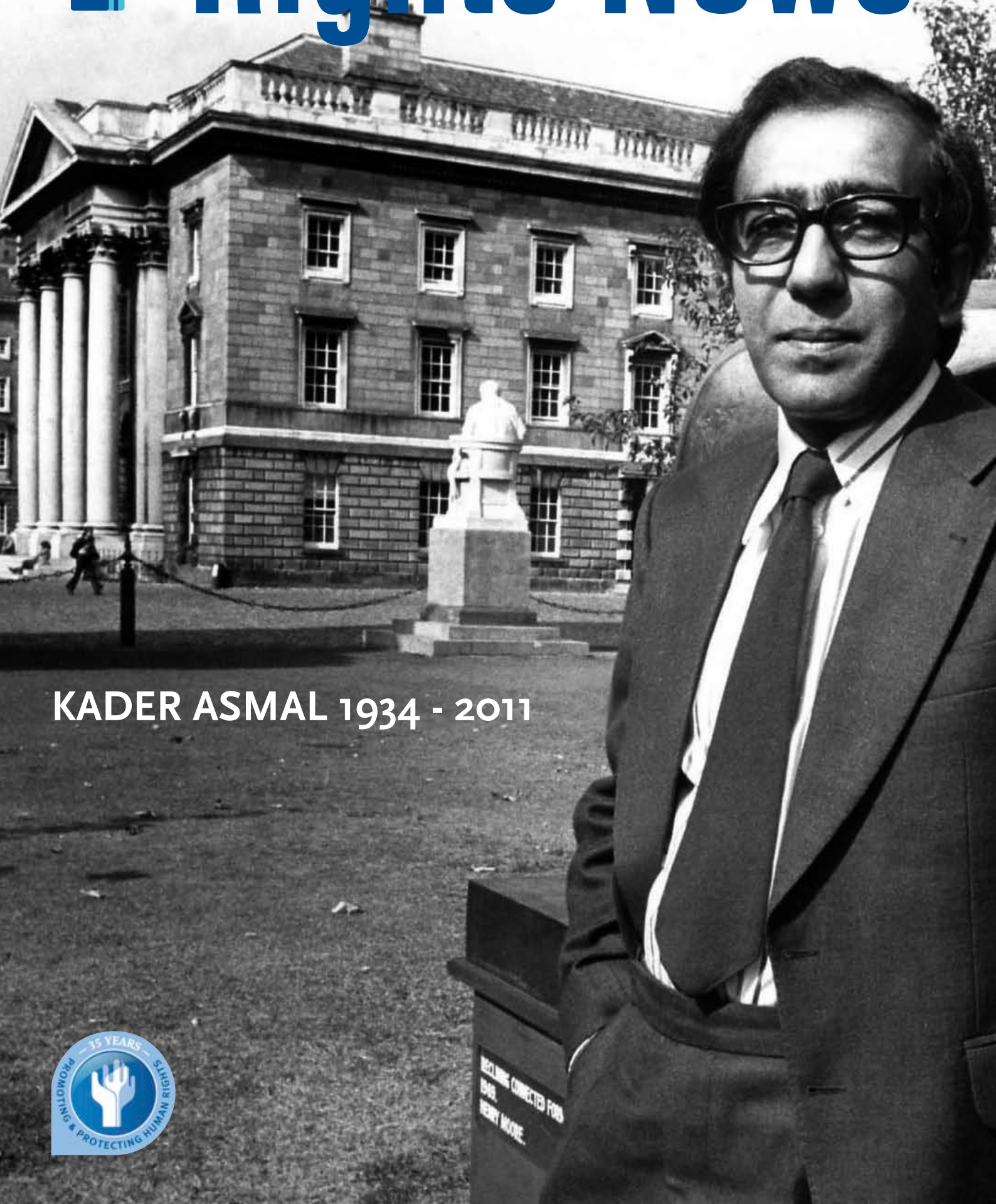




Rights News

Summer 2011



KADER ASMAL 1934 - 2011



BECLAMING CORRECTED FOR
1980.
HENRY MOORE.

ABOUT THE ICCL

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) is Ireland's leading independent human rights watchdog, which monitors, educates and campaigns in order to secure full enjoyment of human rights for everyone. Founded in 1976 by Mary Robinson and others, the ICCL has played a leading role in some of the most successful human rights campaigns in Ireland. These have included establishing an independent Garda Ombudsman Commission, legalising the right to divorce, securing more effective protection of children's rights, decriminalising homosexuality and the introduction of enhanced equality legislation. We believe in a society which protects and promotes human rights, justice and equality.

