

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

PRO HUMAN RIGHTS



Irish Council for
Civil Liberties

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INTRODUCTION

Message from the Co-Chairs

We are pleased to present the ICCL's Annual Report for 2007 and hope that you find it informative and useful.

The ICCL Executive Board has three main roles:

- determining the ICCL's policies,
 - the strategic management of the organisation, *and*
 - ensuring that good governance practices are observed.
-

Policy & Campaigning

The ICCL's strategic plan situates our policy work under three core pillars: Human Rights, Justice and Equality. As we reach the mid-point in the 5-year plan much of the organisation's work is bearing fruit. An example from each of these pillars is presented below; more details of the range of ongoing activities are included in the Our Work section of this report.

- Throughout the year we continued to work on our Equality for All Families Campaign, building on the report produced in 2006. In this regard we await the proposed legislation on partnership rights for same sex couples.
- July 2007 saw the ICCL launch a major research report, *Justice Matters; Independence, Accountability and the Irish Judiciary*. This was a truly ground-breaking document and we believe its recommendations will have a significant impact in the general area of judicial reform.
- The announcement by the Department of Foreign Affairs that Ireland would sign the OPCAT (the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention Against Torture) on the eve of an ICCL seminar on the Protocol gave us an opportunity to press for ratification of this important instrument.

Organisational Development & Strategy

This year saw the ICCL expanding its policy division with the appointment of Deirdre Duffy BL as Research and Policy Officer. We are also pleased to announce that Tanya Ward, who had been our Senior Research & Policy Officer, has been promoted to the post of Deputy Director, whilst retaining her core focus on policy matters. This reflects the importance of our policy division to the ICCL.

Our Administrator, Dawn Quinn, left us during 2007 and Joanne Garvey has since taken up this post. During the year Amy Pearson, Campaigns & Communications Officer, Ken Reid, Information Officer and Hannah Perrin also left the organisation. We wish every success in their future careers to staff members who made a significant contribution to the ICCL's work, and look forward to welcoming their successors.

Thank You

On behalf of the Executive we want to thank all the staff (Amy, Deirdre, Joanne, Karen, Ken, Mark and Tanya) and the consultants and project workers who assist them, for all of their tireless work during the year - much of which is documented in this annual report. Finally, thanks to the ICCL's members and supporters for ensuring that the organisation goes from strength to strength.

Malachy Murphy

Co-Chair

Judy Walsh

Co-Chair (Until December 2007)



Director's Foreword

2007 was a year of sustained and very public engagement by the ICCL. This report documents some of our recent campaigning successes, and spotlights remaining challenges.

Many of the issues on which the organisation has been campaigning for decades, including rendering our police service human rights compliant, bringing an end to legal discrimination against non-traditional families, and securing express rights for children are now at the top of the legislative agenda.

A truly independent human rights organisation such as the ICCL, which neither seeks nor accepts government funding, is uniquely placed to ensure that any new laws and policies enacted in these areas truly respect Ireland's international human rights obligations.

This is not a political activity, nor does the ICCL campaign for political purposes. Rather, its role is to ensure that the international human rights obligations that the State has freely undertaken are fully reflected in law policy and practice. This we do by preparing detailed policy and legislative reviews for the attention of legislators and policy makers, and by engaging in a range of awareness-raising activities with the media, our colleagues in statutory and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the public at large.

Our work is both domestic and international, in the sense that we regularly report on Ireland's human rights performance to relevant international bodies, including the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee, and the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights. We are actively engaged in "bringing rights home" to Ireland, by ensuring that the findings of international bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg are widely-available in Ireland and fully-understood by those whose lives are most affected by them.

None of this would be possible without the sustained support of our Board, staff, members, supporters and friends. The generous financial support of a small but growing number of trusts and foundations has also been essential in enabling the ICCL to expand its work and plan for the future. The essence of the ICCL's work remains, as it has always been, to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our society are better able to enjoy the rights and freedoms to which all of us are entitled.

I hope that you will enjoy reading our annual report for 2007 and that we will be able to continue to count on your support in 2008 and beyond.

Mark Kelly

Director





OUR PEOPLE

THE EXECUTIVE



Michael Finucane



John Gibson



John Kennedy



Natalie McDonnell



Mary McIvor



Aogán Mulcahy



Malachy Murphy – Co-Chair



Conor Power



Jean Tansey



Judy Walsh – Co-Chair until Dec. 2007

The Executive

During 2007, our Board was strengthened by the addition of Natalie McDonnell, BL and Dr. Aogán Mulcahy, Head of the School of Sociology at University College, Dublin. After many years of dedicated service to the ICCL, Judy Walsh stepped down from the Board at the end of the year; she is greatly missed.

The ICCL's Board retains a balance of those with policy and research experience, as well as people with a solid background in business and organisational development.

Staff

Staff changes during 2007 are documented in the Co-Chairs' report. We retain a core team of dedicated professionals, working in the areas of communications, fundraising, operations, policy and research. We also wish specifically to acknowledge the contribution to our work during 2007 of Edel Quinn, the researcher on the ICCL/Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT)/Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) Shadow Report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



From left to right: Tanya Ward, Deputy Director; Karen Ciesielski, Fundraising Officer; Joanne Garvey, Administrator; Deirdre Duffy, Research and Policy Officer; Mark Kelly, Director.



OUR WORK



MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS

The ICCL plays a watchdog role, constantly monitoring the Government's compliance with its obligations under international human rights law.

HUMAN RIGHTS

"There will always be a need for a questioning voice in society. At a time when governments are increasingly looking for quick-fix solutions, that eternal vigilance is necessary now more than ever." Former Senator Maurice Hayes



Former Senator Maurice Hayes.

MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

The ICCPR was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1966 and includes an extensive list of rights, including: the right to life; freedom from torture and inhuman treatment; the right to liberty and security; the right for detained persons to be treated with humanity and the right to a fair trial.

One of the ways in which the ICCL monitors Ireland's implementation of its international human rights obligations is by producing "shadow reports" in response to government reports under human rights treaties. A shadow report is a written review of the Government's official report to the UN under a human rights treaty.

During the year, the ICCL has worked with the Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC) and the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) to produce a high-quality Shadow Report in preparation for Ireland's forthcoming examination by the UN Human Rights Committee under the ICCPR. With funding from the Allen Lane Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Edel Quinn was recruited to research and write the report. In an effort to gain an understanding of issues affecting disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and families, the researcher spoke to stakeholders and ran focus groups with migrants/refugees, sexual minorities, lone parents and former prisoners. A consultation involving local and community groups and national NGOs was also organised, in order to obtain their views on



Edel Quinn, ICCPR researcher, Noeline Blackwell, Director, FLAC, Tanya Ward, ICCL Deputy Director at the ICCPR NGO consultation session.

the draft Shadow Report. A written list of issues, identifying gaps in the extent to which the State upholds its obligations under the ICCPR, was submitted to the Human Rights Committee at the end of 2007.

The ICCL will continue to work with the IPRT and FLAC on this project until the UN examination process is complete (expected to be in summer 2008). With partial funding kindly provided by the AW.60 Charitable Trust as a contribution towards travel costs, representatives from the ICCL, FLAC and IPRT will attend relevant UN meetings in New York and Geneva. The organisations will publicly launch the Shadow Report to raise awareness of its findings.



Optional Protocol to United Nations Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)

The OPCAT entered into force in June 2006. The main purpose of the Protocol is to prevent ill-treatment in places of detention, such as Garda stations, prisons, youth centres and closed units in psychiatric hospitals. In order to ensure that each country is abiding by its obligations under the OPCAT, a system of regular visits to these places of detention, which are carried out by independent international and national human rights institutions, has been established.

