

Irish Council for Civil Liberties

An Comhairle um Chearta Daonna

Annual Review of 2001

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IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

CO-CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27th FEBRUARY 2002

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Garda Accountability

Last June when the ICCL's co-chairpersons made their report to the AGM the issue of Garda accountability was the first item raised. This was in the light of the attempt by members of the Garda Síochána to prevent members of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights from carrying out an inquiry into the killing of John Carthy in Abbeylara. Eight months on and the Supreme Court has yet to give judgment on the Gardaí attempt to stop the inquiry, but the life of this Dail is virtually over and therefore so is the Oireachtas Committee's remit. Vague commitments to a public inquiry are not enough - we need the formal establishment of a public inquiry.

The establishment of a judicial inquiry to investigate the behaviour of Gardai in Donegal, in what has become known as the McBrearty Affair, has been announced. It remains to be seen whether this type of inquiry can balance the competing aspects of the public interest in an open and transparent process with the privacy aspects that a right to fair trial may demand in the particular circumstances of the Donegal situation. Meanwhile reports of falsified entries on the new Garda computer system (PULSE), which have had the effect of boosting crime detection rates, contribute further to public disquiet about the behaviour of some members of our national police force.

In mid-October, as public unease about Garda accountability grew, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced that a new Garda Inspectorate would be set-up to replace the Garda Síochána Complaints Board. At the time, the ICCL welcomed this announcement while also stating that we needed further details regarding its implementation. In particular we called for the establishment of a Police Ombudsman over the Inspectorate. At present, no Bill has been published to establish this Inspectorate. It would appear that as the current Government prepares to step out of Leinster House and onto the election trail this proposal will remain just that – a proposal which will not be implemented.

Although the lack of legislation on police accountability is disappointing, the increasing public pressure being brought to bear on the Government and the Garda Síochána on this issue is a vindication of the work which ICCL has done in this area over many years.

Racism, Immigration and Asylum

Another issue which we raised last year was that of racism and the treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees who come to Ireland. In the last few months, Ireland has witnessed a growing number of racist attacks and, last month, a Chinese student, Zhao Liu Tao, was murdered in an apparently racially-motivated attack in Dublin. Once again, we call for real leadership on the part of Ireland's politicians who seem so reluctant to condemn the social cancer of racism which is growing in our midst.

Meanwhile on 8th December 2001 eight asylum-seekers lost their lives in an airtight freight container in Wexford. The Government's proposal to prevent a similar tragedy like this from happening again is not to set up a proper, effective asylum and immigration process. Instead, they propose the introduction of carrier sanctions which will make it even more difficult for asylum seekers to seek protection in Ireland. It will also put the onus for the implementation of Ireland's immigration policy (or lack of it) on private companies such as airlines and passenger ferry operators. Private companies such as these (when faced with the possibility of having a punitive fine levied on them) are more likely to err on the side of caution than on the side of

human rights. Consequently, people's right to travel will most likely be adversely affected. ICCL deplores this proposal to "privatise" Ireland's immigration procedures.

However, there is some good news on the issue of carrier sanctions as Friday's decision in the Court of Appeal in London will hopefully contribute towards ensuring that this proposal will never become law. In that case, by using the terms of the Britain's Human Rights Act, hauliers successfully overturned the fines that were levied on them for carrying asylum-seekers into Britain in their containers. Once again this demonstrates how important it is for Ireland to fully implement the European Convention of Human Rights into Irish law.

Issues arising after September 11th

In the wake of the events of September 11th we have seen an increased degree of co-ordination on Justice and Home Affairs issues at EU level. While co-ordination itself is not a negative development some of the proposals will have a quite sinister impact on people's rights. For example, the Spanish Presidency of the EU have made a proposal that protestors be classified as "terrorists" for the purpose of information exchange between member states. This proposal would appear to be specifically aimed at anti-globalisation protestors who have recently become a significant factor in a new protest movement which has sprung up around the world.