What we do

- We advocate for positive changes in the area of human rights.
- We monitor government policy and legislation to make sure that it complies with international standards.
- We conduct original research and publish reports on issues as diverse as equal rights for all families, the right to privacy, policy reform and judicial accountability.
- We run campaigns to raise public and political awareness of human rights, justice and equality issues.
- We work closely with other key stakeholders in the human rights, justice and equality sectors.

How you can help

You can help us to continue our work to monitor, train, conduct research, campaign and lobby for changes in legislation to ensure our rights are protected and promoted.

Please visit our website: www.iccl.ie or phone us on 01 799 4504 to make a donation.

Contact us:

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Cover: Kader Asmal in Trinity College Dublin, 1976 (Irish Times Archive)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



This summer edition of **Rights News** honours the memory of Professor Kader Asmal and marks the beginning of the ICCL's 35th anniversary year.

According to Carl O'Brien's book, *Protecting Civil Liberties. Promoting Human Rights:-*

"Kader Asmal, then a Law Lecturer at Trinity College Dublin, stood up to address the packed meeting inside the Graduates' Memorial Hall. It was just after 8 p.m. on the evening of 30 June 1976. The conflict in Northern Ireland was at its height and the Government of Ireland was about to declare a state of emergency. Ever-expanding security measures, such as seven-day detention for the purposes of interrogation were being introduced. The Special Criminal Court had been reactivated and Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act had been introduced.

The so-called "heavy gang" within the Garda was operating with impunity. It was into this turbulent climate - dominated by security and measures to combat terrorism that the Irish Council for Civil Liberties was born. "This Council is being formed to promote human rights, protect civil liberties, recover them where they have been removed, and enlarge them where they have been diminished," Asmal told the gathering of academics, lawyers, students and public figures, concerned at the apparent erosion of basic rights and freedoms.

The gathering adopted a Constitution which deemed that the group would be a non-party and non-denominational organisation, concerned with civil liberty issues within the State. The Executive Committee included Senator Mary Robinson, future President of Ireland, and Asmal himself, anti-apartheid campaigner and a future minister in a democratic South African Government, who modelled the organisation on the UK's National Council for Civil Liberties (now "Liberty") and the American Civil Liberties Union."

Thirty-five years later, the ICCL works closely with Liberty and the American Civil Liberties Union in an International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations. It remains non-party political, non-denominational and committed to the effective promotion and protection of human rights.

In this issue, you will find details of our recent efforts (together with colleagues in the Irish Penal Reform Trust) to highlight shortcomings in Ireland's ill-treatment record through a submission to the United Nations Committee Against Torture. We have also included an update on our work to contribute to Ireland's first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the United Nations Human Rights Council by leading a coalition of 17 organisations from across civil society.

The European dimension to our work is reflected in updates on EU procedural rights issues, the implementation of European Court of Human Rights judgments and our work for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and the OSCE. We can no longer afford to reserve our lobbying and advocacy efforts until measures effectively pre-agreed at European level are sent to the Dáil for formal approval. If we wish to exert a positive influence on the shape of our future laws we must now be active in Brussels and Strasbourg as well as in Dublin.

Back home, our 3rd annual Human Rights Film Awards drew a full house and produced a worthy winner. If you couldn't join us on the night, I would strongly encourage you to view Mabel Lozano's harrowing and powerful film *Listen to Me* on the awards website (www.humanrightsfilmawards.org).

Our awareness-raising work in the second half of this year will include a series of new *Know Your Rights* packs designed to support our work to foster a human rights culture by educating the public about their rights.

Three and a half decades after it was founded, the need for the Irish Council for Civil Liberties – and our need for your support – is greater than ever. Remaining true to our original vocation as Ireland's wholly independent rights watchdog is the most compelling way in which we can honour Kader Asmal's memory.

Mark Kelly
Director



Kader Asmal with Mary Robinson at an ICCL meeting in 1976
(Irish Times Archive)

Kader Asmal made a huge contribution to human rights in Ireland, North and South. He played an important part in the formation of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland and he was one of the founders of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties in 1976.

As the ICCL turns 35 years old this summer, we mark the sad passing of one of the organisation's founding fathers.

The ICCL was deeply saddened to hear of the death on 22 June 2011 of Professor Kader Asmal, almost 35 years to the day since he, Mary Robinson and others, met in Dublin to discuss the creation of our organisation.

