



Irish Council for  
**Civil Liberties**

# 2019

## ANNUAL REPORT

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030





# CONTENTS

Message from the Chair	04
Director's Foreword	05
<b>OUR PEOPLE</b>	<b>06</b>
The 2019 Executive Board	07
Staff Profiles	08
<b>OUR WORK</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Policing &amp; Protest</b>	<b>11</b>
Towards Policing that Respects Human Rights	11
Protest is your right	13
<b>Procedural Rights</b>	<b>15</b>
Your Rights within the Justice System	15
<b>Equality</b>	<b>17</b>
Gender Equality	17
Racial Equality and Migration	19
Social Equality	20
<b>Privacy &amp; Information Rights</b>	<b>22</b>
ICCL Campaign to stop the Public Services Card	22
Data Retention, Sharing and Surveillance	23
International Work	23
Technology and Freedom of Expression	24
<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>26</b>
Freedom from Torture	26
The Right to Life and the Coroners System	27
Transitional Justice - Justice for Legacies of Human Rights Abuses	27
<b>Civil Liberties</b>	<b>29</b>
Civic Space	29
Freedom of Artistic Expression	30
International Solidarity	31
<b>COMMUNICATIONS REPORT</b>	<b>32</b>
Media	33
Events	34
Campaigning	36
<b>OUR SUPPORT</b>	<b>38</b>
Message of Thanks to Funders	39
<b>OUR FINANCES</b>	<b>40</b>

# Message from the Chair

Civil liberties have never been more important than now. Whether it be the increasing misuse of data, the inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence, or using emergency powers outside of emergency times, ICCL has been and will be there to challenge and defend. In fact, as we go to publication during the 2020 pandemic, ICCL is monitoring emergency measures and powers not seen since the foundation of the State.

The strength of ICCL is our independence. From our foundation in 1976, ICCL has always taken on the most challenging and controversial human rights issues. Often standing up for unpopular causes has meant a direct challenge to Government policy and powerful interests. Sometimes ICCL's voice is a lone voice raised for what we believe is right. We believe a properly functioning democracy and the practice of good governance benefits from robust challenge in the area of human rights and civil liberties,

just as much as it does from similar challenges on economic issues.

ICCL can stand up for people, and their rights and concerns, because of our independence. ICCL is not dependent on State support. We are a fully non-governmental organisation made up of members; a board elected from those members; and a small staff who deliver an amazing programme of research, policy and advocacy work.

Our independence allowed us to stand up for LGBT equality and a woman's right to choose in the 1980s and it is what allows us to stand up to Government pressure and spin when they are defending ill-considered policies like the Public Services Card.

That independence is something we cherish and which we guard and protect. The best guarantee of independence is growing our membership base. There is strength in numbers – more members and friends (our major gift supporters) give us a stronger voice, amplify our message, and lend greater legitimacy to the positions we take. Over the past four years, we have seen positive growth in both members and friends; but in 2020 we prioritising a

major drive to expand our size.

As a board, we are also conscious of building resilience in the organisation by achieving the highest standards of governance and including a wide range of expertise on our Board. On joining the board, I brought a lifelong commitment to equality and human rights. In a state, good governance is primarily concerned with people's rights and wellbeing. On the ICCL board, we are similarly concerned with the health of the organisation so that we can encourage pluralism and progressive policies on a wider scale.

I want to give a special thanks to Deirdre Miller who stepped down as chairperson in 2019 and stood down from the Board at the end of the year. Deirdre steered ICCL through a very challenging period of restructuring and rebuilding and the board and staff are deeply indebted to her for tireless commitment during a crucial phase in our history. We are delighted to welcome on to the board Simon Murtagh, who brings to the board extensive experience of research, policy and political advocacy. As you will see in this report, the board are delighted to report an ICCL in rude health with exciting and original work across a wide range of human rights issues – and as always fearlessly independent!

I would also like to thank Liam and his work and commitment, but particularly for his good judgment often in situations requiring speedy reaction. I am grateful for the high expertise of the team and for their continued commitment to the cause of rights and liberty.

