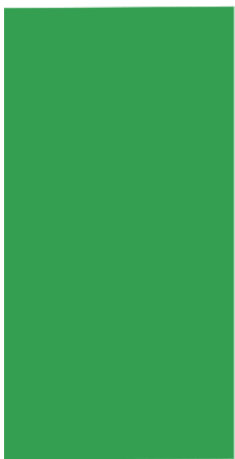




**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Ireland's Report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



This is an Easy to Read Report

What is in this report?

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Part 1

About this report



The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also known as the UNCRPD.



The UNCRPD is an agreement between countries.



It says what countries have to do to make sure that persons with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.



It says they must have rules and laws to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.



The UNCRPD makes sure that persons with disabilities are treated equally and fairly.

What is this report about?



In March 2018, Ireland agreed to put the UNCRPD into action.



This is Ireland's report to the United Nations on the UNCRPD.



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

The report is put together by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



It says what Ireland is doing to make the lives of persons with disabilities better.



It says what Ireland is doing now and what we plan to do in the future.

What is this report about?



Ireland has to send this report to a committee at the United Nations.



The committee will look at what we say and tell us what we could do better.



This is an important way to make sure the rights of persons with disabilities are protected in Ireland.



Different government departments, groups and organisations are helping with the report and plan.



It is important that everyone has the chance to know what is in the report and to tell us what they think.

Reading this report



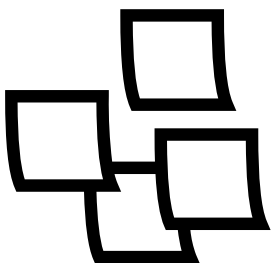
This report is an Easy to Read copy of the main report for the United Nations.



There is a lot of information in the main report.
This report is shorter.



There is still a lot of information in this report too.
You may want to read a few pages at a time or ask someone to support you to read it.



The UNCPRD covers different rights.
The rights are the headings in part 2 of this report.



There are examples under each heading to show some of the steps being taken to put the UNCPRD into action.
More steps are given in the main report.



This report talks about important changes to laws and policies.
Some laws and policies will help us to protect rights and to put the UNCRPD into action:



The National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 to 2021

This is a plan to make sure that persons with disabilities have their needs and rights met.



The Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015 to 2024

This plan supports persons with disabilities to get paid jobs.

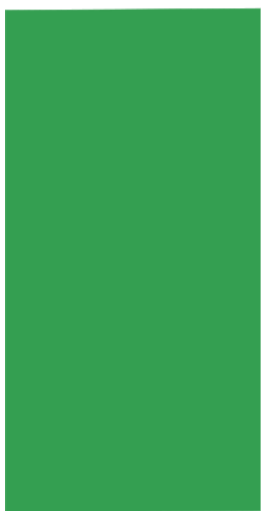


The Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015

This law looks after the rights of persons that need support to make decisions.

Part 2

Ireland's work on rights in the UNCRPD



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Equality



In Ireland, we have laws so persons with disabilities are treated equally and fairly.

One example is the Equality Acts.



The laws say that a person cannot be treated differently because they have a disability.



The laws say that public organisations must protect rights and treat persons with disabilities fairly.



The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission checks that public organisations are looking after people's rights.



The Disability Act supports persons with disabilities to take part in everyday life.

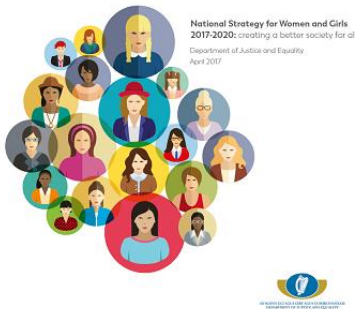
Women with disabilities



In Ireland, women and girls with disabilities have the same rights as other people.



The Government knows that women and girls with a disability face many barriers. We are working to change this.



The National Strategy for Women and Girls is a plan to support women to take part in Irish society.



Ireland has signed up to laws which help stop violence against women.



Groups have been set up to look at women's health and money.

These groups talked about issues for women with disabilities.

