



SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Rights News



Eileen Flynn presenting the 2019 ICCL Human Rights Film Award

Find out who won inside!

Plus

**Censorship in the Arts - National Consultation with Protest Groups
- Our work on Institutional Abuse**

Editorial by Liam Herrick

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION at a time of intense change? Where can we make the greatest impact? These are questions that we at ICCL have given a lot of thought to over the past few years – and our conclusion is that we need to be at the cutting edge of social change, asking the difficult questions about civil liberties and human rights, especially on issues where there is no-one else to stand up for individual rights.

The work we have done over the past six months reflects this approach, with ICCL standing proudly alongside protestors denied their political rights, artists facing censorship, families seeking truth through inquests, adopted people trying to access information about their identity, and those living in direct provision asserting their rights to dignity. These spaces of contested rights are where we need to be, and where our voice is most needed.

We have made important progress on key areas of reform – especially in the areas of policing and privacy rights – but key challenges lie ahead on the right to association,

free speech on-line, and surveillance, especially on our Public Service Card campaign.

We are conscious, too, that Brexit looms large as a economic and social threat which has the potential to cause serious instability. The danger of negative effects to the peace process remain high. More broadly Ireland will face many important choices in the months ahead about the values we want to align with in a new European Union. ICCL believes that Ireland should aim to become a leader of human rights on the international stage – but for that aspiration to be reached, there is a large body of work to be done to address the outstanding human rights gaps at home.



Liam Herrick,
Executive Director
Irish Council for
Civil Liberties

ICCL Human Rights Film Awards

THIS YEAR WE PARTNERED with the Dublin International Film Festival to present the ICCL award to the film which, of a selection of seven, best dealt with the theme of human rights and activism.

For more on this wonderful celebration, see pages 4-5



ON THE COVER: Eileen Flynn speaking at the Dublin International Film Festival where she presented the ICCL Human Rights Film Award

ABOUT THE ICCL

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties is committed to an Ireland that is more just, more free, and where human rights and civil liberties are enjoyed by everyone.

Fully independent of government and fearless in our advocacy for human rights, we have been at the forefront of all key human rights campaigns in Irish society, making a significant impact on law, policy and public opinion. These have included the campaigns for legal divorce, decriminalisation of homosexuality and for marriage equality; working for equality legislation and institutions; resistance to emergency legislation and the removal of constitutional due process protections; and consistent advocacy for women's rights, including reproductive rights.

We act as an essential defender of human rights and civil liberties and as an effective champion for the advancement of justice and freedom in Irish society.

Founded in 1976, we have worked tirelessly to defend and strengthen constitutional rights protections and to ensure the full implementation of international human rights standards. We draw on the tradition of civil liberties activism in many countries, including the civil rights movements in Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Domestically focused and internationally informed, we have developed strong partnerships with civil society organisations in Ireland and networks and alliances with similar organisations internationally.

For more information, visit our new website: <https://www.iccl.ie>

CONTACT ICCL

Irish Council for Civil Liberties,
Unit 11, First Floor, 34,
Usher's Quay, Dublin 8

Phone: +353-1-912 1640
Email: info@iccl.ie



The Best Banned in the Land

On 30 April, a number of speakers addressed their experiences of censorship and self-censorship at a special event at Project Arts Centre

WE WERE SPURRED TO BEGIN A PROJECT ON CENSORSHIP of the arts following the 2018 ordered removal of Maser's Repeal the 8th mural and the cancellation of Una Mullally's *The Question of the Eighth*. We had to take a stand! And we weren't alone in thinking that.

We brought together a coalition of human rights and arts organisations to call for the immediate repeal of the Censorship of Publications Act and an end to censorship of the arts. We joined forces with the Irish Writers Centre, Poetry Ireland, the Writers' Guild and Project Arts Centre

to mark the anniversary of Project's "defiant compliance" with the Charities Regulator's demands.

On 30 April a number of speakers – including writer Una Mullally, Cian O'Brien, artistic director of Project, and Beth Hayden of Glitter HOLE – addressed their experiences of censorship and self-censorship at a special event at Project. The event was kindly sponsored by Dublin UNESCO's One City One Book.

Just days before the event, DIY drag collective Glitter HOLE had announced that they had been forced to cancel their age-appropriate Drag

Storytime event at the Lexicon Library due to 'archaic homophobia' and violent threats against them. In presenting the reason for cancellation as "an age-appropriate review", DLR did little to protect and promote free speech as is their duty as a state body. That's why we invited Glitter HOLE to be our keynote speaker for the day.