**Muiris Ó Ceidigh, Chair**

*"The strength of ICCL is our independence. From our foundation in 1976, ICCL has always taken on the most challenging and controversial human rights issues."*





# Director's Foreword

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**A**s this report outlines, 2019 saw ICCL achieve significant impact across a wide range of issues. The political climate was dominated by Brexit and speculation about the end of the supply and confidence arrangement between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. This meant an unusually low level of legislative activity during 2019 – many of the issues of law reform which ICCL had been driving, such as safe access zones, electoral act reform and hate crime were stalled in the Oireachtas logjam.

At the same time, the low level of legislation meant that opportunities opened up to draw attention to and advance some long-standing rights violations. A referendum to ease restrictions on access to divorce was comfortably passed, addressing a persistent barrier that had affected a significant number of separated people, and marking another step towards equality for all families in Ireland. Garda reform was also progressed and we saw the new Commissioner introduce some welcome new initiatives. The debate on new accountability and oversight bodies also progressed, although we are still waiting on legislation.

This year also saw further development in how ICCL carries out our work and in the type of organisation we aspire to be. For many years ICCL described

*2019 saw ICCL take on a range of new and exciting issue that all draw us to the centre of the most current human rights struggles – exactly where we need to and want to be!*

ourselves as a 'watchdog' for human rights. Certainly we continue to have a key role in calling out violations when they occur. We are nimble and responsive to issues as they emerge. For example, throughout the year we highlighted instances of police violations of rights, and at the end of 2019 ICCL was able to intervene swiftly in a crucial legal case concerning protest rights.

However, while monitoring and watching government action are essential work – we are not a reactive organisation. At the core we are about effecting and driving change. Our members, staff and board are not fulfilling any statutory mandate – we have come together because we share a vision of how Ireland can become a more equal and just society. That means that we see our role as taking the initiative – identifying the most human rights needs, bringing forward fresh ideas for law reform and building alliances and coalitions that can leverage social change.

This includes bringing the focus of public attention on rights violations that have been neglected for too long. In 2019, ICCL initiated a research and advocacy project on the need for reform of the inquest system. This involved engaging with families who had been through the inquest process and continued to suffer a denial of rights.

We also initiated a major research and advocacy project on the right to protest in Ireland. Our first interim report on this project found that while the right to protest is well respected for large-scale

demonstrations on the main streets of our cities, for some of the most dis-empowered groups in our society or for those seeking to express legitimate political views on the margins they experience severe obstacles and interference with their democratic rights.

Crucially – this work on protest is deepening ICCL's connections to social movements and grassroots organisations. This is part of our vision for the role that ICCL must play in the community and at the coalface of the struggle for human rights. Protestors are human rights defenders who have the courage to stand up for the rights of others and we see our role in supporting and empowering them.

We are also anticipating where the next great human rights challenges are coming from. Our technology and human rights work continues to grow – and it is no exaggeration to say we could easily double our work in this area and still not meet the demand. Surveillance, data protection, freedom of expression on-line present huge human rights challenges, but also opportunities to shape laws and policies. Our tech for good event was an example of how we can grow new constituency of informed and active allies among our large population of technology workers.

Overall – 2019 saw ICCL take on a range of new and exciting issue that all draw us to the centre of the most current human rights struggles – exactly where we need to and want to be!

**Liam Herrick, Executive Director**



# OUR PEOPLE

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IRISH COUNCIL FOR  
**CIVIL LIBERTIES**



# The 2019 Executive Board

In 2019, Andrew Forde stepped down from the ICCL board. ICCL would like to extend a warm thank you to Andrew for his years of service. We were delighted to welcome Simon Murtagh on to ICCL's Board.

Deirdre Miller stepped down as Chair of the Board in December 2019 and Muiris Ó Ceidigh was elected in her place. We would like to thank Deirdre for her years of service.

## SIMON MURTAGH

Simon Murtagh has worked as a journalist and activist on human rights issues internationally and domestically throughout his career. As programme manager of European Parliamentarians with Africa, he worked on policies affecting Africa and on global political issues for over a decade. Since then, he has acted as a strategist and adviser to a number of progressive causes and campaigns, and founded his own project, "Trade in Spaces," which advises on trade, development and human rights issues.

