for Civil Society Freedom met with Minister Joe O'Brien in September 2021 and set out our case for reform. We are confident that the groundwork we have put in with the Minister and his officials will pay-off when draft legislation is published in 2022.



IMPACT

In 2022, the Government published a Charities Amendment Bill which would include human rights as a charitable purpose.

OUR

COMMUNICATIONS

**IRISH COUNCIL FOR
CIVIL LIBERTIES**



MEDIA

2021 saw ICCL make its mark on the international media scene. Our work taking on Big Tech consistently generated coverage in The Financial Times, The Washington Post and The Guardian, as well as in non-English language media such as *El País*, *Le Monde* and *Der Spiegel*.

The work which generated the most coverage in the domestic media was on the covid pass system. Our positions on the policing of the lockdown and protest rights also featured widely in the media. Our non-covid work, such as on garda bodycams, coroners reform, DPC reform, and the Mother and Baby Homes also garnered a lot of media attention.



THE IRISH TIMES



Irish Examiner



thejournal.ie



The Sunday Business Post



FT FINANCIAL TIMES



IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION

ICCL language on balancing rights, as well as the need for proportionality assessments, was used by government and media when discussing a range of Covid responses, including mandatory quarantine and protest rights. In 2021, we also noted media began reporting on the blurring of lines between law and guidance, something ICCL had been saying since the beginning of the pandemic.

CAMPAIGNS

WHERE EVERYONE IS SAFE (OPCAT)

Liberties.eu supported ICCL staff, with training and funding, to run a “values-based” campaign. We focused on our long-running campaign to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which would compel the government to introduce rights-based inspections across all places of detention.

We focused on three areas: garda holding cells, Direct Provision, and nursing homes. We partnered with representative organisations (PILA, Abolish Direct Provision, and Age Action) on each leg of the campaign.

Our messaging reflected our values – we focused on people’s right to live in safety and with dignity, particularly in their own homes.

975 people signed a letter to the Justice Minister.

We also petitioned other States to call on Ireland to ratify the OPCAT during the Universal Periodic Review. Many of them did.



“WE FOCUSED ON THREE AREAS: GARDIA HOLDING CELLS, DIRECT PROVISION, AND NURSING HOMES. OUR MESSAGING REFLECTED OUR VALUES WE FOCUSED ON PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO LIVE IN SAFETY AND WITH DIGNITY, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR OWN HOMES.”

IMPACT

In late 2021, at the UPR, Ireland committed to ratifying OPCAT by the end of the year.

NO RENEWAL WITHOUT REVIEW (EMERGENCY COVID POWERS)

ICCL supported the aims of the Government public health effort, but we monitored the laws and police actions closely to ensure restrictions were compliant with human rights law.

The lack of democratic oversight was one area where Government consistently failed. In March 2020, it was acceptable to introduce emergency laws. By January 2021, nine months into the pandemic, steamrolling emergency laws through the Oireachtas was an affront to our democracy. Never

before had so much power been concentrated in one pair of hands (the Health Minister’s).

We campaigned for a rights-based review of the emergency powers every time they were renewed. We garnered our members and supporters to take action, and they sent over 15,000 emails to their elected representatives.

The powers have now lapsed. ICCL is still campaigning for a rights-based review to form part of a covid review process.

BUDGET 2022

I CCL published our first ever submission to the Government Budget process in early September. We sent it to all TDs and Senators and followed up with an in-person event on 7 October for members of the Oireachtas Justice Committee and other key targets for our work.

We called for investment in four areas:

- **THE CORONERS SYSTEM**
- **AN ELECTORAL COMMISSION**
- **REFORMING THE DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION**
- **POLICE AND JUDICIAL REFORM**

We continue to campaign for investment in all four areas.



ICCL PUBLISHED OUR FIRST EVER SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET PROCESS

SAFE ACCESS ZONES

Our joint campaign for safe access zones touched the hearts of our supporters, many of whom had been actively involved in the campaign to repeal the 8th. They sent 984 emails to their TDs and Senators calling for safe access to abortion care.