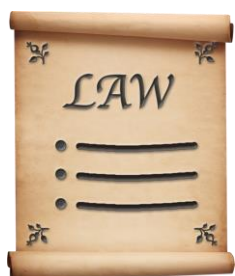
Children with disabilities



The Government put together new policies to make sure children have good health supports and a better life.



A plan, called AIM, makes sure that children with disabilities can use the same childcare as other children.



We have laws that look after the needs of children. For example, laws on adoption, education and family relationships.



There is a plan to support children and young people to take part in decisions and have a say.



The HSE and TUSLA are working together to support children and their families.

Raising awareness



The Government wants everyone to understand that persons with disabilities have equal rights.



There is a Minister in the Government responsible for Disability.

The Minister at the moment is Ms. Anne Rabbitte.



The National Disability Inclusion Strategy has actions on raising awareness.

One action is sharing the life experiences of persons with disabilities.



An organisation called See Change is helping to change the way people think about mental health.



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

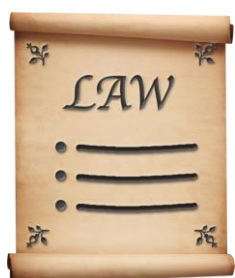
The National Disability Authority (NDA) encourages and pays for research on disability.

It organises a survey of public attitudes to disability in Ireland every five years.

Accessible services



The Government wants to make sure that persons with disabilities can use services, information and buildings.



Laws from Ireland and Europe can support this.
The Disability Act is one important law.



This law says that public services should have an Access Officer.

This person supports persons with disabilities to use the service and get information.



There are laws on Universal Design and a Centre for Universal Design at the NDA.

Universal Design makes services, information and buildings easier for everyone to use.



The Centre for Universal Design gives advice and encourages Universal Design. For example, by giving awards to excellent designs.



The NDA supports public organisations and checks that they follow laws on making services accessible. They ask persons with disabilities about their experience of using services.



Building laws in Ireland say that buildings must be easy for persons with disabilities to get into, move around in, and use.



The Office of Public Works is working to make public buildings more accessible.



The NDA is working with Age Friendly Ireland. They are checking how easy it is to walk around eight Irish towns and cities.



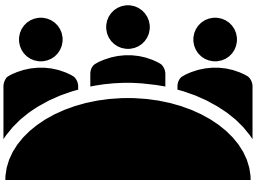
Accessible Transport

Ireland has a transport policy called 'Transport Access for All'.

Public transport should be easy for everyone to use.



The Accessibility manager at the National Transport Authority makes sure that disability groups have a say in public transport plans.



Persons with disabilities are on Boards at the National Transport Authority, public transport providers, Taxi Advisory Committee and Railway Safety Advisory Council.



Policies and laws say that all new types of public transport should be accessible.

For example, new buses, trams, taxis, coaches.

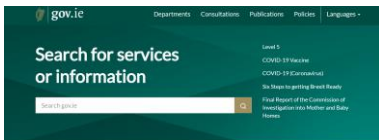


Some persons with disabilities can get free public transport for them and someone who is travelling with them.

Accessible Information



The Government says that public service websites should be designed so everyone can use them.



A new website called gov.ie will have information from all government departments.

It has been designed using Universal Design.



There is a person in the HSE that gives advice and support so all persons can use health services.



The Public Libraries website has an eLibrary service with free online services.



The Transport for Ireland website gives information to customers about accessible travel across Ireland. Information on public transport should be easy for everyone to understand.

Right to Life



The right to life is part of the Irish Constitution.
Everyone has this right.



Ireland signed up to the European Convention on
Human Rights.
This protects the right to life.

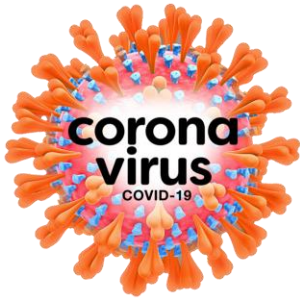
Risk and Emergencies



Ministers and government departments work
together to plan for emergencies.



In emergencies, radio and TV stations make sure
that important information is given clearly.
Information is given with subtitles and Irish Sign
Language.



As this report is written, Ireland is dealing with a virus called coronavirus or COVID-19.



The Government is taking actions to make sure the needs of persons with disabilities are being met.