## MUIRIS Ó CEIDIGH

Dr Muiris Ó Ceidigh holds a Doctorate in Governance from Queens University Belfast where he conducted research into media, power and emerging civil and human rights. He was appointed as a non-executive director of the Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland by UK government in 2003. He is a Trustee of the Institute for Conflict Research in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He is also a member of Property Services Regulatory Authority and of the Medical Scientists Registration Board in ROI. He practiced as a commercial lawyer with A & L Goodbody for several years, specialising in financial products. His primary degree was a BA in law and sociology from NUIG and this was followed by an LLB and he also holds an MBA from Trinity College and has also achieved an MSc (Economics) from Trinity. In addition, he has graduated with an MA in Public Management from the Institute of Public Administration. He is CEO of the National Milk Agency. Muiris is a published poet and was recipient of the Francis Ledwidge International Poetry Prize in 2003. He is a Director of the Irish Architectural Foundation and of An Taisce- The National Trust for Ireland. He has lectured at the University of Paris 1 – Sorbonne on the common law system and its history and at the Institute of Public Administration on commercial law and corporate law. He is currently the Academic Director of the Irish Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management. He recently successfully completed the Oxford University Fintech program and has a particular interest in data protection, regulation, blockchain applications and associated privacy and IP rights.

## THE CURRENT ICCL BOARD



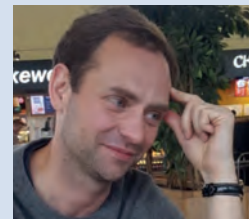
MUIRIS Ó CEIDIGH - CHAIR



MARGUERITE BOLGER



SUZY BYRNE



SIMON MURTAGH



MARY LAWLOR



MAURICE MANNING



MARIA MURPHY



TONY HANWAY



# Staff Profiles

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## DOIREANN ANSBRO

Doireann Ansbro is Senior Research and Policy Officer for the ICCL. She is called to the Bar of England, Wales and Ireland. She has previously worked as associate legal adviser to the International Commission of Jurists, consultant to the UN Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence and human rights attache to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in Geneva. She holds an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham, an LLB (Graduate) from Nottingham Law School and a BA from Trinity College Dublin.



## ELIZABETH FARRIES

Elizabeth Faries is the Information Rights Project Manager for the Irish Council for Civil Liberties together with the International Network of Civil Law Organizations. She is called to the Bar in British Columbia, and has a practice background in litigation, intellectual property, and human rights. She additionally has policy experience with the Canadian provincial government; has provided legal services to indigenous and impoverished clients in criminal, family law, and human rights matters; and has published work with and sat on the executive board of several NGOs. Elizabeth has a BSc and JD from the University of Victoria, a SSHRC funded Masters from the School of Information at the University of Toronto, and is a Frances E. Moran PhD Candidate at Trinity College Dublin's School of Law. Her research interests focus on how women's privacy rights are encroached online. On this and other topics, she has numerous trade, academic, and community publications.



## LIAM HERRICK

Liam Herrick was appointed to Executive Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) in November 2016. Prior to his appointment, he worked as Advisor to President Michael D. Higgins for almost three years. Liam was Executive Director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) between 2007 and 2014. He has also worked as the first head of legislation and policy at the former Irish Human Rights Commission and with the Law Reform Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs. He is a former member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), a former Board member of the Children's Rights Alliance and the Minister for Justice and Equality's Strategic Review Group on Penal Policy (2012-2014). Liam graduated from University College Cork with a BCL and LLM and from University College Dublin with a Diploma in Human Rights Law.



## CHRIS McCARTIN

Chris McCartin joined the ICCL as an Administrative Officer in September 2017 and is responsible for office operations. Chris has previously provided administrative support to key units in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Prior to joining the ICCL, he worked with University College Dublin's University Secretariat to support a number of governance and management committees.





# Staff Profiles

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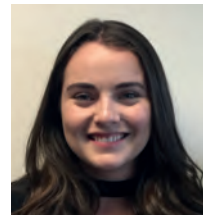
## SINÉAD NOLAN

Sinéad Nolan took up her post as Public Engagement and Communications Officer with the ICCL in October 2017. She previously worked with Front Line Defenders, an Irish organisation which provides protection to human rights defenders at risk. Before that, she spent a year working alongside activists at risk in northern Mexico with Peace Brigades International (PBI) and she continues to advocate for the protection of organisations, communities and defenders through PBI Ireland. Sinéad has participated, as a delegate and interpreter, in the Caravana Colombiana, an international delegation of jurists that observes the situation of human rights lawyers in Colombia. She has also worked on the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Sinéad holds an MA in International Security and Conflict Studies and has voluntary experience working in homeless services and with sex workers in Dublin.