The ICCL organised a seminar in the Law Society of Ireland to raise awareness of the implications of the OPCAT for Ireland and to bring attention to the fact that Ireland had yet to ratify the Protocol.



The ICCL succeeded in raising awareness of the importance of OPCAT for Ireland, and on the eve of the seminar, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced that Ireland would sign the Protocol. The ICCL will continue to campaign for the State to ratify the OPCAT and to designate effective National Preventive Mechanisms.

Speakers at the event included: Silvia Casale, the first Chair of the UN Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture; Matthew Pringle, Europe and Central Asia Programme Officer, Association for the Prevention of Torture and Suzanne Egan, Irish Human Rights Commission. The event was well attended by senior officials responsible for places of detention, as well as representatives from bodies that may be designated 'National Preventative Mechanisms' upon the State's ratification of the Protocol.

Silvia Casale speaking at
ICCL's OPCAT seminar.



PROMOTING JUSTICE

It is a strategic objective of the ICCL to ensure that individual rights are fully protected within the justice system.

JUSTICE

"The main challenge facing the human rights sector is Governments' (Ireland is not alone here) weakening commitment to national and international human rights standards in areas like criminal justice, penal reform and asylum/immigration. It is vital that NGOs like the ICCL respond effectively by taking a rights based approach to activities such as raising public awareness, undertaking strategic legal advocacy and engaging constructively with government and society about these issues." Dr. Ursula KilKelly



Dr. Ursula KilKelly, Chair of the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) and Senior Lecturer in Law at University College Cork.

PROMOTING JUSTICE

Criminal Justice Work

In the run up to the last General Election, the Government introduced a package of criminal law reform proposals in the form of the Criminal Justice Bill 2007. The Bill marketed a series of unproven measures, many of which have implications for the protection of human rights, as a response to gangland crime. The ICCL's campaigning work highlighted key concerns during the Bill's expedited progress through the Oireachtas. This included organising a public seminar at the Law Society of Ireland, an extensive media campaign and the production of a well-received paper, "What's Wrong with the Criminal Justice Bill 2007?"

What's Wrong with the Criminal Justice Act 2007?

- New powers to hold people in Garda custody for up to seven days, even though an existing seven-day detention power is rarely, if ever, used
- Undue restrictions on the right to silence
- New limits on judicial sentencing discretion
- Unwarranted restrictions on bail and unproven proposals to use electronic monitoring

In response to sustained protest by the ICCL and the legal profession, additional parliamentary time was allocated to debate the Bill. Some significant amendments were made, including the deletion of controversial "crime prevention orders".



The Four Courts, Dublin.

The ICCL also challenged the constitutionality of new sentencing powers in the Bill, and the Act was amended to restore a degree of judicial discretion. The constitutionality of the remaining provisions was discussed during a meeting of the Council of State, called by the President in response to sustained concerns expressed about the Bill. Nonetheless, many of the shortcomings originally identified by the ICCL remain, and the organisation will continue to campaign for the repeal of provisions that potentially infringe human rights.

Garda Reform

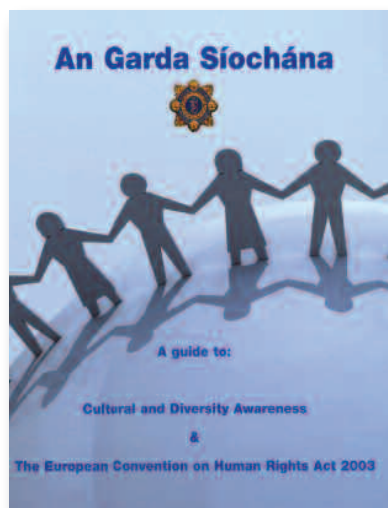
New Human Rights Guide

A new Human Rights Guide produced by the ICCL in cooperation with An Garda Síochána was formally launched by the then Garda Commissioner Mr. Noel Conroy at a Graduation Ceremony at Garda College, Templemore. A copy has been personally issued to every serving member of the Garda and Garda Reserve.



Former Garda Commissioner Mr. Noel Conroy and guests at the launch of the new human rights guide.

The guide outlines the State's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and directly relates those principles to the operational activities of the Gardaí. Publication and distribution of the Guide is part of the ICCL's ongoing work of constructive engagement with An Garda Síochána in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights.



Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee

ICCL Director Mark Kelly sits on the Garda Commissioner's Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee. The Committee's membership includes senior Gardaí, as well as independent human rights experts. It is chaired by Assistant Commissioner Catherine Clancy.

Independent membership of the Garda Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee includes:

- ICCL
- Irish Human Rights Commission
- Equality Authority
- Amnesty International (Irish Section)

Over the course of 2007, the Committee has produced a detailed package of reform measures, including:

- introducing a human rights monitoring framework for An Garda;
- producing audit tools to human rights proof Garda policy and practice;
- mainstreaming human rights into Garda training.

It is anticipated that this reform package will be transmitted to the Commissioner in early 2008 for his formal approval. The ICCL will continue to cooperate with key stakeholders, including the Garda Inspectorate, Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission and the Irish Human Rights Commission in the interests of achieving a genuinely human rights compliant police force.

PROMOTING JUSTICE

Justice Matters

The ICCL report *Justice Matters; Independence, Accountability and the Irish Judiciary* examines international human rights standards on judicial independence and assesses the adequacy of Irish law and policy in light of this international framework. Given the subject matter of the research, a special effort was made to consult with members of the Irish judiciary and interviews took place with judges from the superior and lower courts.

The research was guided by an Expert Advisory Group, including Senior Counsel, Aileen Donnelly (Chair) and the Honourable Mr. Justice Donal Barrington (a former member of the Supreme Court and the European Court of Justice), experienced barristers, solicitors and representatives from NGOs. The report was written by Tanya Ward, Deputy Director of the ICCL.

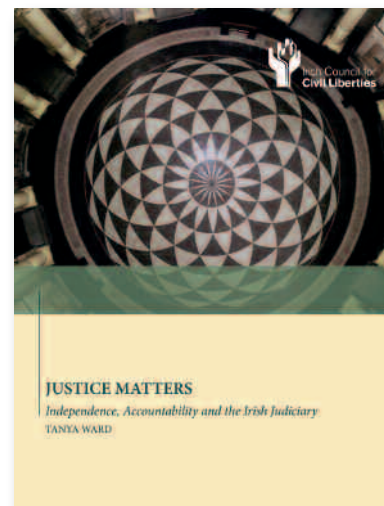
The report highlights a range of issues affecting the judiciary's ability to perform its role in an independent and human rights compliant manner, including: the fact that judicial appointments are non-transparent; poor resourcing; the failure to introduce a Code of Ethics for Judges and the absence of a formalised judicial studies programme with human rights as a major component. Questions of impartiality and diversity are also covered in the report, which makes a series of recommendations designed to render the judiciary more reflective of, and accountable to, society.

Professor Jochen Frowein, Vice President of the International Commission for Jurists, launched the report in the Law Society of Ireland. This event was well attended by members of the legal profession, judiciary and representatives from civil society and garnered extensive media coverage.



Tanya Ward, ICCL Deputy Director, speaking about Justice Matters on RTÉ Television 6.1 News

The ICCL also organised a briefing session for members of the Oireachtas on the report's main findings. The ICCL will continue to monitor judicial reform developments in 2008 and will commission a second piece of research in the series, looking at how judges use international human rights law.



At the launch of *Justice Matters*



Hon. Mr. Justice Donal Barrington introduces Justice Matters.