During the summer the ICCL took up the case of two Irish brothers, Mark and Paddy O'Byrne, who were detained during the anti-globalisation protests in Genoa. The two protestors had travelled (independently of any organised anti-globalisation group) to Genoa to protest at the G8 Summit. They, along with many others, alleged that they were unlawfully detained and subjected to both physical and mental abuse by the Italian police. ICCL is extremely concerned that anti-terrorism measures introduced in the wake of September 11th will be used against protestors and other innocent people. The use of measures such as these against protestors seriously affects the rights to freedom of expression which are at the heart of the very democratic systems that post-September 11th anti-terrorism measures are supposed to be protecting.

We must be careful not to lose our hard-fought for civil liberties in the rush to prevent possible terrorist attacks in the future. As we have learnt from our own Offences Against the State Act anti-terrorism legislation (no matter how “temporary” it is supposed to be) can very easily become a permanent feature of the criminal justice landscape.

e-rights

A new area in which the ICCL has been active in the last year is that of “e-rights” or the rights of people in the electronic world. The ICCL believes that people’s rights to privacy and freedom of expression should not be reduced just because they are participating in on-line activities rather than operating in the off-line world. The recent revelation that Ireland’s two major mobile phone companies, Eircell/Vodafone and Esat, have been storing seven year’s worth of details on the movements of mobile phones held by their subscribers, apparently without following any of the legal requirements on data protection, gives great cause for concern. It also demonstrates the type and volume of information that can be easily collected and stored while we use electronic forms of communication - forms of communication which we are becoming increasingly dependent on in our daily lives. ICCL will continue to work in this area and will attempt to ensure that our on-line rights are adequately protected.

Abortion Referendum

On this day week (6th March 2002), the country will vote on the proposed twenty-fifth Amendment to the Constitution. ICCL launched its position paper on this issue on February 20th. This paper was prepared on the basis of legal research by James Kingston of Trinity College’s Law School and a policy analysis by the Executive and the Women’s Committee. The proposed amendment lessens the right to life of women, giving a primacy to the right to life of a foetus. The proposal, in its substance and motivation, demeans women by assuming they cannot be trusted, criminalises women for decisions they may need to take for their own physical and mental well-being, and discriminates against poorer women because of the expense and difficulty in travelling to Britain. It further risks women’s lives by criminalising emergency

terminations that would need to take place outside of approved centres. In addition, the proposed incorporation of an Act into the Constitution is an improper and dangerous mechanism of constitutional amendment. ICCL is calling for a No vote.

Human Rights Commission

One encouraging sign during the year was the final establishment of the Human Rights Commission with the adoption of the Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act 2001. This was the culmination of a campaign begun by ICCL in 1990 with a call for a Human Rights Commission to be established (See “Equality Now for Lesbians and Gay Men”, ICCL, 1990). We were also instrumental in ensuring that the Human Rights Commission’s membership was more diverse and representative than the Government were initially prepared to permit. The Human Rights Commission is only beginning to find its feet, as it is in the process of appointing a Chief Executive, but has made important interventions in the Oireachtas hearings on the European Convention on Human Rights Bill 2001. We look forward to the Human Rights Commission fulfilling its wide mandate in the pursuit of the protection of human rights.

ORGANISATION

Staffing

Our staff situation is as follows:

After nearly three years as Director of ICCL Donncha O’Connell has decided to return to UCG and leaves us at the end of next week. Everyone who has worked with Donncha during his period with ICCL can attest to the energy, drive and vision which he has brought to the organisation. Not only has the organisation been able to respond in a more immediate and professional manner to issues as they arose but it has also been able to develop a more strategic role, anticipating issues before they arise so that a detailed position is ready in advance. The net result of this is that ICCL’s credibility and effectiveness has grown significantly during Donncha’s time with us. Furthermore, Donncha has been instrumental in helping this organisation to deepen its involvement in campaigns with other NGOs. This has enabled ICCL’s

expertise to become more widely available and has contributed to the building of a “human rights culture” in Ireland.