Una, Beth and Cian were joined for debate on the day by Lian Bell, campaign director of Waking the Feminists, historian Donal Fallon, broadcaster Evelyn O'Rourke, arts campaigner Angela Dorgan, NCAD professor Declan Long, and poet and barrister John O'Donnell. An intermission discussion featured exiled Turkish theatre group Be

Aware. A lively and engaged audience contributed thoughtful questions on the balance to be drawn between free speech and hate speech, on the pressing need to support the arts, and on international solidarity for oppressed or censored artists.

We also launched our call for the repeal of the Censorship of Publications Act at the event. In 2019 the Censorship of Publications Board still has the authority to prohibit any book or periodical that they find to be obscene under the Act. Though it's rarely used, until it is repealed, this threat hangs over artists, particularly writers. Repealing it would be a symbolic gesture of support for artists and a loud NO to censorship of the arts. ☺



[links in this article...](#)

Sign the petition to Repeal the Censorship Act:
<https://my.uplift.ie/petitions/repeal-the-censorship-act>



Lian Bell, Donal Fallon, Una Mullally, Beth Hayden, Cian O'Brien, Angela Dorgan outside Project Arts Centre

Electoral Act Reform

If you've been following our campaign for reform of the Electoral Act you'll know that we hit a significant milestone on 16 May when Senator Lynn Ruane launched her bill for reform of the Act. ICCL, along with the Coalition for Civil Society Freedom, had been working with Senator Ruane since 2018 on the drafting of this bill.

CURRENTLY, THE ELECTORAL ACT BANS "ANY CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY" from receiving donations (including donations in kind and possibly donated time) above €100. For the past number of years, the Standards in Public Offices Commission (SIPOC) has taken this wording to mean the legitimate advocacy work of organisations such as Education Equality, residents' associations, and Amnesty. SIPOC has been taking legal action against civil society organisations as if they were political actors!

Many organisations in Ireland, to avoid doubt, simply do not accept donations of over €100 anymore. Some are unsure whether they can accept voluntary work!! This is a situation that we at ICCL cannot let continue.

If passed, Senator Ruane's bill would

change the definition of political purposes so that it would no longer encompass "any campaign to influence public policy". We expect to see this bill go through in September after the Oireachtas summer break. Watch our social media and website for updates on this important issue! ☺



links referenced in this article...

Link to our call for reform of the Electoral Act:

<https://www.iccl.ie/human-rights/civil-society-space/reform-electoral-act/>

Below: Liam Herrick, Director, ICCL; Senator Lynn Ruane; Colm O'Gorman, Amnesty International, Ireland; April Duff, Education Equality





‘Historical’ Abuse? Not as long as the violations continue...



is by providing information about the violations which took place. In Ireland’s case, this includes information regarding forced or illegal adoptions. In June we wrote to all Senators outlining our concerns that Katherine Zappone’s Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill 2016 would deny the human rights of adopted persons by not allowing them automatic access to their own birth certs. We also highlighted that it could lead to further violations of the privacy rights of adopted persons.

ICCL is dedicated to vindicating the rights of all those who suffered institutional abuse at the hands of the Church and State. We are further dedicated to the rights of those who are enduring rights violations in State-run institutions in modern Ireland.

IRELAND AS A NATION IS STRUGGLING TO COME TO TERMS WITH A LEGACY of State-sanctioned abuse which encompassed a wide range of human rights abuses including child trafficking, enforced disappearances and physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

While the country has made huge progress in terms of talking about these things, and there has been an official State apology, there is a long way to go in terms of providing retribution and guarantees to survivors that this can never happen again.

In April, when the Mother and Baby Homes Commission released their fifth interim report we reiterated our previous calls for increased investigatory powers for Commissions of Inquiry. The Commission was quite clear that they believe there are people who are hiding evidence, and the Commission does not have the teeth to compel these people to come forward.

At this same time, we reiterated our deep concern that all evidence submitted to this Committee will be sealed, rendering it inaccessible to any further investigations. Our communications officer wrote an opinion piece for the Examiner on this issue.

One of the key elements of ensuring justice for survivors of institutional abuse

Above: At the ICCL Human Rights Film Award, Mannix Flynn talks about his experiences of institutional abuse which he deals with in his film ‘Land Without God’. The film was commended by the panel

ICCL CALLS FOR AN END TO DIRECT PROVISION

In June we made a submission to the Oireachtas Justice Committee in which we called for an immediate end to Direct Provision because, as a system, it facilitates gross violations of human rights. We made further recommendations for immediate and practical improvements in the meantime.



links on these pages...