A National Public Health Emergency Team for COVID-19 was set up in January 2020. The team is known as NPHE.



Government departments, the HSE and public organisations are working together to support persons with disabilities during COVID-19.



Ireland is trying to keep disability, health, education and community services working during COVID-19.

Being equal before the law



The Irish Constitution says that all persons are equal before the law.

This includes persons with disabilities.



Ireland is working on important changes that will support persons with disabilities to make decisions.



We will make sure that persons with disabilities get the right supports to make decisions.



15 guides called Codes of Practice have been put together by the HSE and the NDA.

These will help put the new law into action.

Access to Justice



The Irish Government will make sure that persons with disabilities have the same rights to justice as everyone else.



Persons with disabilities can use legal aid – this is money to pay for advice on the law or go to court. The Legal Aid Board has an Access Officer.



The Courts Service is making its buildings, information and systems more accessible. For example, ramps, signs and quiet rooms.



New laws are planned so that deaf persons and those with mental illness can be on a jury.



The NDA and other organisations are supporting people working in the justice system to understand the needs of persons with disabilities.



Being free and safe



European laws and the Irish Constitution say that each person has a right to freedom.

Persons with disabilities have this right too.



Your freedom cannot be taken away unless there is a very good reason.

All the rules on keeping a person safe must be followed.



There is a review of the Mental Health Act.

This is a law that protects rights if a person has a mental illness.



Persons with disabilities have the same rules and rights as others if they are in prison.

For example, the right to healthcare or mental health supports.

Freedom from cruel treatment, violence and abuse



There are laws to protect people from cruel treatment. The Government wants to protect persons with disabilities from abuse and violence.



The HSE put together a new consent policy. A person must give their consent for care, treatment, or to be part of research.



There is a new Safeguarding policy. A safeguard is a law or rule that tries to stop someone from being harmed.



The National Vetting Bureau checks on persons working with children or adults with a disability.



There are guidelines for schools and HSE services to keep children safe and stop bullying in schools.

A right to full control over your own body



Capacity means being able to understand information and make your own decisions.



Persons with disabilities have the same rights as others when it comes to decisions about health. They need support if they do not have capacity.



A person has to give consent for medical treatment. They can say yes or no.



There are laws and rules on consent when a person needs support with their mental health. For example, with medication or therapies.

Freedom of movement and nationality



Persons with disabilities in Ireland have the same right to be Irish as other persons.



They can apply for and get a passport.
The Passport Office has a new online service which is easier for everyone to use.



All Irish persons have the right to freedom of movement.
This means you can go wherever you want.



Persons that want to come and live in Ireland are not treated differently if they have a disability.



In Ireland, all births must be registered.
Births of children with a disability must be registered.

Living independently and being part of the community



Persons with disabilities have the right to live in the community.

Policies and plans in Ireland support this right.



Persons with disabilities are moving from disability centres to ordinary homes.

In 2019, over a hundred people moved into the community.



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

The NDA looked at the costs and the good changes that happened for people moving to the community.



The Government had a housing plan for persons with disabilities from 2011 to 2016.

A new plan is being put together.



Housing and Disability Groups have been set up in local areas.



The NDA gave advice on Universal Design homes. They also gave advice on housing supports for persons with Autism and with Dementia.



There are grants for older persons and persons with disabilities.

This money can be used to make a house more suitable for the person and their needs.



The Transforming Lives Programme wants to build better services for persons with disabilities.



New policies and plans support adults with disabilities to live the lives they want to live.

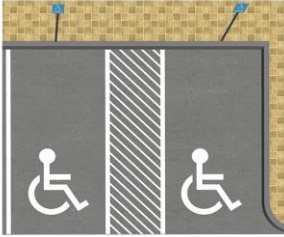
For example, New Directions and Personalised Budgets.



Therapy services for children and young persons are being organised differently.

This is known as Progressing Disability Services.

Personal mobility



The Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme gives money back if a person with a disability buys or uses a special vehicle.



Persons living in Ireland with certain disabilities can get a Disabled Person's Parking Badge. You can use these if you are a driver or passenger.



Persons with disabilities who use guide dogs are supported to use regular services.