On behalf of the Executive and members of ICCL we wish to thank Donncha for the major contribution he has made to this organisation during his time with us and we wish him all the best in the future.

In order to continue to build on Donncha’s work with us we are conscious of the need to appoint a new director. At present we are preparing to advertise the position of Director and we would hope to fill it as soon as possible.

In December of 2001, Liam Herrick took up the post of Research and Parliamentary Officer with the ICCL. Liam previously worked with (amongst others) the Law Reform Commission and the Irish delegation to the Council of Europe. Liam’s presence is further enabling the ICCL to both speak authoritatively and campaign effectively for civil liberties. Liam will also be involved in revitalising our policy working groups to ensure that we are active in as many policy areas as possible.

Imelda MacGowan resigned as Administrator of ICCL in the latter part of last year. Imelda made a significant impact to the ICCL’s office and administrative systems. We wish to thank her for her contribution to the organisation, in particular the invaluable work which she performed in our office. While we have been waiting to appoint a successor to Imelda, Gerry Finn has been working in the office on a temporary basis. Gerry – who had previously worked in the office as a volunteer – has ensured that the administrative side of ICCL’s activities has been maintained during the recruitment process. An offer of employment was made earlier this week to the successful applicant for the post of Administrator and we hope to appoint the person within the next couple of weeks.

Finally as well as the salaried members of the ICCL staff we continued to receive voluntary assistance from a number of people including Gerry Finn (as mentioned earlier) and Alina Potts (an intern from Boston University).

Membership and Working Groups

This has been a short year for ICCL reflecting the change made with the constitutional amendments at the last AGM. ICCL has been expending energy on developing a strategic plan for the next 5 years, which will, it is hoped, result in increasing involvement of members in the activities of the

organisation. This may be through more events, more communication through newsletters or more involvement in working groups. With the recruitment of our Research and Parliamentary Officer we hope to stimulate greater research capabilities for working groups. We look forward to both the continuation of the hard work of working group members over the next year together with a greater capacity for research and publication.

Issues raised in the media through press releases, etc.

- Abbeylara, police accountability and the proposed Garda Inspectorate
- Refugee issue and related issues of immigration and racism
- Detention of Irish anti-globalisation protestors in Genoa
- Post September 11th anti-terrorism measures
- Disability rights
- Incorporation of the ECHR
- Government's proposed referendum on abortion
- Privacy, workplace surveillance, CCTV and e-Rights
- Offences Against the State Acts
- Government's proposals to ban the taking of opinion polls prior to an election
- DNA and genetic discrimination

Publications

- ICCL News
- The Need For Abortion Law Reform in Ireland: The Case Against the Twenty-Fifth Amendment of the Constitution Bill, 2001
- Submission to Oireachtas Committee on Incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights
- "Participation and the Practice of Rights: Insider / Outsider - Changing Relationships", a conference report organised jointly by ICCL, CAJ, NIVT, ICTU and CPA.
- The Director's regular contributions to newspapers and periodicals.

Sister organisations

We have continued our ongoing work with Committee for the Administration of Justice (CAJ) – Northern Ireland, the Scottish Human Rights Centre, British-Irish Rights Watch, Liberty and others on British-Irish panel of FIDH (Federation International de Droit de Hommes). As an organisation we have close links with FIDH which have been recognised and cemented by Siobhan Ni Chualachain's position as vice-chair.

STRATEGIC REVIEW AND PLAN

For the last few months the executive and staff of ICCL have been engaged in the process of carrying out a strategic review of ICCL. We have been greatly assisted in this regard by Richard Reoch who brought his extensive experience within Amnesty International and other human rights-based NGOs to the process. Richard acted as a facilitator for the strategic review. As well as meeting with ICCL members and staff he also consulted with other people working within this sector to get an understanding of how ICCL would fit into the changing human rights landscape within Ireland.