Kader was a truly exceptional person. A leading light of the anti-apartheid movement while living in exile in Ireland and the United Kingdom, he also found time to become one of the founders of the Irish civil liberties movement. Even after his elevation to ministerial office in the first democratic government of South Africa, he continued to offer his active support to the ongoing struggle to secure full respect for human rights here in Ireland, and, in recent years, was a source of valuable support to the ICCL's work, particularly its campaign on Equality For All Families.

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Michael Farrell, former Co-Chair of the ICCL, senior solicitor with Free Legal Advice Centres and member of the Irish Human Rights Commission, paid tribute to Kader Asmal on hearing of his passing:

"I am deeply shocked at the sudden death of Kader. He was a very old friend and colleague in many struggles to do with human rights. We met Kader and his wife Louise in South Africa less than a month ago and, though frail, he retained all his old passion about politics, justice and human rights. He wanted to know everything about the recent elections here, the financial crisis and the policies of the new Government.

Kader Asmal made a huge contribution to human rights in Ireland, North and South. He played an important part in the formation of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland and he was one of the founders of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties in 1976. For many years he was a courageous and often lonely voice speaking out for the rights of gays, Travellers and other disadvantaged groups.

But he was always most deeply committed to the struggle for the freedom of his native land, South Africa. He and Louise were the founders of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in Ireland, which was to become one of the most effective branches of the movement in combating the racist regime in South Africa. He was also a very influential figure in the African National Congress and played an important part in the drafting of South Africa's extraordinarily inclusive and democratic new Constitution.

His importance to the ANC was shown when he became a Minister in the first free government in South Africa. But he was not afraid to criticise that government when he thought it was straying from its original ideals. His death will be a huge loss to the new democratic South Africa and to this country for which he retained a deep affection and gratitude for giving himself and Louise a home when he was in exile from South Africa.

Our deepest sympathies are with Louise and their family".

ICCL and IPRT help place Ireland's ill treatment record under UN Spotlight



The launch of ICCL/IPRT UNCAT Shadow Report in Buswell's Hotel, Dublin, on 20 May 2011. L-R Mark Kelly, ICCL Director; Tanya Ward, ICCL Deputy Director; John Stanley, Irish Refugee Council and Liam Herrick, Irish Penal Reform Trust

Ireland faced some tough questions on 23-24 May 2011, when the Government's hearing before the UN's anti-torture watchdog, the UN Committee Against Torture (UNCAT), took place in Geneva. The ICCL along with the Irish Penal Reform Trust, were there to brief Committee members on the right questions to ask, and to document the session live via the world's first live webcast of an examination before the Committee.

Thanks to this webcasting and social media work, the Committee's questions, and the Government's responses, were communicated instantly to concerned parties in Ireland, ensuring swift reaction and wide media coverage domestically.

The questions asked of the Irish Government's delegation by Committee members included:

- How does the Government intend to provide justice for women who were held in the Magdalene Laundries?
- When will the Government legislate to clarify the law on abortion as required by a recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights?
- What action will be taken to reduce overcrowding and end slopping out in Ireland's prisons?

- When will the Government introduce a system for independent investigation of deaths in prison?
- Why has the rate of recognition as refugees of people seeking asylum in Ireland fallen to the lowest level of any EU state?
- Will the Government allow the Ombudsman for Children to investigate complaints from children in prison?

First Periodic Review of Ireland under the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment



The Committee's questions reflected many of the concerns raised by the ICCL and IPRT in our Joint Shadow Report to UNCAT which was presented to the Committee in Geneva on 20 May 2011.