Mother and Baby Homes Commission released their fifth interim report; our response:
<https://www.iccl.ie/opinion/mother-and-baby-homes-time-for-criminal-investigations/>

Irish Examiner article:

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/views/analysis/revictimisation-and-our-sad-links-with-mexico-919821.html>

ICCL’s letter to all Senators:

<https://www.iccl.ie/justice/iccl-email-seanad-adoption-bill/>

ICCL’s submission on direct provision:

<https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/190531-ICCL-ORourke-Submission-On-Direct-Provision-System.pdf>

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE IRISH CORONER’S SYSTEM

ICCL is working with DCU’s Dr. Vicky Conway and Professor Phil Scraton, of Hillsborough fame, to pioneer new research into human rights within the Irish coroner’s system. The project was launched on 7 February with a public discussion on human rights issues in the British coroner’s system.

Since then, Dr Conway and Prof Scraton have been working with families of people who died in contested circumstances and subsequently identified problems with the coroners service in Ireland. The research will be published in October.

Human Rights Film Award

ICCL partnered with the Dublin International Film Festival to relaunch the much-loved ICCL Human Rights in Film Award in 2019!



The HRFA jury, left to right: Bulelani Mfaco, Emmet Kirwan, Aoife Kelleher, Suzy Byrne and Sorchia Pollak

WE WERE THRILLED IN LATE 2018 TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS FILM AWARD would be making a comeback after a three year hiatus. This year we partnered with the Dublin International Film Festival to present the ICCL award to the film which, of a selection of seven, best dealt with the theme of human rights and activism.

Our 2019 jury included five human rights activists and film experts: actor, poet and playwright Emmet Kirwan; award-winning journalist Sorchia Pollak; direct provision activist Bulelani Mfaco; film director Aoife Kelleher; and disability rights advocate and ICCL board member Suzy Byrne.

We're very grateful to the jury for giving so generously of their time in going to see and rate each of the following seven films:

A Girl From Mogadishu by Mary McGuckian: Based on the testimony of Ifrah Ahmed the film details Ifrah's astonishing and powerful journey, from her time in a refugee camp to becoming a leading campaigner.

Another Day of Life by Raúl de la Fuente and Damian Nenow: A film which centres on an idealistic journalist tasked with covering civil conflict in Angola in the 1970s.

Gaza by Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell: A documentary portrait of the resilience of people in the most challenging of circumstances, set among the communities who live in Gaza.

Heartbound: A Different Kind of Love Story by Janus Metz and Dr Sine Plambeck: A documentary about a small village in northern Denmark where over 900 Thai women have married and settled.

Land Without God by Gerard Mannix Flynn: His deeply personal documentary feature about himself and members of his own family as they recall the effects of decades of institutional abuse.

Of Fathers and Sons by Talal Derki: A documentary which centres on a radical Islamist family and their harsh existence as war rages around them in Syria.

Rafiki by Wanuri Kahiu: A Kenyan film that revolves around two female friends who fall in love. In doing so, they must face the challenges of family expectations and the conservative society in which they live.

The Public by Emilio Estevez: A film about a committed librarian, frustrated at a lack of social justice, who allows some of his most vulnerable visitors turn his work space into an impromptu homeless shelter.

ICCL got to sit in on the rigorous deliberations which took place on 2 March after the screening of the last film in the competition. The jury made some fascinating observations on the films and did not, contrary to rumour, almost come to blows over the decision!

In the end there was a clear winner in *Heartbound: A Different Kind of Love Story*. The film focused on a small town in Denmark where over 900 Thai women live. Filmed over ten years, *Heartbound* allowed the audience to connect with the human stories behind economic migration, sex work and arranged marriages. The directors dedicated the award to those who featured in the film who "with great generosity and courage have shared some of the most intimate moments of their lives".

Many of our jurors were also deeply moved by Mannix Flynn's *Land Without God* and gave it a special commendation with recognition of the context in which it was made. At ICCL we were glad to see this as we continue to fight for justice for survivors of institutional abuse. So often termed historic, as long as the truth continues to be hidden, these abuses are anything but.

The brilliant Eileen Flynn, who is a prominent advocate of Traveller and women's rights, presented the award on 3 March in Dublin. Of *Land Without God*, Eileen said

"I am also delighted to see Mannix Flynn's *Land Without God* receive special commendation. The jury felt it was an important film for Ireland and our continuing struggle to come to terms with and provide reparations for institutional abuse."