The key outcome from this activity is the production of a 5 year strategic plan which details the goals for the ICCL over that period. Amongst the key recommendations are:

- the appointment of a Campaigns Officer who will work on campaigning strategies for the ICCL
- the need for ICCL to further foster links with other groups in order to provide ICCL expertise to the network of human rights organisations and NGOs within Ireland
- the appointment of a part-time Assistant Administrator, in addition to the existing Administrator to further expand the administrative capabilities of the organisation

ICCL is currently in the process of making a grant application to one of its funding organisations in order to commence this next stage of its development.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, both chairpersons would like to thank all members of the organisation for their continued support over the last 8 months. We would also like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the hard work and efforts of all of the members of the executive, who have given so generously of their time and energy throughout the year. In particular, we would like to express a special note of thanks to our fellow officer Louise Davis who has been co-treasurer of the ICCL for four years and is stepping down from the Executive this year. She has made an immeasurable contribution to the organisation over the last four years and will be sorely missed.

Finally, we would like to thank our funding organisations, The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and The Atlantic Philanthropies, through whose generous support we are able to continue and expand our work.

Aileen Donnelly
Co-Chair

Malachy Murphy
Co-Chair

IRISH COUNCIL *for* CIVIL LIBERTIES
An Chomhairle um Chearta Daonna

DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Royal Dublin Hotel
27th February, 2002

Current issues

Post-September 11th and emergency laws

In the eight months since the last ICCL AGM we have experienced one of the most profound challenges to human rights and civil liberties in the form of the response by states to the tragic events of September 11th, 2001. Values that we have taken for granted as underpinnings of freedom and democracy are now casually dismissed (even by some on the Left) as the ideological indulgences of impractical liberals. It is incumbent on those of us who promote human rights and defend civil liberties to respond by posing the following question: what are we defending in the so-called war on terror if we jettison the very rights that (we claim) characterise us as free?

Governments are, of their nature, opportunistic. Many of the EU anti-terrorism measures now being implemented were on the table since the Tampere summit of 1999 and it suits Governments to hide behind the global moral panic that followed the events of September 11th to push through measures undermining of the most basic civil liberties.

The absence of meaningful parliamentary scrutiny of such measures in this country is a disgrace and mirrors the shoddy manner in which the Oireachtas has, in the past, extended the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act, 1998. It is a matter of great disappointment that Government and Opposition parties alike continue to view emergency-type legislation as a necessary tool in non-emergency situations. The long-awaited final report of the Hederman Committee on the Offences Against the State Acts will, in all likelihood, lead to attempts to 'normalise' current emergency legislation in a somewhat finessed form. The post-September 11th context will, no doubt, be added as spurious justification for such action. Sadly, opposition to such developments will be left to NGOs like ICCL with minimal support from mainstream political parties in the Dail and Seanad. That should not deter ICCL from advancing strong civil libertarian arguments if only on the basis that, sometimes, winning the argument is its own reward.

Abortion

In 1983 ICCL opposed the so-called "pro-life amendment" to the Constitution. Almost twenty years later it is hard to believe that we are still struggling with the 'substantive issue' by means of a constitutional amendment with the addition of immutable popular legislation. When the Taoiseach announced his plans for yet another referendum last October it was suggested that opponents of the proposal would be drawn from the ranks of the zealots and that the Government wished to appeal to a consensus view in Irish society. The only consensus apparent so far in the referendum campaign is on the No side of the debate. There is now a broad political consensus against the amendment stretching from Fine Gael to Sinn Fein; the pro-life movement is hopelessly split and the Roman Catholic bishops would certainly appear to be singing from a different hymn sheet to their Government bedfellows as regards the legal status of the morning-after pill.