## GRACE TIERNEY

Grace Tierney joined ICCL as Funding Development Officer in November 2018. She previously worked as Fundraising Manager for Suas Educational Development. Grace attended Trinity College Dublin receiving a BA in Economics and Social Studies and is currently undertaking a Masters of Public Policy at the University College Dublin.



During 2019, we were very glad of the assistance of **Alexander Peeples** and **Esther Emoru**. Alexander joined us on a placement programme from NUI Maynooth and greatly contributed to our work in the area of information and privacy rights – and in particular on our Public Services Campaign. Esther completed a programme of work on gender equality, which fed into our work on image-based sexual abuse. Her internship was sponsored by the Open Society Foundations.

ICCL staff. L-R Grace Tierney, Chris McCartin, Doireann Ansbro, Sinéad Nolan, Elizabeth Farries, Liam Herrick and Alexander Peeples.

# OUR WORK

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IRISH COUNCIL FOR  
**CIVIL LIBERTIES**



# POLICING & PROTEST

## TOWARDS POLICING THAT RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2019, we built on our 2018 success in advancing human rights compliant policing. Rights-compliant policing means policing that respects the rights of everyone and has proper checks and balances in place to ensure this happens. In 2018, we significantly influenced the Commission on the Future of Policing (CFP) report through the provision of the Kilpatrick report. One of our 2019 goals was to ensure the CFP's recommendations were implemented.

### Advocacy

In 2019, ICCL established an open line of communication with senior officers within An Garda Síochána, which enables us to raise concerns and seek further information on implementation of CFP recommendations. For example, we were informed about the set up and staffing of the new human rights unit. ICCL was also invited to participate in the Garda Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee; however we assessed that we can play a more effective monitoring role outside that structure.

On 7 May ICCL met the Garda Commissioner to discuss the reform agenda. We spoke to the new Garda Commissioner about a broad human rights approach to policing. As well as speaking about proportionate use of force, ICCL emphasised this approach also means respecting the right to privacy when it comes to data management and treating everybody with dignity and respect. ICCL took part in a consultation on Community Safety hosted by the Policing Authority on 25 July.

On 11 September ICCL met with senior figures in the Department of Justice to discuss policing reform and the implementation of the Commission on the Future of Policing. We discussed concerns raised with us by members of the public and made suggestions on proposed legislation for new

police oversight bodies and the codification of police powers. Liam Herrick had a follow-up meeting with the Department of An Taoiseach on 1 October.

ICCL met the Garda Inspectorate on 19 September to discuss human rights and places of Garda detention, to feed into a Garda Inspectorate report. We restated our position that future inspections of Garda stations should be conducted by a policing oversight body and not the Inspector of Prisons as is proposed.

*The Human Rights approach means respecting the right to privacy when it comes to data management and treating everybody with dignity and respect.*

We have also taken part in a consultation process with the Garda Inspectorate and regulation of policy custody.

### Impact:

A major process of Garda reform is underway. ICCL has played a key role in the move towards a human rights based approach to all matters of policing. We have made submissions on key legislation and we are consulted on important policy changes. Our influence on these policies can be seen by the reflection of human rights standards in the outcome.

ICCL's hope is that this programme of reform will mean communities who have grown to distrust police can begin to regain confidence that the Gardaí are there to protect them, and not the State.

### Policing the Border

In September our Northern colleagues in the Committee for the Administration of Justice (CAJ) highlighted that racial profiling was taking place on the border. The CAJ was receiving reports that people who didn't match a perceived Irish 'look' were being asked for ID while others weren't. CAJ lodged an equality law complaint and we wrote to the Garda Commissioner,

the Policing Authority and the Department of Justice, as well as IHREC.

Commissioner Harris was questioned at the Oireachtas Justice Committee and while the Garda deny any change in policy with regard to the border checks, we continue to monitor the situation, working with CAJ who are compiling examples and are considering a challenge through the Courts.



# POLICING & PROTEST

## TOWARDS POLICING THAT RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS

### Bodycams

In October, ICCL submitted research on the human rights impact of bodycams for AGS to the Department of Justice. We met the Department of Justice to lobby against their introduction. We also released a press statement and did extensive media work on the issue. We maintained that the much-vaunted benefits of bodycams were not actually real, and that the actual violations of our privacy rights far outweighed any benefits.