Left to right: Attorney General Paul Gallagher SC, Alan Shatter TD, Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Clarke, Hon. Mr. Justice Michael Peart and Law Society Director General Ken Murphy.



Left to right: Hon. Mr. Justice Patrick McCarthy, Hon. Mr. Justice Paul Carney and Hon. Mr. Justice John Edwards.



Hon. Mr. Justice Michael Kirby; Noeline Blackwell, Executive Director, FLAC; Brian Ingoldsby, Principal Officer in the Civil Law Reform Division, Department of Justice.

SECURING EQUALITY

The Irish Constitution still allows discrimination against various forms of non-traditional families. The ICCL campaigns to secure equality for all families.



EQUALITY

"My involvement with the ICCL gave me a feeling of being involved in real issues of principle and of being enabled to have a measurable impact through the ICCL on Irish society." Senator David Norris



Senator David Norris

SECURING EQUALITY

Equality for All Families

The findings in the ICCL's comprehensive Equality for All Families report have formed the basis of our work on equality issues during the year.

Significantly, the report concluded that only families based on opposite-sex marriage enjoy the full protection of the Irish Constitution. Some of the key issues which were identified and which the ICCL has been working to address include:

- Same-sex couples are effectively treated as strangers for legal purposes;
- Cohabiting couples are disadvantaged when they do not opt for marriage;
- Children's rights vary according to whether or not their parents are married;
- Unmarried fathers have virtually no rights under the Constitution in relation to their children.

The Government has stated that it will bring forward a Civil Partnership Bill in 2008; however, the ICCL believes that only the introduction of civil marriage for same-sex couples will achieve full equality and that the definition of the family in the Constitution must be changed to protect all families.

Referendum on Children's Rights

A key objective of the Equality for All Families Campaign is to ensure that the rights of children are recognised in an effective way.

On 30 January 2007, the then Minister for Children, Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D., distributed draft proposals for a referendum on the protection of children. The proposals failed to take cognisance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and did not include express rights for children. In response, the ICCL rapidly produced two written critiques and met privately with the Minister for Children. This was followed up by meetings with opposition parties and by a considerable amount of media work, including an appearance by ICCL Director Mark Kelly on RTÉ Television's Questions and Answers.

The ICCL subsequently produced policy papers analysing the Minister's amended propositions and the proposals in the Twenty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2007. The ICCL was one of a handful of organisations to rapidly respond with a legal analysis on the referendum proposals, utilising our in-house legal expertise. Throughout this period, the ICCL liaised and worked closely with representatives from the Children's Rights Alliance, Barnardos, Rape Crisis Network Ireland and the National Youth Council of Ireland. The ICCL also disseminated its submissions widely and shared information with other interested groups.

The ICCL's sustained intervention increased awareness of children's human rights issues, and the deficient proposals set out in the Twenty-Eight Amendment of the Constitution Bill have been withdrawn. The need to recognise and protect express rights for children is expected to be firmly part of the debate during 2008 and 2009.



Mark Kelly speaking about children's human rights issues on RTE's *Questions and Answers* Programme.

ICCL at the Electric Picnic Music Festival 2007

In August 2007, the ICCL attended the Electric Picnic music festival, highlighting the discrimination faced by same-sex couples through our Love Equality campaign. The ICCL's marquee was staffed by ICCL Executive and staff members and a team of enthusiastic volunteers. Festival-goers flocked to the colourful stall, and around 1,300 posed for photographs with us (see page 28). The pictures were emailed to the participants the following week.

During the festival, the ICCL also sought signatures on an open letter to An Taoiseach, calling on him to secure full equality for all families by bringing forward the necessary legislative and constitutional reforms. Over 1,100 people signed the letter, which was published as an advert in *The Irish Times* on the first day of the new Dáil (see page 29).

The ICCL received positive feedback about this campaign from members of the gay and lesbian community, as well as from NGOs and other groups campaigning for equality. Importantly, the new supporters brought on board during the Electric Picnic festival also got involved in other campaign initiatives and activities throughout the year, a welcome addition to our community of members and supporters.

SECURING EQUALITY

Stradbally Estate. County Laois Ireland
**ELECTRIC
PICNIC**
The Boutique Music Festival



An Taoiseach,

Ireland has changed, and a new generation is calling for genuine equality for all families. At this year's Electric Picnic music festival at Stradbally House, Co. Laois, over 1,100 young people signed the following open letter to you.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) hopes that you will hear their voices, and calls upon you to heed their call for full equality of opportunity for all in our society.

An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD

Department of the Taoiseach,
Government Buildings,
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin 2

31 August 2007

An Taoiseach,

We, the undersigned, welcome your progressive remarks on 16 July 2007 that the Government is committed to full equality of opportunity for all in our society, in particular by providing a more supportive and secure legal environment for same-sex couples.

It has been suggested that there are two ways in which this could be achieved: civil partnership and civil marriage. However, civil partnership falls short of full equality for same-sex couples as it excludes such families from the protection given to the family in the Constitution. Only the introduction of civil marriage for same sex couples will achieve equality of status with opposite-sex couples.

An Taoiseach, more than a year ago, in April 2006, you declared that:

"Our sexual orientation is not an incidental attribute. It is an essential part of who and what we are. All citizens, regardless of sexual orientation, stand equal in the eyes of the law. Sexual orientation cannot, and must not, be the basis of a second-class citizenship. Our laws have changed, and will continue to change to reflect this principle."

We, the undersigned, believe that the time has come to translate these sentiments into action, by providing for civil marriage for same sex couples. This will call for genuine political leadership, and could require a referendum to ensure that the introduction of same sex marriage would not be vulnerable to constitutional challenge.

Such a referendum would also provide an opportunity to overhaul the definition of the family in the Constitution. Children, cohabiting couples and lone parents are denied legal protection and face inequalities in areas such as adoption, taxation, housing, welfare, immigration and inheritance. Bringing an end to discrimination against relationships and families which are not based on opposite sex marriage is the only way to secure equality for all families.

We, the undersigned, respectfully urge you to fulfil your repeated commitment to provide full equality of opportunity for all in our society, by bringing forward the necessary Constitutional and legislative reforms at the very earliest opportunity in the life of the new Government.

