

ICCL REPORT TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

PRESS BRIEFING

JUNE 2022

The organisations endorsing this report are: Age Action; Alliance for Choice; BelongTo; Committee on the Administration of Justice; Children's Rights Alliance; Clann Project; Coalition Against Hate Crime Ireland; Digital Action; Digital Rights Ireland; Doctors for Choice; Doras; European Centre for the Study of Hate; Free Legal Advice Centres; Immigrant Council of Ireland; Independent Living Movement Ireland; Irish Network Against Racism; Inclusion Ireland; Intersex Ireland; Irish Penal Reform Trust; Irish Traveller Movement; LGBT Ireland; Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland; Migrant Rights Centre; Nasc; National Traveller Women's Forum; National Women's Council; NXF; One Family; OutHouse; Pavée Point; Transgender Equality Network Ireland; Together for Safety; Transparency International; Treoir; Women's Collective Ireland.

The UN Human Rights Committee is the body of experts which monitors the implementation of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**. Ireland ratified this Treaty in 1989.

The Committee conducts periodic reviews of every country party to the Treaty. **Ireland is up for review from 4-7 July 2022.**

The State submitted a report to the Committee. The Committee also accepts shadow reports from civil society organisations. Across the globe, these shadow reports are an opportunity for society to challenge any narratives put forward by government.

ICCL submitted a shadow report to the Committee. We make observations and recommendations under 20 Articles, including on **the right to life, the right to freedom from torture and the right to a fair trial.**

Find the report here: <https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ICCL-report-to-UN-Human-Rights-Committee-2022.pdf>

ICCL works closely with organisations who represent minoritised communities in Ireland. **37 organisations have endorsed the recommendations** ICCL makes in relation to the communities they represent.

All in all, we make **221 recommendations** for government to bring Ireland in line with its international human rights obligations.

ICCL staff will attend the review in Geneva in July. They will be available for comment as the State undergoes the review.

For queries: info@iccl.ie or call 087-4157162

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

GENDER EQUALITY

- We recommend there is full accountability for the **cancellation of 999 calls** about domestic violence.

RIGHT TO LIFE

- We recommend that the GSOC investigation into the killing of **George Nkencho** be empowered and resourced to conclude the investigation. Subject to the outcome of this, we recommend a wider inquiry into systemic racism and the introduction of anti-racism training in schools.
- We recommend steps **to end the homelessness crisis and the drugs crisis**. One of these steps could be a Citizens Assembly on the decriminalisation of drugs.

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

- We make seven recommendations on the system of forced family separation including the **Mother and Baby Homes, Magdalene Laundries, and forced adoption**. These are ongoing rights violations of the most serious kind and must be dealt with immediately. Our chief recommendation is for a rights-based investigation be commissioned to investigate the entire system.
- We recommend an immediate **end to unnecessary surgeries on intersex infants and an end to conversion practices** (incorrectly known as conversion “therapy”). Ireland recently scored zero for intersex rights in a [Rainbow Europe report](#) on LGBTI+ rights.

RIGHT TO LIBERTY

- In response to a proposal to introduce a **168 hour (one week) period for detention** for questioning, we recommend a 24 hour limit to such periods of detention without judicial warrant.

RIGHTS OF NON-CITIZENS

- We recommend an immediate **end to Direct Provision**. We also recommend that an independent, rights-focused complaints system be immediately established.

RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

- We recommend an immediate **abolition of the Special Criminal Court**. Failing that, we recommend the introduction of jury protection across the entire Courts system, and an end to “belief” and secret evidence at the Special.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

- We recommend better **protections against police surveillance**, including a ban on Facial Recognition Technology for law enforcement.
- We recommend an urgent independent review of the Data Protection Commission to enable **enforcement of Big Tech**.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INCITEMENT TO HATRED

- We recommend that the ill-conceived Online Safety and Media Bill be scrapped, and the focus should instead switch to recommender systems which promote hateful content.
- We also recommend that laws against hate crime be introduced, taking into account the needs of the communities who are affected by such crimes.

Find the full report here: <https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ICCL-report-to-UN-Human-Rights-Committee-2022.pdf>

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ABOUT ICCL

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) is Ireland's oldest independent human rights body. We have been at the forefront of every major rights advance in Irish society for over 40 years. ICCL helped legalise homosexuality, divorce, and contraception. We drive police reform and defend suspects' rights during dark times. In recent years, we led successful campaigns for marriage equality and reproductive rights.