**Impact:** The legislation introducing bodycams was put on hold. That means we will not be monitored by police wearing cameras as we go about our daily business. It means footage of us in vulnerable moments will not be recorded or shared.

### ICCL: a go-to expert on policing

In 2019, we consolidated our position as a go-to expert on policing. By being vocal on policing in the media, our voice is heard by politicians, lawmakers and police themselves.

We provided commentary on issues as diverse as new rules to allow police wear turbans or headscarves; regulations for private security personnel; overuse of pepper spray by gardaí and the Sallins Train Robbery.

We frequently receive requests to speak at events, talk to radio and for written comment when policing issues come to the fore.

ICCL writes a monthly column for the Dublin Inquirer. We receive consistently excellent feedback on these articles and how much they help people see the real-life impact of police reform.

### Impact:

Media work aims to ensure that all public debate on policing is framed around the human rights impact of policing and the duties of An Garda Síochána to uphold human rights standards.

This strengthens human rights structures within An Garda Síochána, and also embeds principles of police accountability and oversight in the public mind.





# POLICING & PROTEST

## PROTEST IS YOUR RIGHT!

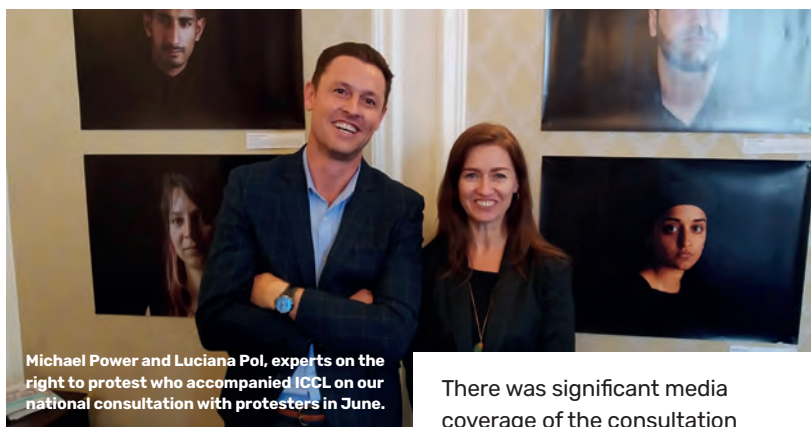
The rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, three fundamental rights that make up the right to protest, are cornerstones of our democracy and our society. At ICCL, we know that it's hugely important that grassroots campaigners and activists have their say as much as organisations like ours. In 2019, we built on existing relationships and created new ones, at the local, national and international level, to develop a significant piece of work which would protect the right to protest in Ireland.

### National Consultation

Our colleagues in the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO) began an international project on protest rights in 2019. We were eager to be at the vanguard of this project, given the impact protest has had in Ireland over the last number of years in securing human rights. We also suspected that some protesters were not enjoying the same response from the State as the referendum protests, given well-publicised police heavy-handedness at an eviction in inner city Dublin in 2017.

Accompanied by international experts on protest rights, Michael Power and Luciana Pol, we carried out a nationwide consultation on the right to protest between 19 and 22 June. Roundtable meetings with protesters and campaigners including environmental activists, anti-war protesters, anti-eviction groups, and activists living in Direct Provision took place in Cork, Ennis and Dublin. We also met with An Garda Síochána, the Policing Authority and the Garda Inspectorate.

From a coalition-building and awareness-raising perspective, these meetings were extremely important. At ICCL, we are not naive about abuses of rights, but we were shocked by some of the things we heard. We were informed that activists living in Direct Provision



Michael Power and Luciana Pol, experts on the right to protest who accompanied ICCL on our national consultation with protesters in June.

deal with retribution up to and including the with-holding of food and benefits for holding protests. Housing activists arrested at evictions were subjected to degrading treatment such as strip-searching. Anti-war protesters and environmental activists had been subjected to campaigns of harassment and persistent prosecution with cases dragging on for years. Many believed taking cases would only lead to more trouble for them.

In 2018, the Garda Inspectorate initiated an inspection of public order policing, including the policing of protest, under the direction of the Policing Authority. ICCL made a formal submission to the Inspectorate on 2 January and they launched their report on 26 June. We timed the report on our Consultation for the same day. Our report was frequently referred to during the Policing Authority's public meeting with An Garda Síochána that day.