 Irish Council for
Civil Liberties
www.iccl.ie

J Adamson Nick Adderley Earnest Adriaansz Edel Ahern Jennifer Ahern Roisin Ahern Stuart Allaway Fiona Allen Judith Allen Richard Allen Deirdre Ambrose Kelly Anderson James Andrews Amy Anson Clodagh Armitage Laura Arnold Caoimhe Bain Peter Banford Anabelle Barker Thomas Barker Clare Barrett Rose Barrett Brian Barry Kate Barry Emilia Bartellas Louise Basquillo Bebhinn Behan Sarah Beirne Aidan Bennett Anton Bennett Grainne Bennett Tom Bennett Grainne Bergin Derek Bettenben Simon Bingham Robbie Blake Maria Blanco Gillian Boate Marie Therese Bojoger Donal Boiger Claire Bonas Hazel Bond Stacey Bowen John Bowman Richard Boyd Celina Boyle Maeve Braden Sean Braden Liam Bradley Arne Brady Fiona Brady Tony Brady Emma Breidan Gillian Brennan Colm Brennan Emma Brennan Joanne Brennan Marty Brennan Suzie Brennan Katie Brennan Harding Maeve Breslin July Breslin Kim Brewster Catherine Brogan David Brown Donal Browne Jennie Buchanan Ellen Buckley Thomas Buckley Joan Burke Laurie Burke Ronan Burke Leo Burn Lisa Burns Patricia Burns Paul Burns Vincent Burns Jade Butler Janice Butler Sarah Butler Laura Buttigieg Adam Byrne Alan Byrne Aoife Byrne Clare Byrne Deirdre Byrne Greg Byrne Jamie Byrne Lynda Byrne Shane Byrne Brian Cahill Leon Callan Caoimhe Calpin David Campbell Eileen Canny Jerome Canny Adrienne Capelle Annalga Carey David Carey Ian Carey Sonia Carlington Shane Carr Aodhnaí Carroll Bernadette Carroll Elizabeth Carroll Eoghan Carroll Eugene Carroll Liz Carroll Miriam Carroll Richard Carroll Denise Carson Shane Casey Andrew Cashin Osin Cassidy Eleana Castiva-Garcia E. Champion Kevin Chandler Carly Cheevers John Clark Zoe Clark Danielle Clarke Ian Clarke Rachel Clarke Rhys Clarke Cathie Clinton Katherine Coady Sarah Coates David Cody Carola Cole Fiona Coleman Marie Coleman Adeline Coleman Melissa Collier Aedin Collins D Collins Fiona Collins May Collins Roisin Collins Roisin Collins Lucy Collis David Comer Gary Comins Yvonne Conaty Declan Condon Robert Conlon Chris Connolly Christopher Connolly David Connor Maria Conroy James Conry Sarah Conway Meadhbh Cooke Emma Cooper Liz Corcoran Linda Corcoran Patch Corcoran Robbie Corcoran Michelle Corless Juliette Corry Hollie Corrigan William Cotter Sarah Coventry Jenny Coward Elaine Cox Nicola Cox Dawn Coyle Lochlainne Coyne Joanne Crean Melissa Creedon Niamh Crimmins Lisa Cronin Catriona Crosan Nicola Crosbie C Crowley David Cruise Austin Cullen Lisa-Marie Cullen Sarah Cullen Brendan Curran Linda Curran Curran Curry Niall Cushen John Cussen Jimmy Dalton Graham Daly Karol Daly Shane Daly Catriona Darcy Charlene Darcy Wayne Darcy Ian D'Arcy Anna Davidson Johanna Davidson Matthew De Courcy Clare de Ladehat Eileen Deegan Cliona Deasy Fergal Deasy Ruth Delany Alan Dempsey Paula Dempsey Ronan Dempsey Claire Derouasse Steve Devine William Dewshbags Ariel Di Veroli Keelin Dineen Alison Diver Clare Dixon Anna Dockery Aine Doherty JP Donleavy Claran Donoghue John Donohue Mary Dooley Aine Doonan Aisling Doonan Cathleen Dore Brendan Dorrain Rory Dowdall Elaine Dowling Emma Dowling Martina Dowling Paul Dowling Rita Dowling Gavin Downes Adam Doyle Mary Doyle Tara Doyle Rachel Doyle-Hobbs Ellen Dudley Jessica Dudley David Duffy Edmar Duffy John Duggan Conor Duke Sarah Dunleah Barry Dunne Eimear Dunne Emma Dunne Kate Durrie Noel Dunne Nicola Dunphy Emma Durkin Natalie Dyer Sarah Dyer Stef Edwards Clodagh Egan Noelle Enright Emma Ertel Olga Evenden Olwyn Fagan Patricia Fallagher Brian Fallon Shane Fallon Thomas Fanning Nagail Farog Jane Farrell Katie Farrell Maria Farrell Tom Farrell Sarah Farrelly Eleanor Fawcette Michael Fawli Siobhan Fawli Anna Feehan Claire Feely Jo Feely Martin Feeney Sarah Ferguson Kieran Ferran Sharon Ferran Sharon Feneagan Claran Finn Francis Finnegan Julia Finnegan Sean Finnegan Hazel Finney Carina Fitzpatrick Loraine Fitzpatrick Paul Flaherty Roisin Flaherty Conor Flanagan Michael Flanagan Sarah Flanagan Grainne Flannery JJ Flannery TJ Fleming Bebhinn Flood Emma Flynn Lily Flynn Rebecca Flynn Alan Foley Dan Foley Dee Foley Frank Foley C Forbes Treasa Forrestal Sarah Forsell Jenny Fortune Monica Foslain Ann Fox Gerry Fox Susan Fox Sarah Frances Mary Frawley John Frazer David Fulham Edith Furlong Roisin Furlong Laura Gahan Corina Gallagher Eimear Gallagher Kerri Galligan Leona Galligan Anthony Galvin Fiona Gannon Grace Gannon Andy Gardener Rob Gardiner Sam Gates Gary Gavin Stephen Gavin Fergal Gaynor Kate Gibney Melissa Gilbert Aoife Gillespie Damien Gilmore Michelle Gilmore Mark Gilman Martin Glavin Aaron Gleeson Del Glennon Salome Gonzalez Emma Goode Louise Goodwin Aisling Gordon Claire Gorry Stuart Goss Shane Gough Eoin Grace Deirdre Graham Nicole Gramacki Shona Grant Claran Grant Emerald Green Moira Green Nadine Green Colin Grey Aoife Griffin Jenny Griffin Martha Griffin Sarah Griffin B Grimley Janice Gulman Michelle Hackett Sam Haddow Brian Hagan Sam Hamilton Aoife Hammond Karen Hammond Kathryn Hammond Virgil Hammond John Hanley Sarah Hannahway Rachel Hannon Bobby Harnett Brendan Harney Eibhlin Harrington Rob Harrington Peter Harrison Martina Harter Shane Hartney Leo Harvey Tansen Harward Niamh Hassett Christina Healy Elaine Hesly Aisling Heaney Deirdre Heaney Jo Heaney Andrew Heather Owen Heeney Louise Hendrick Muriel Hendy Jennifer Hennessy Bruce Henry Ruth Henry Louise Herby Ger Herin Claire Hickey Amy Hill Anton Hislop Annabelle Hogan Karen Hogan Sean Hogan Sorcha Hogan Hilton Holian Derek Holland Anne Marie Homes Judy Hopkins Dave Horgan Eoin Horgan Finn Houlihan Sinead Houlihan Clare Hovey Jenny Hurdson Elaine Hunt Mike Hunt Aoife Hurley Dave Hurley Joanne Hurley Anne Hussey J Hussey Maureen Hussey Clare Hyland Susan Hyland Paul Hien Philip Ingram Natalie Jackson Rachel Jackson Alex James Niall Jenkins Catherine Jones Orla Jones Tracy Jones D Jordan Eugene Jordan Hugh Jordan Michael Jordan Trish Joy Fiona Joyce Andrew Kane Jason Kane Rose Kane Orla Kavanagh Sinead Kavanagh Sarah Keaddl Sinead Kealey Norma Keane Sheena Keane Marie-Clare Kearney Jennifer Keating Laura Keating Eimear Kehoe Linda Kehoe Cathy Kell Rachel Kell Joanne Kelleher Paul Kelleher Tara Kelleher Anthony Kelly Daragh Kelly Eimear Kelly Finn Kelly Fintian Kelly Grainne Kelly Janet Kelly Jo Kelly Kevin Kelly Kirsten Kelly Laura Kelly Michael Kelly Sarah Kelly Stephen Kelly Yvonne Kelly Geraldine Kendall Amy Kenaley Barry Kennedy Gloria Kennedy Ronan Kennedy Luke Kenny Paul Kenny Pauline Kenny Jennifer Keogh Neal Keogh Susan Keogh Mark Kerffotria Dan Kidney Andrea Kiey Dennis Kiey Paddy Kiely Mairead Kiernan Ciara Kilalea Kevin Killean Alwyn