



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
38TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP
IRELAND'S 3RD UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

STATEMENT BY

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Mental Health Reform (MHR) is Ireland's national coalition on mental health with 77 member organisations and thousands of individual supporters. We are also a member of the Disability Participation and Consultation Network.

We note that Ireland still has work to do to entrench human rights into law and fully develop a human rights culture towards people living with disabilities and in particular persons with psycho-social disabilities. Ireland has developed a number of laws, policies and strategies that could have a positive impact on the lives of persons with disabilities. However, there are key concerns in relation to implementation, transparency, and accountability. Without sufficient resources, staffing, prioritisation and legislative change, Government strategies do little for the day-to-day realities of living with a disability in Ireland.

Ireland has ratified the UNCRPD, however, the Optional Protocol has still not been ratified. Persons with disabilities have no recourse for complaints without this mechanism.

We ask the honourable delegates to strongly urge Ireland to ratify the optional protocol and put in place specific timeframes and implementation measures for full adherence to the UNCRPD.

Although recommended by the committee in 2016 Ireland's Mental Health Act is still not updated. As it stands, Ireland has been operating an acute mental health care system that has been non-compliant with human rights standards. While we warmly welcome the publication of the Heads of Bill to reform the outdated Mental Health Act 2001, there remains concerns on its full compliance to human rights standards. In that regard, we ask the honourable delegates to strongly urge Ireland to:

- Ensure right to advocacy to be defined within the legal framework on mental health
- Put in place a national advocacy service for children and young people using public mental health services
- Extend the use of Advance Healthcare Directives to those with psychosocial disabilities and to 16 and 17-year olds
- Eliminate restrictive and coercive practices
- Establish an Independent Complaints Body
- Establish clear timelines for the implementation of this updated legislation

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Go raibh maith agaibh.