We'd like to extend our gratitude to Virgin Media for sponsoring €1000 worth of editing time to the winning film. We are also indebted to Grainne, Penny, Kim and all the team at the Dublin International Film Festival for compiling a list of such strong films and indeed for organising the comeback of the ICCL Human Rights in Film Award! See you all in 2020!



ICCL board member Muiris O Ceidigh with jury members Aoife Kelleher, Emmet Kirwan and Sorcha Pollak



Above: Friend of ICCL, Mr Giollaíosa Ó Lideadha, SC

Left: At the ICCL Human Rights Film Award, Eileen Flynn commends Mannix Flynn for his film 'Land Without God' which deals with his experiences of institutional abuse

Abortion: is the legislation working?

In April, we convened a meeting for activists working on the new abortion legislation to discuss the practical and legal issues still affecting women and the medical profession since abortion became legal in January.

THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF ACTIVISTS, IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN CLARIFIED that women who access their first appointment before the 12 week limit will be entitled to access abortion even if the mandatory three day waiting period pushes them past this limit.

However, we found that there are still barriers to women accessing abortion and that those barriers are created by the legislation.

For example, the mandatory waiting period leads to financial problems, as well as issues arranging childcare, and transport. It is particularly difficult for economically vulnerable women, including those living in direct provision or experiencing homelessness.

ICCL campaigned against this paternalistic clause and we continue to call for its removal.

We continue to call for the removal of criminalisation of anyone who assists with an abortion after 12 weeks, as this has a chilling effect on doctors and creates anxiety for women who need an abortion after this time.

That includes people trying to access terminations for reasons of fatal foetal anomaly after the 12 week period. We are seriously concerned that the right to access appropriate healthcare in this situation is still being denied.

ICCL will be campaigning for changes to the legislation when the legislative review comes up. Abortion is a healthcare and a human rights issue and this legislation simply isn't vindicating the rights of pregnant people. ☺

ANOTHER YES VOTE!

Having campaigned this time in the **divorce referendum** for a YES vote, we were delighted to see it pass by such a huge majority. By reducing the mandatory waiting period from four to two years, Ireland took a huge leap towards protecting the privacy rights of people who need a divorce.

It will also help to ensure that people who are stuck in dangerous or financially and emotionally distressing situations can be freed from them quicker. We hope the government will remove the mandatory waiting time period altogether as soon as it can.

FROM THE ABORTION RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Gearóidín McEvoy from Lawyers for Choice said "without doubt the legislation needs constant updating. This will be a never ending effort."

Ms Mc Evoy outlined "major concerns" for those with deaf and hearing issues accessing terminations.

"There are many concerns but one that I'm highlighting is in relation to interpretation and the provision of interpreters for the deaf community. The provision of interpreters isn't mandated, so there isn't a governing body for interpreters - it's on an ad hoc basis. And there's no code of ethics for interpreters covering abortion."

Ms McEvoy also pointed out that the issue of organising and providing rules for interpreters was vital for non-English speaking women living in Ireland.



Reproductive rights activists at the ICCL conference



The Women of ICCL - Rocking The System

THERE ARE MANY BRILLIANT WOMEN MEMBERS OF ICCL. Actually, some of the most formidable Irish women ever have passed through our doors. From our founder **Mary Robinson**, through to equality campaigner **Ailbhe Smyth** and reproductive rights campaigner **Ivana Bacik**, we wouldn't be the organisation we are today without the vision and support of some truly amazing women.

For International Women's Day on 8 March, we profiled just a few of you on our social media accounts. We know that strong female leaders can inspire other women and girls to aim high and to believe in themselves. We're delighted that the women we approached were so open to the idea and so generous in sending us the information we needed.

Visit iccl.ie/join to join the formidable **#WomenofICCL**.



Clockwise, from top: Mary Robinson, Ivana Bacik, and Ailbhe Smyth; just some of the remarkable women who have passed through the doors of the ICCL



Public Services Card – Online Content Moderation

The Public Services Card – paying for essential services with your data is not fair.

Or legal.

In January, the Department of Social Welfare refused ICCL's FOI request for all records related to the Data Protection Commissioner's investigation. Meanwhile, the Commissioner is similarly restrained – their interpretation of existing legislation is that they are precluded from ever releasing the report!

The Commissioner has said – in the Oireachtas – that the Department is free to publish the report; however the Department has not acknowledged this statement. Instead, they say that they replied to the Commissioner's follow up queries as part of the investigation and have been waiting to hear from the Commissioner ever since. Confused yet? Getting impatient? Us too.

