



Violence against Women

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is a landmark treaty of the Council of Europe which opens the way for creating a legal framework at a pan-European level to protect women from all forms of violence, and to prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence. Ireland signed the Convention in November 2015, but it has not yet been ratified.

In 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee expressed its concern that, in Ireland, 'domestic and sexual violence against women remains a serious problem', and has noted the 'lack of a comprehensive data collection system on violence against women and at the existence of administrative and financial obstacles for marginalized women to access essential services'. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights made similar observations in its examination of Ireland's Third Periodic Report in 2015.

Recommendations

Ratify the Istanbul Convention

Ensure consistent, independent, data collection on domestic and sexual violence

Make legislative provision to allow migrants who experience domestic violence to apply for independent residence permits

Adequately fund domestic and sexual violence support and advocacy services

There is currently insufficient data on the nature and extent of domestic violence in Ireland that is necessary in order to develop evidence-based policies, plan service provisions and identify gaps or discrimination in services.

Eligibility for safety orders should apply to non-cohabiting couples. Offences of stalking should be enacted in order to protect women in Irish society.

Migrants experience difficulties in obtaining permits.

Although many women are not reporting violence and cannot do so as a result of funding cuts.

Facts and Figures

In 2014, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre saw a dramatic increase of 30% regarding first time contacts compared to 2013, and a 14% increase in the number of calls specifically relating to adult rape.

In 2014, 46,137 calls were made to violence against women helplines.

About Your Rights. Right Now

Your Rights. Right Now is a coalition of 17 Irish NGOs, trade unions and civil society groups established by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) in 2010 to coordinate the civil society response to Ireland's first examination under the Universal Periodic Review. This group was re-convened in 2015 in advance of Ireland's second examination. The coalition conducted a number of general and thematic consultations and invited written submissions to inform its report which was submitted to the UN in September 2015.

Members of the coalition are:

- Age Action
- Educate Together
- Free Legal Advice Centres
- Gay and Lesbian Equality Network
- Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Irish Congress of Trade Unions
- Irish Council for Civil Liberties
- Irish Family Planning Association
- Irish Penal Reform Trust
- Irish Traveller Movement
- Mercy Law Resource Centre
- National Women's Council of Ireland
- NUI Galway, Centre for Disability Law and Policy
- Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre
- Transgender Equality Network Ireland
- Union of Students in Ireland
- Disability Federation of Ireland

For more information see www.rightsnow.ie