The HSE gives aids and equipment to persons with disabilities.

If the person buys the equipment themselves, they may be able to get money back.



There is support for persons with disabilities to buy and use technology.

Freedom of expression and access to information



Persons with disabilities have the right to express themselves, to give their opinions and to be active citizens.



Public services must make their information easy for everyone to understand, for example, websites and apps.



TV and Radio stations must follow rules on using subtitles, sign language or audio.



Irish Sign Language is a language of Ireland.

The Sign Language Interpreting Service works to make sure a person gets sign support if they need it.



Lámh signs are used by children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Ireland.

The National Council for Special Education pays for Lámh training for schools and teachers.

Respect for Privacy



All persons in Ireland have a right to privacy.



There are laws to protect personal information. For example, a law known as the General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR.



Doctors and health workers must keep a person's medical information private.

There are laws to support patients to see their medical records if they want to.



HIQA has standards for privacy in residential houses.

They check these standards are in place when they are inspecting services.

Respect for the home and family



A law brought in in 2017 improves persons with disabilities rights to relationships and family.



This law looks at a person's ability to make choices rather than their disability.



Persons with disabilities can apply to adopt or foster a child.

They need to meet the same rules as other people.



Women with disabilities have the same rights to information and services if they are pregnant.

They have the same right to end a pregnancy.



Since 2018, people who get Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit can get free GP care.



A plan called First 5 says that all babies and young children should get good healthcare.



Children with disabilities get the same family supports as all other children in Ireland. They may get extra support from GPs, Public Health Nurses or support teams.



The Disability Act says all children with disabilities should have an assessment of their needs. This says what health and education supports they need.

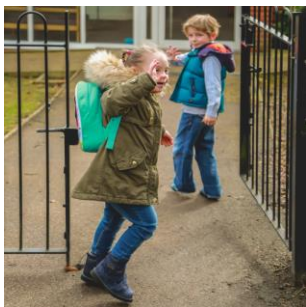


There are money supports for the families of persons with disabilities, for example, social welfare payments and grants.

Education



Persons with disabilities in Ireland have the same right to education as everyone else.



The Education Act says that a school cannot stop a child from joining just because they have a disability.



A law called EPSEN looks at the rights of children with disabilities to go to school with children that do not have disabilities.



The Government is looking at different ways to put this law into action.



The National Council for Special Education gives advice to schools, and is putting together a policy on special schools and classes.



Different plans and policies are supporting all children to get an early education.



There are a number of grants for schools to help them pay for the supports that students with disabilities need.

For example, technology or special teachers.



The Government gave extra money in the Budget to pay for Special Needs Assistants and teaching supports for students with disabilities.

There will be over 18 thousand special needs assistants supporting students in 2021.



Ireland wants to train teachers to support all students in the best way.



Our policies and plans will support more students with disabilities to stay in school and go on to college and university.

Health



One of the main ideas in the National Disability Inclusion Strategy is health and wellbeing.



Sláintecare is a ten-year programme to change health and social care services.

Work has started to look at the challenges in supporting persons with disabilities.



There are different Government policies to support people to have the best health they can.

For example, Healthy Ireland.



These policies cover areas such as exercise, looking after teeth, weight, mental health and sexual health.



The HSE set up a project to look at Autism.

It tells service providers and the public about the experience of people with Autism.

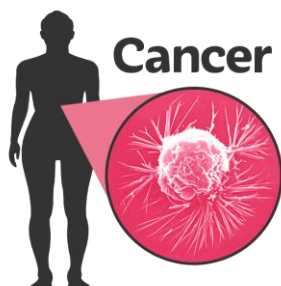


Ireland has a National Physical Activity Plan.

This aims to get everyone doing more exercise, including persons with a disability.



Public Health Nurses check on babies and young children to make sure they are developing well.



The National Screening Service checks for some cancers and eye problems.

Persons with disabilities can use this service.



There are plans to support persons to stay healthy and well as they get older.

Persons with disabilities and persons with dementia are part of these plans.



Laws and policies make sure that persons with disabilities can use the same health services as everyone else.

Getting better after and living with an illness or injury



Ireland wants to support persons with a disability to be as independent as possible.