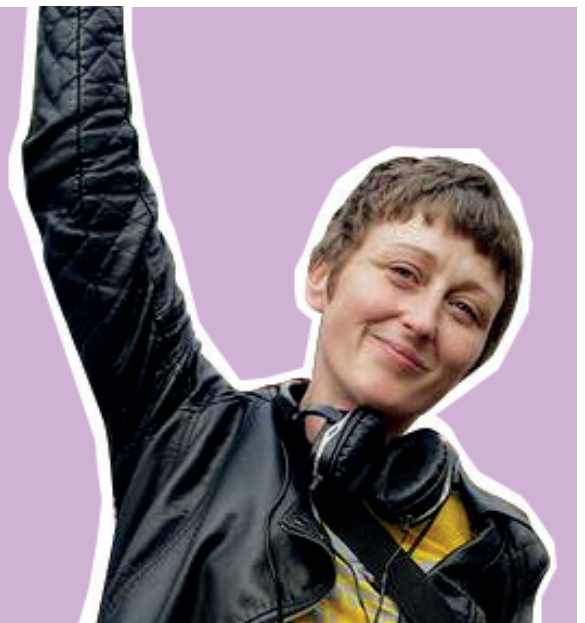
IMPACT

Thanks in no small part to the actions of our supporters, draft legislation on safe access zones is now passing through the Oireachtas.

JUSTICE FOR DARA

In 2021, we were pleased to be able to close our campaign for justice for Dara Quigley. We had worked closely with Dara's family to generate media coverage, a Dáil discussion, and a social media conversation. In late 2020, legislation was brought forward to deal with image-based sexual abuse, to which Dara had been subjected. Almost 4000 people had signed our petition to Minister McEntee calling for justice for Dara's death.

In 2021, Dara's family received an apology from the Garda Commissioner. An inquest into Dara's death also took place. Dara's family told us these actions made a real difference to their loss.



EVENTS

ICCL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM AWARD

in association with the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival

On 9 March in an online event, *The Dissident*, a documentary film directed by Bryan Fogel, won the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) Human Rights Film Award 2021. The winning film was decided by a five-strong jury chaired by advocate and educator **Sinéad Burke**. Sinéad was joined on the panel by actor **Brían Gleeson**, campaigner and podcaster **Andrea Horan**, Direct Provision activist **Bulelani Mfaco** and film director/writer **Aoife Kelleher**.

The Dissident beat off competition from five other films: *The Reason I Jump*; *Father*; *A Worm in the Heart*; *Limbo*; and *Acasa My Home*



Sinéad Burke

FILM SCREENING: LIMBO

To take the ICCL Human Rights Film Award nominees to wider audiences, ICCL partnered with arts organisations across the country. Newbridge's Riverbank Arts Centre screened *Limbo* on 18 October. *Limbo* deals with issues of migration and integration in Scotland. Afterwards, ICCL's Bulelani Mfaco and Liam Herrick chaired a discussion of the issues raised.

FILM SCREENING: A WORM IN THE HEART

As part of the Dublin Arts & Human Rights Festival, we screened *A Worm in The Heart* following by a Q&A with the film-makers, plus our Russian colleagues in the Agora human rights organisation. *A Worm in the Heart* followed the lives and stories from across Russia's LGBTI+ communities. ICCL's Suzy Byrne chaired the discussion.



Brian Gleeson

REPORT LAUNCH: DEATH INVESTIGATIONS, CORONERS' INQUESTS AND THE RIGHTS OF THE BEREAVED

We launched the coroners report with an online event on 21 April which attracted 130 participants, including prominent journalists. We held a briefing for the families that morning and received very warm feedback on this.

The launch of the report and our call for reform received huge media attention. The report featured on the front pages of both *The Irish Times* and *The Examiner*. Co-author Phil Scraton spoke to RTE's Claire Byrne and provided an opinion piece for *The Examiner*. He later spoke to Today FM's Last Word. *The Examiner* provided further coverage inside the paper and after the launch. Liam Herrick spoke to *Newstalk*. The story was covered by *The Journal* and by *breakingnews.ie* as well as various local radio stations. Midlands 103 carried an interview with Shane Tuohey's family.



REPORT LAUNCH: HUMAN RIGHTS IN A PANDEMIC

ICCL published our comprehensive overview of the Government's response to Covid-19 and human rights on 3 June. The 100-page report was accompanied by a media briefing.

The launch of *Human Rights in a Pandemic* was very well-attended by supporters and media. The Policing Authority Chief Executive Helen Hall and CEO of Age Action Ireland Paddy Connolly also spoke at the launch.

Media coverage of our covid work was consistently high throughout the year, and the launch of our report was no different.



Age Action CEO Paddy Connolly spoke at the launch of the covid report

JUDICIAL CONDUCT SEMINAR

Together with NUI Galway and the University of Limerick, as part of a joint project on strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in Ireland, on 17 September and on 22 October ICCL explored reforms needed to improve judicial education and training in Ireland, and the judicial conduct framework, respectively. These events brought us closer to two key target audiences: legal professionals and students.

REFORMING LEGAL AID

On 28 October, ICCL hosted a number of expert speakers on the need to reform the legal aid system. There were 104 online attendees, many of whom are in one of our target audiences: legal professionals.