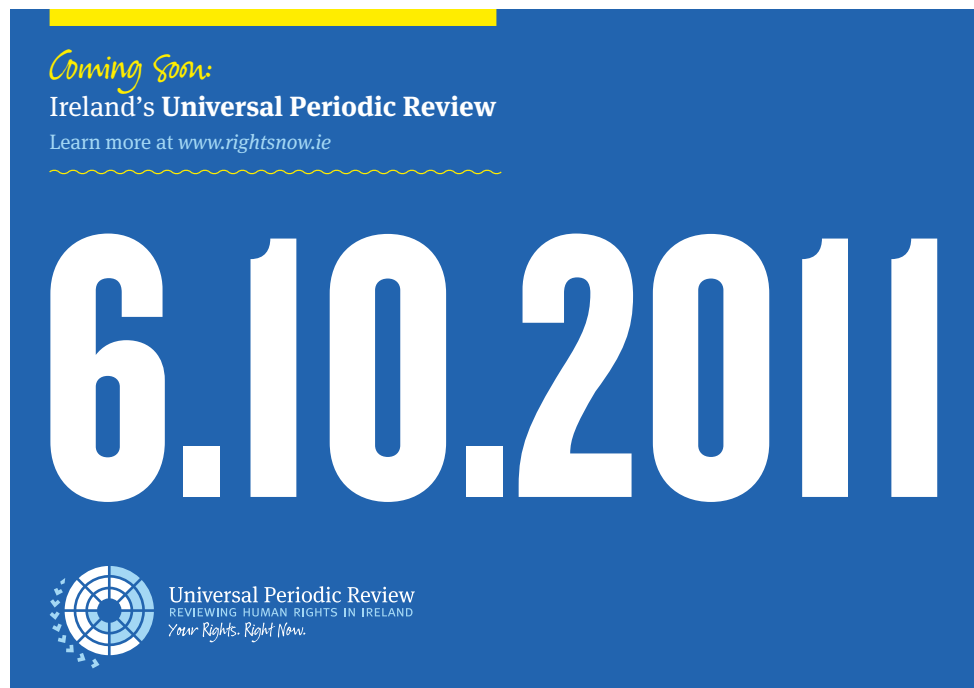
The Joint Shadow Report identifies serious shortcomings in critical areas including: access to a lawyer during Garda questioning, prison conditions, safeguards against deportation and effective rehabilitation services for victims of torture. It makes fifty clear recommendations on the actions which must be taken to address these deficiencies in human rights protection in Ireland.

On 6 June the Committee published its formal Concluding Observations on Ireland many of which echoed the ICCL's/IPRT's concerns:

- The proper investigation of extraordinary rendition allegations at Irish airports
- The improvement of prison conditions in Ireland through the construction of new facilities, adoption of non-custodial sentencing, the elimination of 'slopping out' and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture along with the establishment of a National Preventative Mechanism
- The establishment of independent complaints mechanisms for victims of torture and ill treatment in prison
- The detention of refugees and asylum seekers in appropriate settings outside the prison estate
- The proper funding of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission to ensure that all allegations against the Gardaí are independently investigated
- The adequate training of law enforcement personnel with regard to the prohibition of torture

The Committee's Concluding Observations form a clearly defined 'to do' list for the Government to improve safeguards against cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The ICCL and IPRT will closely monitor the Government's response to these Observations, and awaits its follow-up report to the UN, due in May 2012.

Universal Periodic Review – What’s Next?



Following the launch of the *Your Rights. Right Now* report by Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health, Kathleen Lynch on 19 April 2011, the work of the campaign is continuing. The report has been disseminated widely over the summer and plans are now underway for a number of public awareness initiatives surrounding Ireland's examination at the UN in Geneva at 9.00 am on 6 October.

The Irish Government published its UPR Report on 4 July 2011 and submitted it to the UN Human Rights Council.

The State Report, the *Your Rights. Right Now* report and submissions from other groups (including the Irish Human Rights Commission) form the foundation for the examination of Ireland's human rights record under the UPR.

On 11 August 2011, the UN published its "composite" Stakeholder Report, summarising the 60 submissions received from organisations in Ireland. This report draws heavily from the *Your Rights. Right Now* report, which is cited 30 times in its 11 pages and 52 times in its 167 footnotes.

The Government's report and submissions from other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are also available for download on www.rightsnow.ie.

Keep an eye on our website www.rightsnow.ie for details on future events or check out our Facebook and Twitter pages for updates see www.facebook.com/YourRightsRightNow and @RightsNowUPR.

ICCL Awarded FRANET Framework Contract

In June, a consortium comprising the ICCL and the School of Social Justice, UCD was awarded a new framework service contract by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) following a lengthy tendering process.

The purpose of the contract is to provide data collection and research services on fundamental rights issues for the FRA and replaces the previous RAXEN and FRALEX data collection services which expired this year. The new service contract will focus on all nine areas of the FRA's Multi Annual Framework while effectively combining the functions of both RAXEN and FRALEX.

In awarding a framework contract, the FRA noted that the ICCL/UCD consortium had scored the highest mark of all applicants for overall quality of tender: 95.2 from a possible 100 points.



Universal Periodic Review
REVIEWING HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRELAND
Your Rights. Right Now.



Tanya Ward addressing members of the Azerbaijani NGO community in Baku

The ICCL in Azerbaijan

In May 2011, the ICCL's Deputy Director, Tanya Ward, travelled to Baku, Azerbaijan at the invitation and the expense of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The purpose of the visit was to speak about the ICCL's role during the examination of Ireland by the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2008, and to train Azerbaijani human rights groups on best practice methodologies in human rights reporting.