The 25th Amendment has correctly been characterised by ICCL as anti-women, anti-poorer women and an abuse of the process of constitutional amendment. It is a three-way dishonourable compromise between the

Government partners (Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats); between the Government and the pragmatic wing of the pro-life movement; and between the Government and conservative elements in the medical and legal professions. Reasonable people will not be boxed into a Yes position by deliberate and contrived discombobulation on the part of the Government.

Disability

If there was ever a doubt about the extent to which the public is in touch with its own popular sovereignty one need only look at the stunning victory achieved in the past week by disability NGOs on the cynical and disgraceful Disabilities Bill, 2001. ICCL was honoured to play a supportive role in that campaign and it is a cause of significant pride to us that one of its leaders, Donal Toolan, is a member of our Executive Committee. The Government have learned the hard way that the corollary of consultation is not just listening but hearing in the sense of 'getting the message'. There is now massive public support for real human rights for people with disabilities - not charity, not pity. The Junior Minister, Mary Wallace, would do well to realise that this goes deeper than a dished footpath and requires a fundamental re-imagining of how we structure things so as to include and not disable.

Social and economic rights

Insofar as the disability issue was rendered prominent by the Supreme Court decision in the Sinnott case we would do well to consider the subtext of this controversy - the divisibility of social and economic rights. It is clear that judicial activism will not yield the transformative ends sought by many in the Human Rights Community. Ironically, by setting its face against such a course of action the judiciary may well have galvanized a previously passive movement. People now understand that there are limits to what can be achieved by taking the State to court and that it is no less important to get the politics right. That is the space in which NGOs can really have some impact. It is vital that we act with pride as non-partisan political entities in the realm of politics.

Challenge to activism

In that connection the newly introduced provisions of the Electoral Act, 2001 - which have the potential to neuter the political campaigning role of 'third party organisations' like ICCL - must be opposed with vigour. Politics is not a monopolistic zone for elected representatives. Even they would not deny the value of participative democracy. For groups like ICCL to participate effectively there must be some autonomy supported by real guarantees of freedom of association. This is not just an organisational matter, it is a human rights concern that goes to the very root of **our** understanding of participative democracy.

Human Rights Commission and Equality Authority

An element of such participation will increasingly involve a mediated engagement between NGOs and the state through bodies like the new Human Rights Commission. The task for us is to ensure that such bodies do not just replicate the myth of the liberal democratic state but rather challenge it. The submission of the new Human Rights Commission on the bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights and its role in the World Conference on Racism in Durban are very encouraging signs. While

the difficulties to be encountered by such a large body occupying that hazardous space between the state and the non-state are considerable it behoves those of us who campaigned for the establishment of such a body to make it work.

As sure as night follows day an overt opposition to the broad equality agenda being advanced with such determination by the Equality Authority has emerged. The wild and over-the-top assertions made by publicans' interest groups in the wake of recent decisions of the Office of Director of Equality Investigations are predictable and clichéd. Unfortunately, those of us who, in the past, took the view that the new equality legislation did not go far enough have been somewhat muted in our defence of the equality agenda. If there is now an overt opposition to equality it must be matched and beaten by an overt defence. This cannot be done by the Equality Authority on its own. We in the NGO sector must do all that we can to stop the publicans and other vested interests in their cynical attempts to water down the equality code. All groups covered by the nine prohibited grounds of discrimination (not to mention those not yet covered) must coalesce effectively to demonstrate that there is a strong constituency of support for the minimal guarantees of equality already in existence.

Racism

One particular area of discrimination that has the potential to undermine even the most basic semblance of social cohesion is racism. In the past year Amnesty International has done tremendous work to raise the profile of this issue in Ireland. It is now a key concern of the new Human Rights Commission which is working with the Know Racism Campaign, the NCCRI and the Equality Authority to advance the post-Durban national action plan against racism. While this has the potential to impact greatly on society there is still an absence of real leadership from those who are supposed to be the real leaders in Irish society. An example of this was the Taoiseach's response to bigoted utterances by the Cork Fianna Fail Deputy, Noel O'Flynn. When the Taoiseach suggested that people like O'Flynn should demonstrate more 'tolerance' he actually validated the real or opportunistic 'fear' of the Deputy. Tolerance is not an adequate response to racism. Racism calls for intolerance and should therefore not be tolerated.