Sarah O'Malley and FLAC's Ellis Barry speaking at seminar to reform Legal Aid



PSNI @ 20

On 5 November, we co-hosted an event with our Northern Irish sister organisation, the Committee on the Administration of Justice. The event was both online and in-person, which was very exciting after over a year of online events.

UN Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism Fionnuala Ní Aoláin was the keynote speaker. The second leg of this two-part event series will be held in Dublin in March 2022. This series of events has helped to further establish ICCL at the centre of public and political discussions on police reform.





SUPPORTERS

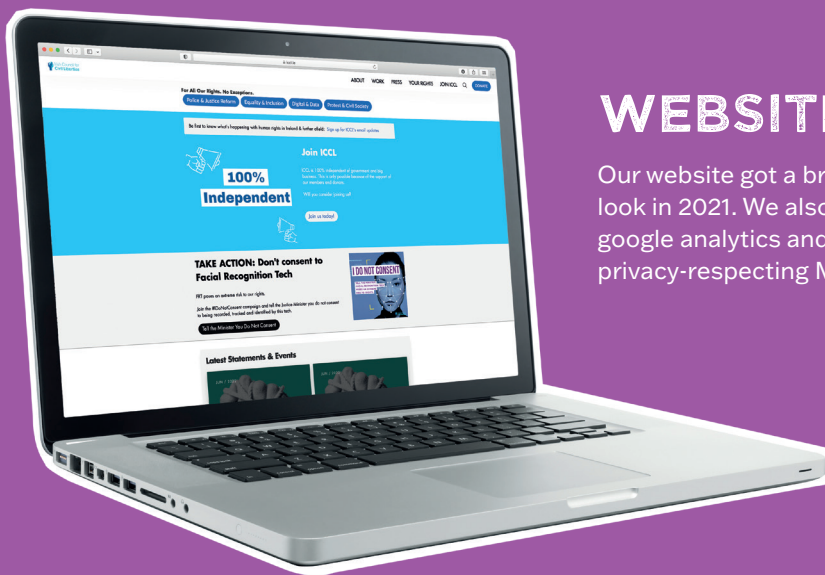
SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2021, we continued to grow our following across social media. Facebook saw particularly strong growth, despite a policy decision to stop using targeted advertising. This decision was taken because of the unethical way people's data is harvested and broadcast to advertisers.

ICCL has been using LinkedIn to help us hire people for a number of years. In 2021, we also used it to share our messaging, and we are seeing good results.

ICCL's comms team is well-attuned to the needs and interests of our audiences across social media platforms and we tailor our messaging to size.

	TWITTER FOLLOWERS	13.2K	▶	YEAR END	15.5K
	FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	4733	▶	YEAR END	5884
	INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS	805	▶	YEAR END	1091
	LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS	N/A	▶	YEAR END	1041



WEBSITE

Our website got a brand new fresh look in 2021. We also stopped using google analytics and began using privacy-respecting Matomo instead.

MEMBERSHIP

156 new members joined ICCL's movement for human rights in Ireland in 2021. We are thrilled to welcome new members – their support not only allows us to fund core staffing posts such as communications and fundraising, but our members add legitimacy to our voice.

In 2021, we designed more opportunities for our supporters and members to take action on issues that matter to them. We based our approach on our founders' vision of an organisation that is rooted in world-class legal analysis, but that is powered by a movement of members who care deeply about human rights. We designed campaigns that captured the public imagination, and people all around the country took a stand with us.

We also initiated a piece of research about how we engage with our members and supporters with Ask Direct. Ask Direct have been talking to

our staff, our members and our supporters to find out what ICCL's value is for them. In 2022, we'll be taking the results of this research on board to engage in an even stronger way with our members, supporters and followers.

“WE BASED OUR APPROACH ON OUR FOUNDERS’ VISION OF AN ORGANISATION THAT IS ROOTED IN WORLD-CLASS LEGAL ANALYSIS, BUT THAT IS POWERED BY A MOVEMENT OF MEMBERS WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. WE DESIGNED CAMPAIGNS THAT CAPTURED THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION, AND PEOPLE ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY TOOK A STAND WITH US.”



OUR

FUNDERS

**IRISH COUNCIL FOR
CIVIL LIBERTIES**



THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

CCL's work is supported by a number of funding sources – we receive grants for specific projects, support from a variety of charitable trusts and foundations, and gifts and donations from individual supporters. The generosity of individuals and trusts and foundations who believe in our work and in the furthering of human rights in Ireland means that we can remain fully independent of government and business. This independence allows us to be fearless in our advocacy for the rights of everyone, no exceptions.