Groups in Azerbaijan are mostly focused on advocating before the Council of Europe's human rights mechanisms, including the European Court of Human Rights, and the ODIHR wanted to encourage deeper engagement with United Nations bodies. Despite the country's oil-rich national resources, Amnesty International and US State Reports report that political corruption is endemic in Azerbaijan as it does not have fair and free elections, and broadcast media is under Government control. Much of the country's oil wealth is not spent on services, energy or infrastructure for people living in the regions.

The training focused on preparing shadow reports, building coalitions, lobbying, advocacy and follow-up/accountability with an emphasis on professionalism and practicability.



The Bibi Heybat Mosque in Baku (Photo: Emin Bashirov via Wikipedia)



Michael O'Flaherty Appointed Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Professor Michael O'Flaherty has been appointed as the new Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, replacing Professor Monica McWilliams, who has been Chief Commissioner since 2005.

Currently a member of the UN Human Rights Commission in respect of Ireland, and Chair in Applied Human Rights at the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham, Professor O'Flaherty has a long and distinguished career as an international human rights practitioner.

He has published extensively in the areas of professional human rights fieldwork, UN Treaty Body reform and sexual orientation/gender identity in international human rights law. He has held a number of high-level UN rapporteur posts, including Rapporteur for the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of Human Rights in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (2007).

Prof. O'Flaherty has been a vocal supporter of substantive and meaningful civil society engagement in UN human rights treaty body activities, and has lent his advice, encouragement and expertise to Irish NGOs engaging with the ICCPR, Universal Periodic Review, and other international human rights mechanisms.

The ICCL would like to wish Professor O'Flaherty every success in his new role, and is confident that his leadership of the Commission will significantly enhance the quality of human rights protection and promotion across the island of Ireland.

The new International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO)



When he helped to design the ICCL, Kader Asmal explicitly modelled it on the National Council for Civil Liberties (now known as “Liberty”) in the United Kingdom and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Thirty-five years later, the ICCL’s capacity to learn from other “like-minded” civil liberties organisations has been strengthened through its involvement in the new International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO), which includes both of those organisations and seven others. The ten founder members of the INCLO are:

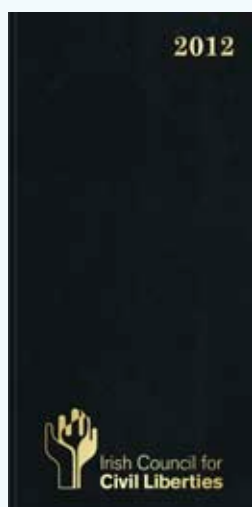
American Civil Liberties Union; Association for Civil Rights in Israel; Canadian Civil Liberties Association; Centre for Legal and Social Studies (Argentina); Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights; Hungarian Civil Liberties Union; Irish Council for Civil Liberties; Liberty (United Kingdom); Kenyan Human Rights Commission; Legal Resource Centre (South Africa).

This is not a new organisation, nor is intended to replace or supplant the work of existing international alliances such as the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH). Rather, its purpose is to enable existing national civil liberties organisations such as the ICCL to cooperate and learn directly from the advocacy, campaigning and organisational development experiences of their peers.

The network:

- provides a framework through which expertise about tactics and strategies in advancing specific civil liberties issues can be shared to the benefit of organisations working in their respective national settings;
- provides a vehicle for collaborative work on issues of mutual interest that cross national boundaries;
- assists organisations that are working on issues today that may have broader international implications for others in the future;
- furthers the organisational capacity building efforts of participating organizations.

During the initial phase of its activities, the INCLO has been funded by the Open Society Institute (OSI). Regular updates about its work will appear in future editions of **Rights News** and on the ICCL’s website.



PRE-ORDER YOUR 2012 ICCL POCKET DIARIES

ICCL-branded 2012 pocket diaries will soon be available to purchase from the ICCL. Priced at €4.99, the sale of these diaries will go towards the ICCL’s important work protecting and promoting human rights in Ireland. To order a diary, please contact the ICCL at info@iccl.ie or on (01) 7994504.



ICCL Criticises ‘Flaw’ in ‘Broadly Positive’ Gender Recognition Proposals

The long-awaited report of the Government’s Gender Recognition Advisory Group (GRAG), which outlines recommendations for legislation for the recognition of the acquired gender of transgender people, was published on 14 July 2011. The Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD, will rely upon the recommendations as the basis for legislation.