Internal matters

Strategic planning

This AGM is unusual in that it takes place before the conclusion of the normal one-year cycle. To that extent we are reporting, in an interim way, on the activities of the organisation since June last. The focus of the organisation has been internal but forward-looking in the past number of months. As we approached the end of two important funding periods it was necessary to engage in a process of strategic planning for the next five years. For me it has been somewhat strange to work on a plan that will be implemented after I have ceased to work as an employee of ICCL. While I have worked on this project with the tremendous assistance of our facilitator, Richard Reoch, the end-product is very much the work of the Executive. The plan will contain a set of realistic and achievable goals that will aid both future staff and Executives of ICCL in advancing the aims and objectives of the organisation. The value of planning is only fully realised with the benefit of hindsight and I strongly believe that the process that we have just completed will, in future, be seen to have been worthwhile.

Acknowledgments

It has been a busy three years since I took up office as the first Director of ICCL in 1999. Work-life balance is something I read about in missives from the Equality Authority but only ever aspired towards myself! While I have worked with many people in my role as Director of ICCL there has always been one constant in my 'work-life'. I would like to use this opportunity to thank John O'Donoghue, the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform for making it all so easy. Quite simply, it has not been difficult, at a political or intellectual level, to oppose the policies of the current Minister and I hope that my successor is as 'lucky' as I have been in that Department!

I would like to thank all of my office colleagues since 1999 and, in particular, I would like to thank Gerry Finn and Liam Herrick with whom I have worked most recently. Gerry assumed the role of Acting Administrator (which was vacant since last September) in January and has done an enormous amount of work with boundless good humour and efficiency in his short period in that role. Liam was appointed as ICCL's first full-time Research & Parliamentary Officer in December 2001 and, already, has impacted strongly on issues as diverse as disability and the abortion referendum. I have not the slightest doubt that he will do an excellent job for ICCL in the coming years.

I would like to thank all who served on the Executive Committee of ICCL in my three years as Director and, in particular, I should acknowledge the considerable work done by those who are not going forward for re-election this year: Michael Farrell, Louise Davis, Catherine Kenny and John O'Dowd. It is in the nature of things that the Director takes up much of the private time of the Co-Chairs and, with that in mind, I would like to thank Aileen and Malachy for their assistance in the past year.

No matter how hard we all work it is true to say that we simply would not exist organisationally without the support of funders. As an employee of an NGO I am acutely aware of such dependency and would therefore like to thank our

core funders, The Atlantic Philanthropies and The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, for their continued confidence and support.

I look forward to remaining in contact with ICCL as an ordinary member and wish the organisation the very best in the future.

Donncha O'Connell,
Director.

Director's involvement in external events since last AGM held on 13th June, 2001:

14th June, 2001 – Attended meeting of the Refugee Protection Policy Group, Dublin.

18th June, 2001 – Attended presentation of FLAC Public Interest Law Fellowship, Dublin.

20th June, 2001 – Attended Comhlamh launch of *Refugee Lives* to mark World Refugee Day, Vietnamese Centre, Dublin.

22nd June, 2001 – Delivered paper on disability discrimination at conference organised by Disability Federation of Ireland, Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.

26th June, 2001 – Attended meeting of Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence & Women's Rights to consider ECHR Bill, 2001

27th June, 2001 – Chaired closing session of conference (*Participation and the Practice of Rights: Insider / Outsider – Changing Relationships*) organised jointly by ICCL, CAJ, NIVT, ICTU and CPA in Carrickdale, Co. Louth.