With the right supports, persons with disabilities experience good changes in their life and face less barriers.



There is a report that looks at the services a person needs if they have an accident or brain injury.



A group was set up in 2017 to help put the report into action.

A new National Rehabilitation Hospital was built and opened in 2020.



Ireland wants to make sure that if workers are sick or injured, they can keep or go back to their jobs.

We have policies to help with this.

Work and Employment



Equality laws have been changed so persons with disabilities get a fair chance to work.



The Comprehensive Employment Strategy is a policy to support persons with disabilities to work. This plan wants to build skills and independence, to give the right supports and to make work pay.



Employers must put supports in place so a person with a disability can apply for and take up a job.



If a person is sick or injured, they must get the right supports to get back to work when they are ready.



There are policies and plans to encourage people to get into work and to stay in work.

For example, The Pathways to Work 2016-2020.



There are laws to make sure that persons with disabilities are treated fairly and equally when they apply for a job or take up a job.



Persons with disabilities can join a trade union in Ireland.



The NDA checks on the number of persons with disabilities working in the public sector.



The Government pays for the Willing Able Mentoring programme.

This is a work placement that supports students with disabilities who have left college to get a job.



A project called Ability was set up to support over 2 thousand young persons with disabilities.

Young people, from 15 to 29 years of age, were supported to move from school to college, training or work.

A good enough standard of living



Ireland understands that everyone has the right to a good enough standard of living.



There are a number of payments and benefits that support persons with disabilities.

For example, Disability Allowance, Blind pension, Illness benefit, Fuel allowance, Household benefits.



There are payments for persons that are injured at work.



The NDA paid for research on how much extra it costs to live with a disability.



The National Advocacy Service is an independent service, paid for by the Government.

It gives information and support to persons with disabilities.

Taking part in politics and public life



The Government will support persons with disabilities to be active citizens.



The National Disability Inclusion Strategy says that the Government will make voting and voter information more accessible.



Persons with disabilities have the right to vote. They may need supports such as accessible polling stations, easy to read ballot papers, or to send their votes in the post.



The Government will change laws that stop people with mental illness standing for election to the Dáil.



In 2020, the Department set up a new Disability Participation and Consultation Network. This Network will make sure that persons with disabilities have a say in laws and policies.

Taking part in cultural life, hobbies, leisure and sport



Many individuals with disabilities have been supported to take part in their communities.

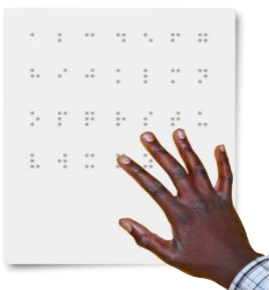
There has been a special programme for this since 2018.

Arts & Disability Ireland

Arts and Disability Ireland is an organisation that supports persons with disabilities to take part in the arts.



The Disability Act says that heritage sites must be easy for persons with disabilities to visit.



EU laws say that books and other works should be accessible to persons who are blind or have difficulties with their vision.

For example, in Braille, large print or audio.



Money can be given so Irish Sign Language users can take part in social, educational and arts events .



Guides and standards have been put together on Universal Design in tourism services.

The Government's Tourism Action Plan said accessible tourism is very important for visitors.



Sport Ireland has put together a policy on persons with disabilities taking part in sport.



Sport Ireland and C.A.R.A., working with persons with disabilities, put together a Sport Inclusion Disability Charter.