While the waiting game continues, we've applied to the Office of the Information Commissioner to review the decision of the Department to refuse to publish the report.

We also invited the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, Philip Alston, to come to Ireland and speak about this issue. Alston's next report to the UN Human Rights Council will focus on the privacy and data protection rights violations associated with living in extreme poverty. Of course, monitoring and surveillance affect everyone's privacy.

But it's well-established that governments and corporations subject those living in poverty to heightened or more invasive surveillance.

The public services card is an Irish example of how digital technologies can be used against people living in poverty. Effectively, the government has created

a digital check point where people must hand over their biometric data in order to put food on the table. It's deeply unfair, because those required to get the PSC are least likely to be able to fight it.

Well, we're going to keep fighting it. That's a promise. ©

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Above: Liam Herrick, ICCL Director tries to unravel the PSC mystery...

How do you solve a problem like Online Content Moderation?

One thing's for sure, protecting certain groups from harmful online content should not translate into totalitarian state structures capable of indiscriminate surveillance and censorship of our private communications.

Here at ICCL we were deeply alarmed by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's proposals for internet regulation. They included proposals to access, monitor and censor the private communications of people living in Ireland. Such proposals ignore a long established body of human rights principles protecting our important



links in this article...

ICCL on potential censorship of legitimate forms of speech:

<https://www.iccl.ie/news/iccl-submission-to-the-public-consultation-on-regulation-of-online-content/>

Submissions to Dept of Communications regarding best practices for online content regulation:

<https://www.iccl.ie/privacy/iccl-submission-digital-safety-commissioner/>

– fundamental, actually – human rights including privacy, association, and expression.

We have spoken out before against overly broad regulation which might lead to censorship of legitimate forms of speech. Like the BAI, we have also made submissions to Department of Communications regarding best practices for online content regulation. Unlike the BAI, our submissions place human rights analysis at the centre. See box below for links. ©

ICCL highlights violations of protest rights following national consultation

ICCL TRAVELLED TO CORK, ENNIS AND DUBLIN between 19 and 22 June to meet with protesters, ranging from **environmental activists and anti-war protesters to anti-eviction groups, and activists living in Direct Provision**. We had individual meetings with some groups and we also met with representatives of An Garda Síochána and relevant oversight bodies.

After the incident at North Frederick St last year, where police turned up in balaclavas and injured protesters, we promised that we would develop a body of work on protest. This is the beginning of this piece of work.

And while we were not expecting everything to be rosy, we were still shocked by some of the testimony we heard from protesters. We heard that activists living in Direct Provision deal with retribution up to and including the withholding of food and benefits for holding protests, and that housing activists arrested at evictions have been subjected to degrading treatment. We received reports of garda misuse of the

Public Order Act (through arresting protesters and later dropping charges), of garda intimidation of protesters (through photography, following cars, harassment, and stop-and-search) and of serious deficiencies in GSOC handling of complaints.

It's clear to us that **there is a wide gap between the stated position of the Garda and the lived experiences of many of these protest groups** with regard to protecting the right to protest. The lack of clear and transparent information about police policy and training, and the lack of public data about the use of legal powers and the use of force present serious weaknesses in the Irish approach to managing protests.

The salient point for us has been that, while the government and An Garda



Above: Liam Herrick addresses the assembled activists and protesters

Síochána are supportive of large protests taking place on the main thoroughfares of Ireland, when it comes to protesters living on the margins of society or protesting outside of the media spotlight, the garda and state response can be much more heavy-handed. ©

Video

View here: <https://www.iccl.ie/news/iccl-national-consultation-with-protesters/>

Yes, police ARE spying on online protest

Our privacy expert Elizabeth Farries launches her global report 'Spying on Dissent'

PROTEST RIGHTS ARE MAINLY UNDERSTOOD in the context of physical gatherings. But human rights protections also apply to similar interactions taking place online. Many challenges to our rights to online and offline protest have materialised in the digital age.

Across the world in recent years there has been a sharp expansion of online spying technologies used by policing institutions to spy on protesters, their plans for protests and who they associate with. These technologies are designed or used to watch, intercept, record, retain, analyse and disseminate personal data about protesters – often without our knowledge or our consent and without real and ef-

fective oversight and control. Generally, there are no available legal avenues of recourse. This can disrupt and preclude our freedom and ability to organise, gather, dissent and assemble.