Kinane Clare King Grainne King Colm Kinnane Patrick Kinsella Maureen Kirwan Kara Kirwin Marcus Kittel Carol Klingert Ricky Knight Tim Korar Audrey Lilly Peter Lan Doireann Larkin Willie Larkin Sonya Larrigan Gavin Leane Paul Leane Ailish Leahy Lynda Leahy Aileen Leavy Neil Ledwith Robert Lee Phelin Lehmann Stybe Lehmann Daniel Lenifer Dore Lennon Clare Leonard Sinead Leonard David Lewis Vicki Lindsay Susan Linehan Emer Liston Ian Lockhart Robert Loughnane Deirdre Lou Michael Lyden Stephen Lydon Avria Lynch Billy Lynch Billy Lynch Brendan Lynch Mary Lynch Paula Lyne Maeve Lyons Niamh Lyons Rachel Lyons Sean Lyons Anna Mac Gowan Sean Mac Risteard Colman Mac Sealaigh Lydia Mackegh Gwen Macken Emily Mackegh Louise Mackey Dara MacRohail Hilary Madden Kate Magennis Sophie Magennis Caoimhe Maguire Cathy Maguire Eoin Maher Graeme Mahon Laura Mahon Regina Mahon Doreen Mahoney Marie Malmjary Derek Malone A Manning Adrian Manser Aoife Mack Kyle Martin Loraine Martin Shona Martin Paulo Mariano Kevin Noonan K McCardle Richie McArdle Ruaidhri McAuliffe David McCabe Fiona McCabe Hugh McCafferty Ian McCafferty Greg McCafferty Kevin McCann Nicola McCann Ruth McCann Brian McCarthy Claire McCarthy Declan McCarthy Deirdre McCarthy John McCarthy Kevin McCarthy Liam McCarthy Warren McCarthy William McCarthy Paul McCay Joanna McClatchin Brian McClean Claran McCrath Shane McCoy Aoife McDermott Kate McDermott Tiarnan McDonagh Grace McDonald Jenny McDonald Linus McDonald Marie McDonald Orla McDonald Paul McDonald Edel McDonnell Linus McDonnell Lynn McDonnery Niall McFadden Tracy McFadden Roisin McFlynn Gemma McGahern Maria McGahern Ann McGeever Marie McGeever Ava McGeevigan Delia McGivers Edel McGlanagh Kieran McGrane Clara McGrath Fabienne McGrath Shane McGrath Shauna McGreevy Caoimhe McGuicken Paul McGuigan Rebecca McGurrell Daniel McGuffin Una McKay Leo McKenna Donna McLaughlin Kenny McLawrence Grant McLeod Shane McLaughlin Anne McLaughlin Philip McMahon Eimear McManus Colm McManamin Clare McNally Roisin McNally Susan McNulty Matt Moore Kevin McPeala Hazel McPhee Eoin McQuail Siobhan McTierman Donal Mcweeney Clodagh Meady Philip Meany Mark Maleady Andrew Mella Paul Mernock Nick Mearrman Wendy Miles John Miller Susan Miller Wakaba Miyazaki Emma Moffat Darryn Mori Siedad Moloney Brian Monaghan Alan Mooney Derval Mooney Niamh Mooney Cormac Moore Steven Moran Catherine Moran Padraic Morley Maedhbh Moroney Edel Morrison Stephen Morrison Sarah Mortimer Emily Mounier Richard Mugilton Ruth Mulvaney Anne Mullen Mary Mullen Deirdre Mullins Roisin Mullins Elaine Mulqueen Clara Mulvihill Alanne Murphy Ali Murphy Cliona Murphy Gavin Murphy Jenny Murphy K Murphy Lou Murphy Louise Murphy Niall Murphy Peter Murphy Sile Murphy Suzanne Murphy Tommie Murphy Ali Murray Criona Murray Kevin Murray Paddy Murray Pamela Murray Sarah Murray Niamh Murray George Nagle Pier Luigi Nardelli Rosathea Nardelli Roisin Neave Sonja Neiland Audrey Nestor Vivienne Nevijad Keith Nevin Antoinette Neylon Dela Ni Chiochlain Aine Ni Chiorhain Aine Ni Cholleoin Aine Ni Dhornail Sinead Ni Remoainn Aibhinn Ni Snuilleabhain Aisling Nic Hurthaire Jeanette Nic Lochlainn Apphia Nicholas Wendel Nisly Ciaran Nolan Lesley Nolan Megan Nolan Catriona Noonan Kevin Noonan Mark Noonan Niall Noonan Clara Norton Damien O Cuanna Conor O'Brian Cara O'Brien Cory O'Brien Irene O'Brien John O'Brien John O'Brien Mary O'Connor Sarah O'Connor Vicky O'Connor Roisin O'Donnell Leeann O'Donoghue Tony O'Donoghue Ruabhan O'Donoghue Niall O'Driscoll Susan O'Driscoll Connor O'Driscoll David O'Farrell Orla O'Farrell Esme O'Flynn Eimear O'Grady Gine O'Grady Elaine O'Halloran Mary O'Hanlon D O'Hara Paul O'Hare Grainne O'Heare Claire O'Hare Mick O'Hare Clare O'Keefe Eimear O'Keefe Helene O'Keefe Linda O'Keefe T O'Keefe Donal O'Loaghra Maura O'Loaghra Art O'Leary Pamela O'Leary Paul O'Leary Dora O'Loan Brian O'Loughlin Maureen Olsen Ceine O'Mahony Colin O'Mahony Kevin O'Mahony Michael O'Malley Niamh O'Malley Selina O'Meara Connor O'Neill Jan O'Neill Jason O'Neill Karen O'Neill Olivia O'Neill Aine O'Raghnaigh Donna O'Regan Niamh O'Regan Dathi O'Reilly Dermot O'Reilly John O'Reilly Julian O'Reilly Kate O'Reilly Mairead O'Reilly Scarlett O'Reilly Anne O'Riordan Caroline Orr Keith Osbourne Kevin O'Shea Marianne O'Shea Richard O'Shea Una O'Shea Brid O'Sullivan Eoghan O'Sullivan Kate O'Sullivan Maeve O'Sullivan Sean O'Sullivan Tony O'Sullivan Lar O'Toole Tara O'Toole Robbie Ovenson Siobhan Owens Richard Owens Giles Packham Rosie Palmer Laura Penderville Aoife Perry Ellie Phillips Adele Plant Martin Poliski Grace Porter Andrew Power Cait Power Claire Power G Power Lisa Power N Power Maeve Powers Sean Prendergast Katie Prior Pamela Quattrana Dermot Quigley Daragh Quinn Gerard Quinn H Quinn Jill Quinn Karl Quinn Tracy Quinn Catherine Quintan Victor Raben Nina Reade Claran Redmond Sinead Reidy Edel Reilly Jamie Reynolds Fiona Rice Simeon Rimmer Joanne Roberts Robert Roberts Jack Roche Mark Roche Ali Rochford Paul Rocks Liam Rodden Victoria Rodgers Luke Rogers Daniel Romilly Abigail Ronan Cormac Rooney Noel Ross Ailie Rowley Jeff Rutt Kate Russell Sheneva Russell Camilla Ryan Michael Ryan Paul Ryan Yvonne Ryan Niamh Ryder Sean Ryan Sinead Sarfield Muller Sauden Michael Savage Fionnuala Scallion Catherine Scally Faye Scallion Alan Scarlett Maria Schewep Jacob Scordilis Emma Scotchen Eoghan Scott Nicola Scott Rhonda Scott Ivor Scully Daniel Searle Louise Seary Siobhan Sexton Aoife Sharkey Orla Sheridan Grainne Sheridan Tasha Simpson Luke Snaul Aine Smith David Smith Joe Smith Suzanne Smith Hannah Smithers Anna Somers Claran Sotzbeck Marcus Spring Clara Stack Grainne Stack Nora Stapleton Michael Steele Connor Stenson Barry Stenson Charlie Stewart Dara Stewart David Stewart Suzy Stewart Petra Stone Clara Strange Eleanor Stuart Hazel Stubbs Jane Sykes Nicola Sykes J Sutton JP Swaine Asumpta Sweeney Orla Taaffe Agata Taborske Alan Taylor Anthony Terrynson Louisa Tew Fiona Thompson Alan Thornton Lorane Thornton Sarah Thwaites Emma Tierney Sinead Timoney Claire Tobin Simon Torrens Spencer Fiona Tracey Jo Traynor Siobhan Tuile Mark Twishig Barry Twomey Pamela Twomey Fiona Tyrrell Wayne Tyrrell Carlo Valle Rob Vambeck Eric Vaughan Theresia Veale Ross Vickers Clodagh Voyles Alan Waddy Sue Wall Brian Walsh Dermot Walsh Fiona Walsh Karen Walsh Ken Walsh Linda Walsh Neil Walsh John Ward John Ward Joe Warne Genevieve Watts Gail Weadick Dawn Wheatley Chris Whelan Prinosos Whelan Lucy White Gordon Whittaker Sean Wickham Tanya Wickham Racine William Jo Wilson Lynn Winterson Steff Woodhead John Wycherley Wayne Wynn Natalie Young