Though broadly positive, the GRAG report specifically recommends the exclusion of married people, and those in a civil partnership from the proposed gender recognition process. This is despite the recommendations submitted to the GRAG by the ICCL in September 2010 and by other organisations highlighting the negative consequences of the same exclusion in the corresponding UK legislation.

Excluding persons in existing marriages or civil partnerships from the gender recognition process will force applicants to make an invidious choice between marriage to their life partner and recognition in their preferred gender. Government policy should promote loving families in all their forms. The legislation should respect the marriages and civil partnerships of transgendered persons, and not treat these as obstacles for gender recognition.

It is clear that perceived wider constitutional issues have influenced the report’s recommendations in this area. However, such issues need to be actively addressed and rectified, not ignored and accepted. Yet again this highlights the need for constitutional reform to secure equality for all forms of loving family relationships.

ICCL Dismayed by “Inaction” Plan on Abortion

On 16 June 2011, six months after the European Court of Human Rights’ Judgment in the case of *A, B and C v Ireland*, the Government marked its 100th day in office by submitting its ‘action plan’ for the implementation of the judgment to the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers.

The ‘action plan’, which was published on the website of the Department of Health, recalled that the Court’s judgment found that national law on abortion in Ireland is not sufficiently clear and precise, contrary to Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

However, the plan proposed to address this by establishing a new “expert group” which will not even meet until the end of the year.

The ICCL expressed dismay at this ‘inaction plan’ and has written to the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs) to express its concerns, and to ensure that this attempt to place the implementation of this judgment on the long finger does not succeed.

The ICCL’s Concerns will be brought to the attention of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe during their 1120th Human Rights Meeting (13-14 September 2011).

ICCL Attends Statewatch's 20th Anniversary Conference



Tony Bunyan of Statewatch addressing the ICCL's 2009 AGM

On 24-25 June 2011 Walter Jayawardene, ICCL Communications Manager, attended Statewatching Europe: Civil Liberties, the State and the EU – a series of events in London marking Statewatch's 20th anniversary. The European dimension of the ICCL's work is central, given the volume of legislation agreed at the EU level between the co-legislators at the European Parliament and Council of Ministers. Statewatch's work in highlighting developments at the EU level over the past 20 years for the benefit of organisations like the ICCL across Europe has proven invaluable

On 24 June Walter contributed to a roundtable discussion of Statewatch contributors from around Europe. Amongst the topics discussed were migration and borders, EU security, the policing of protests, and the wider question of how to make EU issues "issues". The latter topic was the subject of extensive discussion, and focussed on the need for local civil liberties and human rights organisations to be better informed of legislative developments at the EU level in order to influence change where European law is made – in Brussels and Strasbourg. The communications challenges in highlighting pressing, but often abstract, civil liberties and human rights concerns in Europe were also the subject of discussion and debate.

European Commission Progress on Criminal Justice Standards

2011 has been an exciting time for EU developments on the human rights of participants in the criminal justice system with the launch of two important proposals by the European Commission.

On 18 May 2011, the European Commission published a proposal for a Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (the draft Victims' Rights Directive). This draft legislation is an impressive collection of rights and responsibilities designed to improve the experiences of crime victims and their family, and hold the State to account where rights are not adequately protected. Some of the rights set down in the draft Directive include the right to information, right to privacy, right to protection from harm and access to support services. Special measures, such as avoidance of contact with the defendant, will be provided for those identified as vulnerable victims under the draft Directive. Children, people with disabilities, victims of sexual violence and victims of trafficking fall within the category of vulnerable victim. The ICCL is delighted to see that the Oireachtas voted for Ireland to 'opt in' to the draft Victims' Rights Directive and will be closely following the negotiations at the European Council and European Parliament, in particular Ireland's input to the debate.

Regarding procedural rights, we have seen the steady progression of Measure A (right to translation and interpretation) and Measure B (right to information) of the 2009 Swedish Roadmap for the protection of suspected and accused persons in criminal proceedings. On 8 June 2011, Measure C1 (legal assistance) was significantly advanced by the European Commission's publication of a proposal for a Directive on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and the right to communicate on arrest. This draft legislation promotes Articles 6 (right to liberty and security), 47 (right to an effective remedy and a fair trial) and 48 (presumption of innocence) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. In addition, the measures further build upon Article 6 (right to a fair trial) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and its interpretation by the European Court of Human Rights, most notably in the 2008 case of *Salduz v Turkey* and subsequent cases. Ireland has until September 2011 to decide whether or not to 'opt in' to the draft Directive on access to a lawyer. The presumption of innocence and the ability to defend oneself are cornerstones of any democracy and the ICCL fully expects that Ireland will 'opt in' to the draft Directive in line with our obligations under the ECHR.