In March our information rights expert, Elizabeth Farries, drafted submissions on policing surveillance tech and protest for the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of expression and association, Clément Voule. Her report observes a worrying trend: more and more, governments from different jurisdictions across the world are using digital or online surveillance technologies against protesters and social movements, affecting the whole range of protest rights

and privacy rights. In addition, the way policing institutions select and deploy online surveillance technologies often occurs without necessary human rights and democratic safeguards. The submissions contained case studies from 13 countries and provided recommendations.

Mr Voule subsequently presented his report on opportunities and challenges facing the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in the digital age to the UN Human Rights Council. He recommends techniques for the indiscriminate surveillance of those exercising their right to peaceful assembly and association, in both physical and digital spaces, should be pro-

hibited. However, he does not go so far as to call for a moratorium on their use.

Elizabeth met with the Special Rapporteur to learn about his steps going forward. The mandate will look to states and NGOs like INCLO to push the publications going forward and also to give feedback on our reception of the report. Elizabeth also gave an oral statement to the UN Human Rights Council on the matter.

In June, Elizabeth launched her report *Spying on Dissent - Surveillance Technologies and Protest* at a panel at Rightscon – the world's leading summit on human rights in the digital age. Our colleagues at the Kenyan Human Rights Commission captured the event in a live tweet session. ©



ICCL in the media



WE MADE HEADLINES IN MAY when we objected to the first ever banning of a person from Ireland. Pastor Steven Anderson is a Holocaust denier, a homophobe, a racist and all-round abominable person.

However, we objected to the lack of transparency that the Department of Justice showed in banning him from entering the country. Who else would be banned, we wondered, and why? ☹

Donate to ICCL

To donate to ICCL go to:
<https://www.iccl.ie/donate>

Join ICCL

To become a member of ICCL go to:
<https://www.iccl.ie/join>

Come and see us at our new offices at Unit 11, First Floor, 34, Usher's Quay, Dublin 8

Funders

ICCL would like to thank our funders and supporters who make our work possible:

Sigrid Rausing Trust
The Open Society Foundation
The Community Foundation Ireland
The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
The European Commission
The Friends of ICCL
ICCL's Members

ICCL stands up to Trump!

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN OUR MINI-CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRUMP when he visited us lately? We thought it would be a good opportunity to raise awareness of our work amongst people who are opposed to his vile policies but perhaps not aware of ICCL and our long-standing work on those issues in Ireland.

Trump represents everything we oppose. His policies are a direct attack on human rights, both in the USA and in the international sphere. His withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council, his denial of climate change, and his refusal to co-operate with international human rights bodies endangers all of our fundamental rights.

Our sister organisation in the States, the ACLU, very kindly bought us some ad space in the *Sunday Independent* the Sunday before the visit. Then our partners at **INCLO** bought space in the *Irish Times* the day he touched down.

ICCL lined out at both the Shannon and the Dublin protests. We marched in solidarity with women, with the LGBTQ community, with people of colour and with all those Trump wishes to silence. And now that he's gone, we're still here, still marching for rights! ☹

Dear President Trump,

At ICCL we believe in human rights and dignity.

We work every day to protect the rights of people to live safely and freely as they are, and we oppose policies that would limit or undermine human rights. We stand against racism, misogyny, trans- and homophobia, police brutality and discrimination.

Many of the policies advanced by your administration are not simply unethical, but they are unlawful, both in the United States and under international law. Your withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council, your excusal of war crimes, and your refusal to co-operate with international human rights bodies threaten the rights of people everywhere.

That is why we are exercising our constitutional right to protest your visit to Ireland.

We are proud to stand alongside ACLU, our sister organisation, in opposing your dangerous and harmful policies and in standing up for fairness, equality and respect.

We will continue to vigilantly oppose attempts to diminish our rights and liberties, both at home and abroad. And long after you've left office, we'll still be here, promoting freedom and defending dignity.

Because Our Rights Trump Your Hate.

Sincerely,
the Irish Council for Civil Liberties
and the American Civil Liberties Union

ACLU

Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Find us online at www.iccl.ie Follow us @ICCLtweet

The advertisement that appeared in the Sunday Independent prior to Trump's visit



Join ICCL members in the fight for reproductive justice!

Become a member today: <https://www.iccl.ie/join>



Irish Council for Civil Liberties

CONTACT ICCL

Irish Council for Civil Liberties,
Unit 11, First Floor, 34, Usher's
Quay, Dublin 8

Phone: +353-1-9121640
Email: info@iccl.ie
www.iccl.ie