I ♥ EQUALITY

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

This is a roundup of our research and policy reports, submissions, legislative reviews, consultation papers and other publications issued during 2007. A number of other ICCL events, speeches and press releases are also highlighted in this section.

International Human Rights Monitoring

— **February 2007**

Report on Ireland for the International Helsinki Federation on Human Rights World Report.

— **November 2007**

ICCL Submission to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

— **December 2007**

'List of Issues' Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee in relation to Ireland's Report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in association with FLAC and the IPRT.

— **December 2007**

ICCL Submission to the Government's Consultation on its Sixth Report under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

— **December 2007**

Annual Human Rights Report on Ireland for the Swedish Government's Global Report.

Legislative and Consultation Papers

— **February 2007**

Propositions 1 – 4 on the Protection of Children: The ICCL Position on the Minister for Children's Proposed Amendments to the Constitution.

— **February 2007**

Proposition on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse: The ICCL Position on the Minister for Children's Proposals for an Amendment to the Constitution.

— **March 2007**

What's Wrong with the Criminal Justice Bill 2007?

— **April 2007**

Proposition 1 – 4 on the Protection of Children: The ICCL Position on the Minister for Children's Second Briefing Document on Proposed Wording to Amend the Constitution.

— **April 2007**

Proposition 5 on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse: The ICCL Position on the Minister for Children's Second Briefing Document on Proposed Wording to Amend the Constitution.

— **April 2007**

ICCL Position on Provisions in the Twenty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2007: Commentary on the proposed new sections on children.

— **April 2007**

ICCL Position on Provisions in the Twenty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2007: Commentary on Strict/Absolute Liability and Soft Information.

— **July 2007**

ICCL Submission on the Charities Bill 2007.

— **July 2007**

ICCL Submission on An Garda Síochána Diversity Strategy.

Research and Policy Publications

— **July 2007**

Justice Matters; Independence, Accountability and the Irish Judiciary.

— **July 2007**

Justice Matters; Executive Summary.

— **December 2007**

Taking Liberties: Human Rights Implications of the Balance in the Criminal Law Review Group Report (launch in 2008).

Other Publications

— **April 2007**

Garda Pocket Human Rights Guide, published in association with An Garda Síochána.

— **April 2007**

Monitoring Civil and Political Rights in Ireland Information Leaflet.

— **April 2007**

Campaign Pack for young people for the Young Social Innovators Day at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS).

— **Summer 2007**

Rights News (ICCL Newsletter).

— **August 2007**

ICCL Love Equality Campaign Leaflet and pack.

— **Autumn 2007**

Rights News (ICCL Newsletter).

— **September 2007**

The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture:
Frequently Asked Questions booklet.

— **Winter 2007 – 2008**

Rights News (ICCL Newsletter).

Events

— **March 2007**

ICCL Annual General Meeting in the President's Hall, the Law Society of Ireland, Dublin 7.

— **March 2007**

Rebalancing Rights? Contemporary Trends in Human Rights and Criminal Justice in the President's Hall, the Law Society of Ireland, Dublin 7.

— **April 2007**

ICCL stand at the Showcase of Young Social Innovators Day at the RDS.

— **May 2007**

ICCL Annual Report Launch for 2006 in the ICCL's offices.

— **July 2007**

ICCL Justice Matters Report Launch in the Blue Room, the Law Society of Ireland, Dublin 7.

— **August 2007**

NGO ICCPR Consultation, organised in association with FLAC and the IPRT in the Equality Authority, Dublin 2.

— **August 2007**

ICCL 'Love Equality' Campaign Stand at Electric Picnic – The Boutique Music Festival, Stradbally Estate, County Laois.

— **September 2007**

Preventing Ill-Treatment Ireland and the OPCAT in the President's Hall, Law Society of Ireland.

— **October 2007**

Roundtable on Human Rights in Lesotho and Ireland, organised by the ICCL in association with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho in the ICCL's offices.

— **November 2007**

ICCL Stand at an Intercultural Evening hosted by Bridewell Garda Station and Sports Against Racism Ireland (S.A.R.I.) in the Law Society of Ireland

List of Speeches and Presentations

— March 2007

Presentation on 'The European Convention on Human Rights: The Struggle for Basic Rights', delivered to the European Studies Programme at Sligo Institute of Technology.

— April 2007

Speech delivered at the Tasc launch on its report 'Power to the People? Assessing Democracy in Ireland', at the National Library.

— May 2007

Keynote address to the University College Cork's Conference on Criminal Justice and Human Rights, organised by the Faculty of Law and Business.

— July 2007

Justice Matters: Overview of Report Findings, speech delivered at the Law Society of Ireland, Dublin 7.

— August 2007

Participation in LGBT University College Galway Society debate on same sex marriage organised as part of Galway Pride Week in Galway City.

— September 2007

Participation in RTÉ's live radio debate – In Your Blood: Forensic DNA Databases, at Castlebar Library, Co. Mayo.

— September 2007

Presentation on 'Implementing OPCAT: The Implications for Ireland', seminar on the OPCAT, organised by the ICCL, in the President's Hall, Law Society of Ireland.

— October 2007,

ICCL *Justice Matters* Presentation to members of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) in Leinster House, Dublin 2.

— October 2007

Presentation to the Council of Europe's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in relation to the Commissioner's first visit to Ireland, in the ICCL's offices.

— October 2007

Presentation on 'Mechanisms to Safeguard the Independence of the Judiciary', organised by the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, in co-operation with the Bar Council/Law Society of Ireland in the Blue Room of the Law Society of Ireland.

— October 2007

Presentation on 'Legal Safeguards for the Prevention of Ill-Treatment', organised by the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, in co operation with the Bar Council/Law Society of Ireland in the Chairman's Room, Bar Council.

— November 2007

Presentation on the role of the Committee for the Prevention on Torture (CPT) and the implications of its 2007 report for youth justice in Ireland, in the Catherine McAuley Centre, Dublin 2.