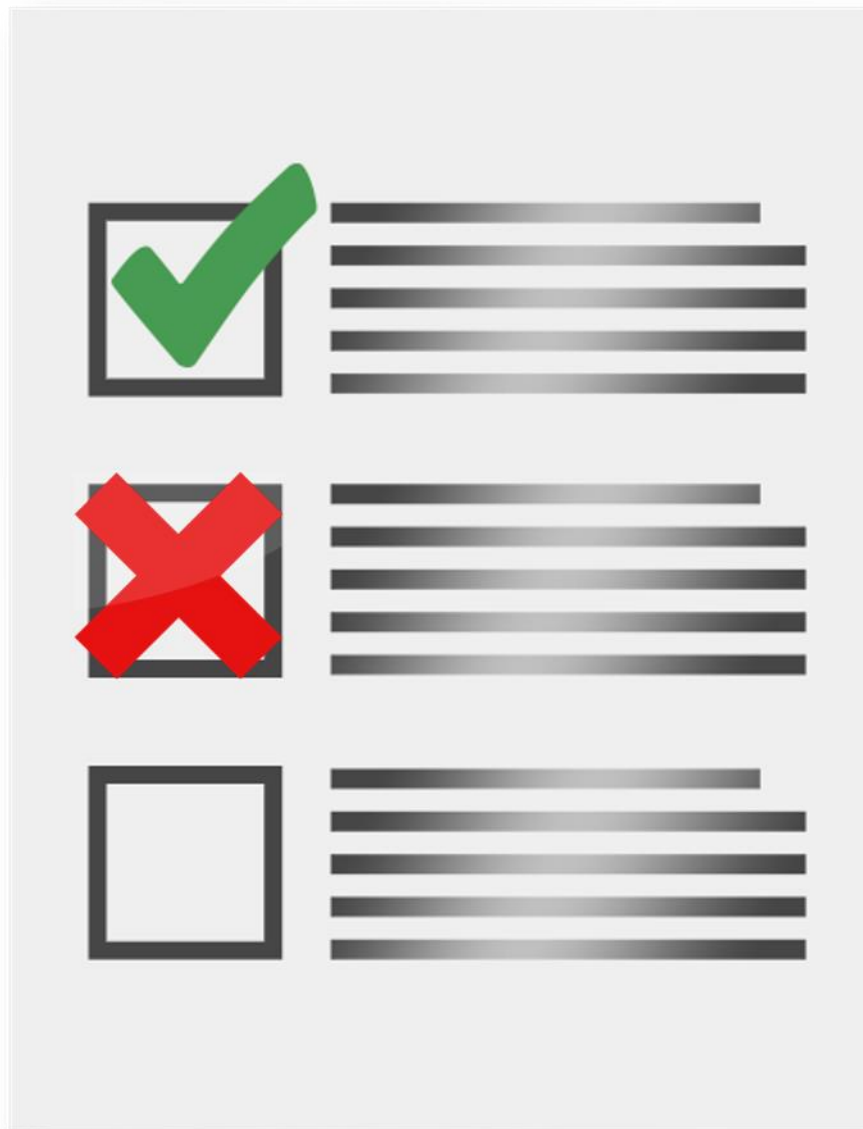
By signing up, sports teams and organisations are saying that they will make sure everyone can take part in their sports.



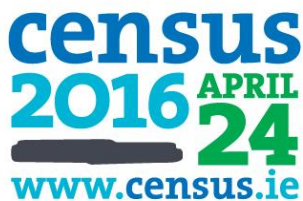
Organisations like Special Olympics, Paralympics Ireland and local sports clubs are supporting persons with disabilities to play and compete in sports.

Part 3

Collecting information and checking how we are doing



Collecting information



The National Census is a study of the people in Ireland and can tell us the number of persons with a disability.

The next Census will have more questions on disability.



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

The NDA gives advice on collecting and looking at information on disability.



Ireland has policies and laws on doing research and on collecting and managing information.



Two studies, one on growing up in Ireland and one on getting older, give information on the experiences of persons with a disability in Ireland.



IDS-TILDA is a study on getting older in Ireland. It is about persons with an intellectual disability and is the first of its kind in Europe.

Working with other countries



There is a policy called 'A Better World'.
This says how we will work with other countries.



It says how we will give money and supports to
countries that need our help.



Help can mean supporting programmes for persons
with disabilities or promoting rights.

dóchas

Dóchas is an organisation looking at disability
issues in different countries.

There is a working group to do this.



Other Irish organisations are helping to support
persons with disabilities in poorer countries.

Checking how we are doing with the Convention



An Roinn Leanáí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth will be the main contact on the UNCRPD.



All Government departments will work together on plans and actions around disability.



The National Disability Inclusion Strategy says we must have a plan for putting the UNCRPD into action.



The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission will get the job of checking how we are doing with the UNCRPD.



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

This Easy to Read Report was put together by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



Ace Communication and Experts by Experience helped with this report.