29th June, 2001 – Opened photographic exhibition in Town Hall Theatre, Galway.

30th June, 2001 – Chaired session of Irish Centre for European Law / Equality Authority conference on equality, Dublin Castle, Dublin.

21st July, 2001 – Delivered paper on Ireland and its international human rights obligations to DFA Annual NGO Forum, Dublin Castle, Dublin.

26th July, 2001 – Attended launch of report by Schizophrenia Ireland to mark Lucia Day, Government Buildings, Dublin.

27th July, 2001 – Spoke at SADS I Career's Day, Law Society, Dublin.

31st July, 2001 – Lecture to San Diego Summer School, TCD on Ireland and the ICCPR / ECHR.

1st August, 2001 – Meeting with Dr. Brian Harvey to discuss the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust baseline study of human rights in Ireland.

3rd August, 2001 – Meeting with Sean Love, Director, Amnesty International Irish Section. Dublin.

8th August, 2001 – Meeting with representatives of 1981 Committee and a Turkish Delegation representing hunger-strikers in Turkey, Dublin.

11th August, 2001 – Attended Annual P.J. McGrory Lecture (as part of *Feile an Phobail*) delivered by Michael Farrell, Belfast.

16th August, 2001 – Spoke on racism at Labour Youth / European Young Socialists seminar, Mansion House, Dublin.

17th August, 2001 – Seminar on citizen's rights to group from *Soilse* (ERHA), Dublin.

22nd August, 2001 – Attended meeting of Genoa G8 protesters, Lloyd's Bar, Amiens Street, Dublin.

6th September, 2001 – Attended launch of Amnesty International report on racism, Dublin.

Attended meeting of Refugee Protection Policy Group, Dublin.

7th September, 2001 – Attended launch of Veritas publication, *Responding to Racism in Ireland*, by Fintan Farrell and Philip Watt, National Concert Hall, Dublin.

15th September, 2001 – Attended seminar on racially motivated crimes with Gareth Peirce and others, Amnesty International HQ, Dublin.

17th September, 2001 – Attended launch of Colombia 3 Campaign, Dublin.

19th September, 2001 – Attended meeting of the Irish Traveller Movement Legal Sub-Group, Dublin.

22nd September, 2001 – Attended meeting of the FIDH British-Irish panel in Belfast.

27th September, 2001 – Attended launch of Irish Refugee Council report, *Manifestly Unjust: A Report on the Fairness and Sustainability of Accelerated Procedures for Asylum Determinations*, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

Attended launch of Anti-Racist Workplace Week and preview of *Guess Who's Coming for the Dinner?* (by Roddy Doyle), Andrew's Lane Theatre, Dublin.

2nd October, 2001 – Attended day-long consultation with NGOs organised by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to discuss their draft baseline study of human rights in Ireland and the JRCT Ireland programme, All Hallow's College, Dublin.

4th October, 2001 – Attended public meeting on Colombia 3, Ormond Hotel, Dublin.

9th October, 2001 – Attended meeting of DFA – NGO Standing Committee, Iveagh House, Dublin.

10th October, 2001 – Meeting with James Kingston, TCD Law School to discuss ICCL position paper on proposed abortion referendum.

11th October, 2001 – Spoke at SDLP (Dublin Branch) seminar on policing, Doheny & Nesbitts, Dublin.

24th October, 2001 – Attended launch of Anti-Racism Awareness programme (Know Racism), RHA Gallery, Dublin.

Spoke at TCD Historical Society debate on asylum seekers, TCD, Dublin.

31st October, 2001 – Meeting with Professor Gerard Hastings, University of Strathclyde to discuss crime and punishment initiative, Dublin.

6th November, 2001 – Attended CAJ lecture by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Belfast.

8th November, 2001 – Briefing to Halya Gowan, Amnesty International (IS), for AI Annual Report, Dublin.

11th November, 2001 – Attended benefit gig for Colombia 3, Dublin.