The majority of ICCL's funding comes from charitable trusts and foundations. ICCL relies on a diverse funding base thanks to the generous support of several organisations committed to supporting human rights and civil liberties around the world. We are grateful to them for their continued support of our work, and their belief in our vision for Ireland.

ICCL would like to thank Sigrid Rausin Trust, The Rowan Trust, Open Society Foundations, the Community Foundation for Ireland, the Minderoo Foundation, Luminate's Reset initiative, the European AI Fund, and the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations for their ongoing support for our work.

In 2021 ICCL's work was also supported by the European Commission for several research projects and the Irish Human Rights and Equality

Commission for work on a Know Your Rights Guide for persons seeking international protected status.

We would like to again extend a special thanks to the Friends of ICCL, a key network of supporters who provide substantial financial support to ICCL on an ongoing basis. It is the generosity of committed supporters that allows ICCL to build a sustainable funding base and to continue to champion human rights and civil liberties in Ireland. Over the past five years the support of the Friends had been crucial to the growth of ICCL as they provide critical funding for our core campaigning work.

We are committed to building a movement for progressive action for human rights and civil liberties, as our founders did 45 years ago. Our members and supporters have never been more important to us and we are proud to have welcomed many new faces this year. This growing ICCL family not only generously supported our work through donations and membership fees, but also ensured that ICCL's voice was stronger than ever. So many people added their voices to campaign calls this year by emailing elected officials, signing petitions, and backing our work. We're able to affect real and lasting change because of you, thank you!

To our members and supporters – you are the heart of ICCL, and we are so grateful to have you by our side. Thank you.

TO OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS - YOU ARE THE HEART OF ICCL, AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE YOU BY OUR SIDE. THANK YOU.



OUR

FINANCES

**IRISH COUNCIL FOR
CIVIL LIBERTIES**



IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021)

	2021	2020
	€	€
Income		
Membership fees	17,623	13,656
Other Income	0	0
Total Income	<u>17,623</u>	<u>13,656</u>
Expenditure on Activities		
Bank Charges	486	324
Research and Policy Development	10,000	17,135
Campaigning and Communications	0	0
Total Expenditure	<u>10,486</u>	<u>17,459</u>
Surplus/Deficit of Income over Expenditure	<u>7,137</u>	<u>(3,803)</u>

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
(AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021)

	2021	2020
	€	€
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	23,494	6,357
Payables: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Accruals	10,000	0
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	13,494	6,357
Reserves		
Funds brought forward	6,357	10,160
Income Statement	7,137	(3,803)
Members' Funds	13,494	6,357

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED
BY GUARANTEE

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021)**

	2021	2020
	€	€
Income		
Total Income*	988,243	609,414
Expenditure		
Costs of Campaigns, Publications, Awareness and Fundraising Activities	(904,842)	(548,534)
Support Costs (Governance, Administration and Capacity Building Costs)	(72,542)	(68,413)
Total Expenditure	<u>(977,384)</u>	<u>(616,947)</u>
Deficit/Surplus Before Tax	10,859	(7,533)
Tax on (Deficit/Surplus)	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income	<u>10,859</u>	<u>(7,533)</u>

* For full breakdown of income please see page 42

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED
BY GUARANTEE

**INCOME BREAKDOWN
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021)**

	€
Luminate Group	€347,775
Open Society Foundations	€151,472
Sigrid Rausing Trust	€136,398
International Network for Civil Liberties Organisations	€76,753
Rethink Ireland	€69,041
Community Foundation for Ireland	€47,841
European Commission	€45,215
Network for European Foundations	€35,842
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	€19,500
Donations	€16,705
Trust for Civil Liberties, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	€12,360
Bar of Ireland	€10,000
Membership Fees	€10,000
Other (Training, Consultancy, Seminar Expense Reimbursement)	€3,540
Department for Foreign Affairs Communicating Europe Initiative	€3,000
Civil Liberties Union for Europe	€2,800
Total	<u>€988,243</u>

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED
BY GUARANTEE

BALANCE SHEET
(AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021)

	2021	2020
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	4,270	125
Current Assets		
Receivables	124,471	48,951
Cash and Cash Equivalents	342,626	361,550
	<u>467,097</u>	<u>410,501</u>
Payables: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(393,567)	(343,684)
Net Current Assets	73,530	66,817
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	77,800	66,941
Reserves		
Retained Surplus	<u>77,800</u>	<u>66,941</u>



Irish Council for Civil Liberties,
Unit 11, First Floor, 34, Usher's Quay,
Dublin 8, D08 DCW9

Phone: +353-1-9121640

Email: info@iccl.ie

www.iccl.ie