As part of our EU-funded work programme, in the coming months, the ICCL will be rolling out a series of activities, including publications, events and information-sharing platforms, as these two pieces of draft legislation make their way through the EU machinery.

ICCL Human Rights Film Awards 2011



Mabel Lozano and her producer Monica Lopez receive the Grand Prize from 2010 winner Dearbhla Glynn

Spanish actress-turned film director Mabel Lozano (pictured here with producer Monica Lopez and 2010 Award Winner Dearbhla Glynn) scooped top prize in the third annual ICCL Human Rights Film Awards, which was held at the Irish Film Institute on Wednesday 15 June 2011.

Lozano first caught the public eye in Spain as a model and actress in top-rated television shows such as *Los Ladrones van a la oficina* (The Thieves Go to the Office) and well-regarded films such as Berlanga's *Paris-Tombuctu* (Paris-Timbuktu) and Juarez's *Dile a Laura que la quiero* (Tell Laura I Love Her).

More recently, she has developed her career as a film director with an uncompromising focus on women's rights, children's rights and human trafficking.

Her winning film *Listen to Me* is an unflinching look at the human impact of sex trafficking. The film is based on the true story of sex trafficking victim Svetlana Demidovitch and shows how the complicity of her 'clients' helps to ensure that human traffickers can continue their trade. The film's minimalist style and sparse dialogue underscore the power of its message.

Speaking about her film, Lozano said: 'This is a film festival about human rights. One of the worst violations of human rights that I can think of is the trafficking of women and girls; the buying and selling of human beings

as if they were bags or shoes. I hope that my film and films like it will help to highlight this serious human rights violation'.

As Grand Prize winner, Mabel won a place in the prestigious Summer School in Human Rights, Cinema & Advocacy in NUI Galway (see www.chra.ie for more details), which took place from 1-8 July 2011.

The Awards Gala also saw honours go to two further films. Jury member and award-winning documentary maker Ken Wardrop presented the third place prize to Hilary Fennell for *Hearing Silence*, a touching documentary about a talented musician facing hearing loss. Senator David Norris presented second prize to first-time director Fran Cassidy for *Freedom Driver*, a lively and entertaining portrait of disability activist Dara Gallagher. A further public vote prize, for the competition's school-focused 'Under a Minute Challenge' in association with RTÉ Young People's Programming and Two Tube went to St Mac Dara's Community College in Dublin.

The prize giving ceremony followed the Gala Screening of all six of the competition's shortlisted films on which the Awards Jury deliberated. The 2011 Jury consisted of:

- Kirsten Sheridan, Director and Oscar-nominated Screenwriter
- Rebecca Miller, Director and Screenwriter
- Stephen Rea, Oscar-nominated actor
- Brenda Fricker, Oscar-winning actress
- James Morris, Director of *Windmill Lane* and of the Irish Film Board
- John Kelleher, former Chair of the Irish Film Classification Office
- Grainne Humphreys, Festival Director, Jameson Dublin International Film Festival
- Victoria Smurfit, Actress
- Tomm Moore, Oscar-nominated director of *The Secret of Kells*
- Senator David Norris
- Prof. Bill Schabas, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway
- Ken Wardrop, Director of *His and Hers*



Brenda Fricker and Stephen Rea



Shortlisted filmmakers



IFI Screen 1 as screening begins



2011 ICCL Human Rights Film Awards Jury members. Back L-R Grainne Humphreys, Ken Wardrop. Front - John Kelleher, Stephen Rea, Brenda Fricker, David Norris



Children's Ombudsman Emily Logan with students from St Mac Dara's Community College, winners of the Human Rights in Under a Minute Challenge, in association with RTÉ Young People's Programming and Two Tube.



Sophie Magennis, Emily Logan, Mark Kelly, Senator David Norris



Elizabeth Petcu, star of third place film *Hearing Silence*



Jury members Senator David Norris, Ken Wardrop and James Morris with 2010 Grand Prize Winner Dearbhla Glynn

The Shortlist:



FREEDOM DRIVER **Director: Fran Cassidy**

Dara Gallagher is a quick-witted force of nature; a bon viveur, a raconteur and a rebel; a wheelchair user and a disability activist. In *Freedom Driver*, filmmaker Fran Cassidy follows Dara on a whistle-stop tour of his daily life and then travels with him to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.



