

Practices of cooperation, coordination

Ireland

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The Children First Interdepartmental Implementation Group

The Children First Interdepartmental Implementation Group (CFIDIG),¹ which includes membership of the CFIDIG includes all government departments, Tusla, the HSE and An Garda Síochána, is an important development in the area of children's rights and protections.²

Following the Children First 2015 legislation, the group has a substantial workload and acts as a key point of collaboration across a wide range of areas. The group has a statutory basis in the Act. The CFIDIG will be required to keep under review the implementation across the Public Sector of the Children First legislation and the Guidance, and to report on an annual basis to the Minister. The Children First Act requires every department to prepare a Sectoral Implementation Plan as soon as may be after commencement of Section 27 of the Act.

While departments and agencies are responsible for child protection issues arising in their own sphere of responsibility, the CFIDIG provides a forum at which child safeguarding issues with a cross-departmental focus can be raised as required. The group publishes a detailed annual report with the workload and achievements of the group and member departments in the period.

National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II 2024-2028

<https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/national-traveller-and-roma-inclusion-strategy-ii-2024-2028-2ec7d39a-17ce-472c-a451-ea.pdf>

Travellers and Roma are amongst the most marginalised groups in our society. NTRIS II seeks to tackle this reality head on, and builds on NTRIS I. The Strategy addresses the key issues and themes that were highlighted during discussions with the Traveller and Roma organisations, and Departmental and State Agency stakeholders, through the NTRIS Steering Committee and also through a comprehensive consultation process held with both communities at local level.

¹ Ireland, [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth](#) (2023) [Children First Interdepartmental Implementation Group \(CFIDIG\)](#), 7 July 2023.

² Ireland, Office of the Ombudsman for Children (2020) [Unmet needs: A report by the Ombudsman for Children's Office on the challenges faced by children in Ireland who require an assessment of their needs](#). October 2020.

A high-level Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Traveller and Roma communities, and statutory and non-statutory bodies will oversee NTRIS II. The Steering Committee will have a more strategic role than previously and will have the scope to address any issues that arise in the delivery of actions encountered across any of the nine themes of the Strategy, either on a thematic basis or in terms of the work of a particular Department or State Agency. It will also address the issue of intersectionality.

Actions under the Strategy seek to challenge attitudes and to address the inequalities that face both communities:

- to tackle racism and discrimination in all their forms;
- to ensure public services are delivered in a culturally appropriate way;
- to enable Travellers and Roma to participate fully in all aspects of social, cultural and economic life;
- to improve access to accommodation;
- to support health and wellbeing;
- to ensure progression through education;
- to build opportunities in training and employment; and
- to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Under the strategy an annual report will be presented to the Minister and to the Cabinet Committee on Social Affairs and Public Services. There will also be provision for an annual forum at which the Traveller and Roma communities and their representatives will have the possibility to raise questions and to seek further information.

The Disability Advisory Committee

The Disability Advisory Committee established by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission under its statutory powers directly advises the Commission on the fulfillment of its independent monitoring role set out under CRPD Article 33.³ The appointments to the Disability Advisory Committee are for a three-year term and are

³ Ireland, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)(2019) [New Departure on Rights of Persons with Disabilities as Formal Committee Begins Work in Monitoring Ireland's Obligations](#), 28 January 2019.

based on an open competitive process managed independently by the Public Appointments Service. The Committee was established in 2019 and is now in its second term.

The Public Sector Duty

All public bodies in Ireland have responsibility to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans. This is a legal obligation, called the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, and it originated in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014.

It contains two distinct but interrelated specific statutory obligations (duties) –Section 42 (1) and Section 42 (2).

Section 42 (1)

Requires public bodies to integrate human rights and equality issues into every aspect of how public bodies performs their functions on an ongoing basis.

Section 42 (2)

Requires public bodies to assess relevant human rights and equality issues, set out policies, plans and actions to address in its strategic/corporate plan. Then to report on developments in relation to addressing equality and human rights issues identified in its Annual report.

The two duties place different but interrelated obligations on public bodies as compliance with the obligations under section 42(2) may assist in ensuring compliance with section 42(1).

National Action Plan Against Racism 2023-27

This National Action Plan was developed by a wholly independent Anti-Racism Committee, submitted to Government in March 2023 and launched on 21 March, the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

A Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism, Dr Ebun Joseph, was appointed on the 1st July 2024, for a period of four years until mid-2028. The Special Rapporteur will monitor progress towards the objectives of the NAPAR, will make an annual report to

the Minister, and this report will also be submitted to the relevant Oireachtas Committee.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/national-action-plan-against-racism/>

Ireland is also finalising new equality strategies on LGBTIQ+ inclusion, and on Women and Girls. These both follow on from previous strategies.