— **November 2007**

Presentation on 'Advancing Human Rights' delivered to the National Lesbian and Gay Federation Conference, organised in the Equality Authority, Dublin 2.

— **November 2007**

Presentation to the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg in relation to his first visit to Ireland.

Press Releases

— **January 2007**

"Government Attempts to Muzzle EU Rendition Committee Backfire", says the ICCL.

— **February 2007**

"ICCL Backs European Parliament Call for Dáil Rendition Inquiry".

"Top Expert Says Removing Rights Won't Tackle Gangland Crime".

"ICCL Welcomes Dáil Civil Unions Debate".

— **March 2007**

"ICCL Gives Broad Welcome to Inspectorate's Abbeylara Review".

"McDowell's 'Licence to Kill' Proposals Unlawful", says the ICCL.

"Criminal Justice Bill Does Not Combat Gangland Crime", says the ICCL.

"ICCL Highlights Flaws in Criminal Justice Bill 2007".

"ICCL Welcomes Government's Leadership on UN Disability Treaty".

— **April 2007**

"TASC Audit Spotlights Democratic Deficit", says ICCL Director.

"Garda Pocket Human Rights Guide is 'a milestone'", says the ICCL.

— **May 2007**

"Publication of Immigration Bill a 'political stunt'", says the ICCL.

"Government Must Reform Discrimination Law, says European Watchdog".

"Release Torture Watchdog Report on Garda Station", says the ICCL.

"Human Rights Should be an 'Anchor' for Criminal Justice Policy".

— **July 2007**

"Ireland Faces EU Court Action over Inaction on Race", says the ICCL.

"ICCL Calls for New Council to Strengthen Judicial Accountability".

— **August 2007**

"Minister is Right to Revoke 'Licence to Kill'", says the ICCL.

— **September 2007**

"Top UN Expert Says New Human Rights Standards Can Help Vulnerable People".

"Mr G Case Highlights Need for Constitutional Reform", says the ICCL.

"ICCL Backs Call for Garda 'Culture of Accountability'".

— **October 2007**

"Unsafe and Degrading: Europe's Verdict on Ireland's Prisons".

"Government Must Heed Foy Judgment", says the ICCL.

"Special Criminal Court Expansion Would Put Ireland in the Dock".

"ICCL Welcomes Dáil Civil Unions Debate".

— **December 2007**

"'Extraordinary Rendition': Human Rights".

Commission Confirms that Irish Government is Wrong in Law".

FUTURE PROSPECTS



Since the ICCL's foundation in 1976, the organisation has evolved from a meeting of a small number of concerned people into an active community of hundreds of members and supporters. However, at its core, it remains a voice and vehicle for change for the most vulnerable members of society.

Our work would not be possible without the continued financial support of members, supporters and donors. The ICCL is particularly grateful to the Atlantic Philanthropies for its significant commitment to the development of a human rights culture in this country, which has helped us to expand our human and financial resources, and to move towards a secure future.

Further resources will be needed if we are to sustain our work of independently monitoring the implementation of international human rights standards, promoting a fair and balanced criminal justice system and campaigning for an end to discrimination in Ireland. We hope to be able to continue to count on the support of our members and friends, and to broaden our supporter base, in order to carry on this vital work.

OUR FINANCES

The ICCL consists of two organisations – the ICCL Association and the ICCL Ltd., a company limited by guarantee. All of our day-to-day activities are managed by ICCL Ltd., including promotional and awareness raising initiatives, research and policy activities, fundraising campaigns, staff costs and general overhead expenditure.

The ICCL Association is a membership organisation. The ICCL Association's financial statements reflect all income generated through membership fees and additional donations made by members.

The ICCL receives income from individual members, supporters and a small number of foundations and trusts in order to carry out the work of the organisation. The ICCL expends its income on research, campaigning and promotional costs across the three main "pillars" of work (monitoring human rights, promoting justice, securing equality), governance and capacity-building of the organisation.

Information is provided to all donors, including individuals, trusts and foundations, on a regular basis regarding developments, activities and programmes to ensure that the ICCL operates in a manner that is transparent and accountable. The ICCL complies with all legal and regulatory requirements, in line with best practice for NGOs.

The ICCL financial statements for 2007 have been audited by: Squires & Co. Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors, 4 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Irish Council for Civil Liberties Association

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007)

	2007	2006
	€	€
Income		
Grants	0	(212,151)
Membership fees	8,196	8,350
Donations from Supporters	320	779
Other income	19	35
	8,535	(202,988)
<i>Special Funds</i>	0	0
Total Income	8,535	(202,988)
Expenditure		
Capacity Building	103	1,143
Research and Policy Development	0	0
Campaigning and Communications	0	0
Lobbying and Advocacy	0	0
Networking	0	0
Fundraising		
Total Expenditure	103	1,143
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	8,431	(204,130)

Irish Council for Civil Liberties Association

BALANCE SHEET (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007)

	2007	2007	2006	2006
	€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets				
Current Assets		0		0
Prepayments	0		0	
Bank and Cash	16,917		8,485	
		16,917		8,485
Current Liabilities				
Trade Creditors		(126)		(125)
Accruals		0		0
VAT		0		0
PAYE/PRSI		0		0
Net Wages		0		0
		(126)		(125)
Net Assets		16,791		8,360
Cash carry from 2005		8,360		212,490
Surplus of income over expenditure		8,431		(204,130)
		16,791		8,360

Irish Council for Civil Liberties Limited

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007)

	2007 €	2006 €
Income		
Total Income	711,497	592,078
Expenditure		
Costs of campaigns, publications, promotional and awareness – raising activities	(550,460)	(381,209)
Administration expenses (Costs of governance, administration and capacity building)	(191,003)	(153,604)
Total Expenditure	741,463	534,813
(Deficit)/Surplus before taxation	(29,966)	57,265
Tax on surplus	–	(7,032)
Retained surplus brought forward	50,233	–
Retained surplus at the end of the year	20,267	50,233

The company had no recognised gains or losses in the financial period other than the deficit for the above financial year.
The above figures are taken from the ICCL Ltd. audited financial statements for the year 2007.

Irish Council for Civil Liberties Limited

BALANCE SHEET (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007)

	2007 €	2007 €	2006 €	2006 €
Fixed Assets				
Computer Equipment		13,373		14,955
Furniture & Fixtures		10,821		12,104
		24,194		27,059
Current Assets				
Debtors	2,058		36,370	
Cash at bank and in hand	18,537		64,262	
	20,595		100,632	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(24,522)		(77,458)	
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		(3,927)		23,174
Total assets less current liabilities		20,267		50,233
Reserves				
Retained Surplus		20,267		50,233
		20,267		50,233

The above figures are taken from the ICCL Ltd. audited financial statements for the year 2007.

Gender ruling 'will give so much hope' to people with condition

by Conor Kane

THE Government has been urged to ensure the rights of transgender people living in Ireland are fully respected, following yesterday's landmark ruling in the Dr Lydia Foy case.

The High Court judgment which found Irish law "incompatible" with the European Convention on Human Rights may pave the way for an "explosion" of people coming forward with gender identity issues, one pressure group predicted.

Dr Foy, 59, a dentist from Athy in Co Kildare, wanted the right to change her name and sex on her birth certificate, having undergone gender reassignment 15 years ago.

Once the formal court order is issued in three weeks or so, the Government will have 21 days to move on the issue, after Mr Justice McKechnie said that those with gender identity disorder were suffering from an "incurable condition".

Dr Foy welcomed the ruling and said she was confident the Government would move quickly to amend legislation.

Lobby group Gender Identity Disorder Ireland said the ruling would be welcomed everywhere.