HEARING SILENCE **Director: Hilary Fennell**

Elizabeth Petcu had devoted her life to music, becoming principal flautist with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra at the age of just 21. Last year, after 25 years with the orchestra, she had to leave the job she loved: she had been diagnosed with otosclerosis, a form of progressive hearing loss. This moving documentary lets the audience enter a world where sound plays a vital but increasingly frustrating role; it is the story of one woman's fight to continue expressing her creativity through sound, and an exploration of her new relationship with silence.



EMERALD WARRIOR **Director: Kyle Kroszner**

Jay O'Callaghan is the captain of the Emerald Warriors, a Dublin rugby club set up in 2003 with the aim of giving gay, bisexual and heterosexual men the opportunity to play competitive rugby together nationally and internationally. In this meditative documentary, Jay talks frankly about his experiences growing up gay in Dublin, his struggle to come out to his family, and his love for rugby.



LISTEN TO ME (ESCUCHAME) **Director: Mabel Lozano**

Spanish filmmaker Mabel Lozano takes a fresh look at a difficult issue in *Listen to Me!*, a short film which explores the exploitation of trafficked women through local clients' complicity with the traffickers. The film's almost minimalist style and sparse dialogue serve to emphasise the power of its message.



HEAD SPACE **Producer: Barry O'Donoghue**

In *Head Space*, director Patrick Semple and a team of Irish animators use rich and evocative animation to explore the sensitive topic of child abuse and the complex range of emotions experienced by a child who is being abused by a parent. The film takes place in the mind of the abused child, where colour and whimsy give way to the dark tendrils of confusion, fear and loneliness from which the child cannot escape.



ELECTION OF DISCONTENT **Director: Patrick Tierney**

'The most appropriate thing you can do with election posters is make a tent out of them'. Filmmaker Patrick Tierney follows artist Eddie Cahill as he tears down campaign posters in the run-up to the Irish general election of February 2011 and repurposes the posters into a shelter for the homeless outside the Dáil. Eddie gradually reveals his own compelling story – from the source of his disillusionment with the Irish political system, to the importance of art as a means of rehabilitation and as a form of protest.



ICCL Welcomes New Executive Members and UPR Project Officer

Malachy Murphy, Conor Power and Jean Tansey have retired from the Executive at the end of their terms of office after many years of distinguished service. Aogán Mulcahy has also stepped down from the board. We are profoundly grateful to them all for their invaluable contribution to the work of the ICCL. We are delighted to welcome four new members to the ICCL's Executive: Alan D.P. Brady, Elaine Dewhurst, Frances Feeney and Claire Hamilton. Profiles of our new members will appear in the next edition of **Rights News**.

We would also like to welcome the newest member of the ICCL team Aoife Lyons, who joins us as our new UPR Project Officer. Aoife has an LL.B from the University of Limerick and an LL.M from Trinity College. Aoife has previously interned with the Irish Human Rights Commission, the UN and Front Line Defenders.

Aoife joins the Your Rights Right Now team in advance of Ireland's examination of its human rights record through the UPR process this October.

Know Your Rights – the Next Steps



The second phase of the ICCL Know Your Rights Project is now underway, which will see the suite of information packs rise to a total of six in the coming months.

The ICCL has entered into partnership with a number of civil society organisations to identify specific areas of public demand for accessible rights information. In late 2011 and early 2012 the ICCL will roll out three further packs covering:

- Prisoners' Rights, in association with the Irish Penal Reform Trust
- Children's Rights, in association with the Children's Rights Alliance
- The Rights of Same Sex Couples, in association with the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network

Further roadshows and publicity are planned to accompany this new phase of the Know Your Rights project, ensuring its growth as a key pillar in the ICCL's work to foster a human rights culture through educating the public about their rights.



Annual Report Published

The ICCL's Annual Report for 2010 has been published and will be distributed in printed and online versions. The online version can be viewed in a new user-friendly format at this link: <http://www.issuu.com/irishcouncilforcivilliberty/docs/icclar2010>.



Since the ICCL was founded 35 years ago, the organisation has worked to protect and promote the rights of everyone living in Ireland, remaining a constant voice for equality, human rights and a fair and balanced criminal justice system in an ever-changing landscape.

With your help, and the help of all of our supporters, members and friends, our work is possible.

If you would like to join the ICCL or renew your membership, or to make a donation to support some of our current initiatives and indeed our upcoming projects, please visit www.iccl.ie today or phone the ICCL office on 01 799 4504 today. Thank you!