14th November, 2001 – Attended quarterly meeting of Community and Voluntary sector in Equality Authority, Dublin.

15th November, 2001 – Meeting with Professor Emily Spieler, University of West Virginia, Visiting Fulbright Scholar at UCC to discuss Irish equality legislation, Dublin.

20th November, 2001 – Meeting with representatives of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to discuss ICCL grant application, Dublin.

22nd November, 2001 – Meeting with Richard Reoch to discuss facilitation of ICCL strategic planning process.

Delivered public lecture as part of Equality Studies Centre public lecture series on *Irish Equality Legislation: A Critical Overview*, UCD, Dublin.

23rd November, 2001 – Meeting with Ruth Barror, The Atlantic Philanthropies, Dublin.

29th November, 2001 – Lecture to MBS class at Dublin City University on NGO work and the role of people from business backgrounds.

3rd December, 2001 – Rapporteur at *Get Your Act Together Conference*, Jury's Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

6th December, 2001 – Spoke at meeting organised by Colombia 3 Campaign, TCD, Dublin.

10th December, 2001 – Made presentation on human rights and community work at Community Workers' Co-Operative conference, Kilkenny.

Appeared on panel of RTE Current Affairs programme, *Questions & Answers*, Dublin.

12th December, 2001 – Attended demonstration outside Leinster House calling for end to direct provision for asylum seekers.

Meeting with Pauline Conroy, Ralaheen Consultants, to discuss ethics of ethnic profiling and other forms of personal information gathering in research.

Monitored Dail debates on implementation of EU anti-terrorism measures.

14th December, 2001 – Attended launch of Comhlamh policy on aid and development work, Conway's Bar, Parnell Street, Dublin.

17th December, 2001 – Spoke at press conference to oppose Carrier's Liability Sanctions, Temple Bar Hotel, Dublin.

18th December, 2001 – Attended Equality Authority Christmas reception.

19th December, 2001 – Meeting in Belfast with groups involved in the Carrickdale conference on social and economic rights.

21st December, 2001 – Attended *Metro Eireann* Christmas party.

16th January, 2002 – Attended Curriculum Development Unit seminar on human rights education, Equality Authority, Dublin.

17th – 19th January, 2002 – Attended Front Line conference, Dublin Castle, Dublin.

17th January, 2002 – Meeting with Tom Costello and Brian Kearney-Grieve, The Atlantic Philanthropies, Dublin.

21st January, 2002 – Meeting with Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, Dublin.

29th January, 2002 – Meeting with Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy to discuss establishment of new Immigrant Council of Ireland, Dublin.

5th February, 2002 – Attended meeting of NGO directors and activists to discuss implications of Electoral Act, 2001 for 'third party organisations', Dublin.

7th February, 2002 – Spoke at NCCRI Seminar on CERD on 'shadowing' the Government before the UN Human Rights Committee, Dublin.

Meeting with Brian Kearney-Grieve, The Atlantic Philanthropies, Dublin.

13th February, 2002 – Meeting with Pia Prutz Phiri and Ciara Smyth of the UNHCR to discuss refugee and asylum issues, Dublin.

Attended quarterly meeting between Community & Voluntary sector and Equality Authority, Dublin.

14th February, 2002 – Attended Institute of Design and Disability launch of Barcelona Declaration Project, National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin.

18th February, 2002 – Represented ICCL at co-ordination meeting organised by the IFPA for groups campaigning against the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, Dublin.

19th February, 2002 – Attended mass meeting on the Disabilities Bill, 2001, Mansion House, Dublin.

21st February, 2002 – Chaired closing session of follow-up conference to June 27th conference organized by ICCL, CAJ, NIVT, ICTU and CPA, Carrickdale, Co. Louth.

22nd February, 2002 – Spoke at debate hosted by Donegal Tourism and NWR FM on policing and the implementation of Patten in the Republic of Ireland, Killybegs, Co. Donegal.