The group's president Sarah-Jane Cromwell said:



Dr Lydia Foy celebrates the High Court ruling: She has gender identity disorder.

Picture: Niall Carson

"The judgment is going to have a fantastic ripple effect throughout the country, because even the most secretive of people with [the condition] are going to be looking at this and it's going to give them so much hope."

She said recent international data suggested that as many as one in 2,500 of the population may have gender identity disorder.

"I think there's going to be an explosion of people coming forward once the law is changed."

Ms Cromwell said she understood family members of people with the condition may be apprehensive as a result of the ruling, but that there was

no need as their rights would be protected.

Irish Council for Civil Liberties director Mark Kelly said the Foy judgment "makes clear that Irish law is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights because it fails to legally recognise the new sexual identity of post-operative transgendered people".

The group described Mr Justice McKechnie's use of case law of the Strasbourg Court to spotlight this human rights deficiency in Irish law as "innovative".

"Most other European countries already respect the autonomy of transgendered people by ensuring that their birth certificates

accurately record their new identities," said Mr Kelly. His group urged the Government "to heed this judgment, and to act promptly to ensure the human rights of transgendered people living in Ireland are fully respected".

Fine Gael justice spokesman Charlie Flanagan said the ruling that the State is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights needs an "immediate response" from the Government.

"I believe some legal framework must be formed to allow legal recognition for transgendered people. Understanding, fairness and respect should be paramount on this complex and difficult issue."

Labour Party human rights spokesman Joe Costello said the ruling was a "humane judgment" which must now be addressed by the Government, including changes to the law, if necessary.

"Dr Foy has shown great courage and determination in pursuing her case and she is likely to be entitled to financial compensation for the denial of her rights."

He said the Labour Party would be seeking an early Dáil debate on the High Court judgment.

Minister's immigration Bill is 'election gimmick'

By Scott Millar

MINISTER for Justice Michael McDowell's publication of a far reaching immigration Bill has been dismissed by opponents.

Opposition TDs labelled the minister's move as an "election gimmick" and the "last gasps of an authoritarian fantasist." It has also raised the possibility of the PDs seeking to introduce an ID card system to Ireland.

The Bill seeks to outline the basis upon which foreign nationals will be lawfully allowed to reside in the State. Under the law, a permit will be required as a means of verifying whether a foreign national is lawfully in the State.

This permit would be credit card-sized permit and contain biometric information. Also outlined are the conditions under which non-EU citizens will get a 'green card'-style working and residency permit as well as proposals to introduce a statutory need for foreign nationals to notify the Department of Justice before marrying Irish citizens.

Introducing his proposals Mr McDowell said: "We need to be firm in our approach to removing foreign nationals who shouldn't be

Equality groups greet 'groundbreaking' ruling

EITHNE DONNELAN

LYDIA Foy embraced her senior counsel Bill Shipsey after yesterday's High Court ruling and said she was "absolutely delighted" because it had been "a very, very long and tough battle".

"There are very few people with gender troubles like I had and... for the first time ever really we've got a declaration that we haven't complied, we have been too slow to enact the European Convention on Human Rights in this area," she said.

Dr Foy said she believed the Government would act now and that other people like her wouldn't have to go through anything like the battle she had had to endure. "We are a small but very battered minority and there was no provision for us, so it's

Niall Crowley, chief executive of the Equality Authority, said: "We have been very concerned from an equality perspective with the lack of legal recognition for transsexual people in the gender with which they identify and I think the victory today hopefully begins to rectify that inequality that transsexual people have to live with."

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) warmly welcomed what it called the court's "ground-breaking" judgment.

Mark Kelly, its director, said the ruling made clear that Irish law was incompatible with the European convention because it failed to legally recognise the new sexual identity of post-operative transgendered people.

"Most other European coun-

birth certificates accurately record their new identities. The ICCL calls upon the Government to heed this judgment, and to act promptly to ensure that the human rights of transgendered people living in Ireland are fully respected," he said.

FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centres), which represented Dr Foy, said the judgement was an important step towards breaking down stereotypes, accepting difference and creating a more diverse and tolerant society in Ireland.

Opposition parties also welcomed the ruling. Charlie Flanagan, Fine Gael's justice spokesman, said the decision needed an immediate response from the Government.

Joe Costello, Labour's spokesman on human rights, said

'Democratic deficit' at heart of Irish politics

Senan Molony
Political Correspondent

THE Dail is one of the weakest parliaments in Europe, with the legislature "significantly hobbled".

So says a new report, which is highly critical of its ability to scrutinise the actions of Government and

hold ministers to account.

The capacity of TDs, particularly the Opposition, to have meaningful input into legislation is also severely limited, according to 'Power to the People? Assessing

Democracy in Ireland', published by the independent think-tank Tase.

Irish Council for Civil Liberties director Mark Kelly said it was a myth-busting publication, "which exposes the exploitation of public fear of crime for political gain", and which highlighted significant weaknesses in parliamentary scrutiny of Government.

"To take just one example, the Criminal Justice Bill 2007 is being propelled through the Dail this week with wanton disregard for the views of stakeholders including the legal profession and the Irish Human Rights Commission."

"Effective parliamentary

Laws may give Garda too much power, forum told

FIONA GARTLAND

Eroding rights associated with fair trials in order to address a specific criminal problem is not likely to be as successful as the Government might hope, according to an international expert on criminology and restorative justice.

At a conference organised by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Prof Robert Gordon, director of the school of criminology, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, said simply addressing

Also speaking at the conference, Ivana Bacik, professor of criminal law at Trinity College Dublin, said the new legislation represented a populist stroke before a general election.

"It is difficult to see the rationale behind the proposed change to the right to silence," Prof Bacik said.

"However carefully worded a proposed caution might be, accused persons could well face conviction for their failure to answer questions.

Complaint council favoured by judges

Move to increase prison monitoring welcomed

MARY FITZGERALD
AND JESSICA BELL

A United Nations expert has welcomed the Government's decision to sign a convention allowing for increased monitoring of prisons and other places of detention to ensure detainees are not mistreated.

The Government is expected to sign the optional protocol to the United Nations Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) within the next month. The purpose of the convention is to prevent torture and ill-treatment by establishing a system of regular visits to places of detention by independent, international and national bodies.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) in Dublin yesterday, Dr Silvia Casale, chairwoman of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture, said full implementation could

improve the experience of people held in prisons, youth detention units, psychiatric hospitals and immigration detention centres.

"By knitting together international and national oversight, the United Nations and national human rights monitors can make a genuine difference to the lives of vulnerable people held in closed institutions," she said.

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2002, OPCAT has been signed by 65 countries so far, of which 34 have ratified the convention.

Once Ireland signs the protocol, legislation will have to be introduced to enable monitoring agencies to carry out their work, including making unannounced visits to places of detention. The convention requires that countries designate existing domestic agencies or establish new bodies to conduct inspections.

Representatives of the Irish Human Rights Commission, the

Inspectorate of Prisons and the Places of Detention, and the Inspectorate of Mental Hospitals attended the seminar.

Several speakers, including Suzanne Egan of the Irish Human Rights Commission and Matthew Pringle from the Geneva-based Association for the Prevention of Torture, stressed the need for civil society groups and non-governmental organisations to be involved in implementation mechanisms. Such groups should be "active players in the process", said ICCL director, Mark Kelly.

Mr Kelly said that implementing the convention may require an overhaul of some existing agencies' powers and resources.

"These new UN standards require that national human rights oversight bodies be genuinely independent, properly resourced and have unrestricted access to places of detention," he said.