There was significant media coverage of the consultation including on Today Sean O'Rourke, The Tonight Show, RTE News at One and smaller broadcast outlets. Print media including the Irish Times and the Irish Independent carried stories, and there was a significant response by gardaí in the media – to the effect that the public are always welcome to complain to GSOC.

The salient point for us was that, while the government and An Garda 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. It is clear that there is a wide gap between the stated position of the Garda with regard to protecting the rights to protest, and the experiences of many of the groups involved in organising a wide range of demonstrations and protests.

# POLICING & PROTEST

## PROTEST IS YOUR RIGHT!

### Network Building

Following the publicity around the National Consultation and throughout the rest of 2019 we were inundated with calls looking for advice on how to deal with protests as diverse as the beef protests to the climate strikes. We also attended a number of protests.

As a team, ICCL took part in the Trump protests in Shannon and Dublin during the week of 3-7 June. During that week we published ads in the Sunday Independent (paid for by ACLU) and The Irish Times (paid for by INCLO).

We met and supported the group Veterans for Peace, two of whom are elderly American men who are on bail in relation to a protest at Shannon around 17 March. Their bail terms included surrender of their passports. ICCL spoke at a public meeting for republican groups engaged in protests on 13 June. We also engaged with Extinction Rebellion on a number of occasions.

ICCL also spoke to NGOs and international experts working on protest monitoring to discuss the possibility of establishing a training programme for independent protest monitors in Ireland. It's anticipated that this project will launch in 2020.

On 28 September, as part of the Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival, ICCL moderated a panel of protesters who discussed Dissent Under Fire.



ICCL moderated a panel on protest at the Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival.

### Impact:

Some protesters, particularly those on the margins, face different responses from police than more mainstream protesters. The effect of our solidarity with these protesters should not be underestimated.

Many remarked to us that it was rare that anyone listened to, let alone believed, their stories. Our report shone a media spotlight on some important areas that had not previously been exposed in such a way. The police and the state are now on notice that somebody is watching and monitoring what goes on in these cases.

Our recommendations to the Garda Inspectorate regarding human rights training, rights-proofing all garda public order policies, and accountability on the use of force, were fully reflected in the final report which was published by the Policing Authority in June. They should now be reflected in future Garda policy and practice ensuring a better protection of protestors rights in the future.

### Next Steps:

Many of the protesters we spoke to expressed a need for a legal guide to their rights, and a training session to accompany this. Work on this took place in the latter half of 2019 with pro-bono expertise from barristers and solicitors working in the area. The booklet addresses Irish law, in particular the nexus of protest rights with the Public Order Act, and the developing area of protest rights at the constitutional, European and international level. The booklet and accompanying Z-card is due for publication in January 2020 and will be accompanied by a training session for protesters.

GSOC wrote to us after we launched our report on the consultation process offering to look into some of these cases again. We will be gathering information and submitting a list of cases to GSOC in 2020.

# PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

## YOUR RIGHTS WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Everyone is entitled to justice, and everyone is entitled to a fair trial. Reforming the criminal justice system has been a cornerstone of ICCL's work since our inception in the 1970s. Both suspects' rights and victim's rights can and should be respected; it does not have to be a choice between the two.

### Suspect's Rights

ICCL continues to oppose the Offences Against the State Act, and to raise awareness of its problematic nature, through media work and delivering university lectures.

The main focus of our advocacy is on the denial of the principle "innocent until proven guilty" inherent in the Act.

At the European Level, ICCL continues to participate in the Legal Experts Advisory Panel (LEAP) and Justicia – two prominent fair trial rights networks. Working within networks and coalitions of EU partner organisations allows ICCL to amplify our message and to inform our work with international best practice standards. In November 2019, ICCL attended a LEAP and Justicia meeting in Brussels. We also met with representatives from the Irish Mission to the EU to promote rights standards in cross-border evidence sharing and pre-trial detention.

We continued to disseminate our major EU report "Inside Policy Custody" which was launched in Brussels in December 2018. This comparative report is the

*Some fundamental rights if you are accused of a crime are the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information, and the right of access to a lawyer.*

second based on empirical research carried out in nine European Union (EU) member states.

It examines the rights of suspects and accused persons – the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information, and the right of access to a lawyer – as they are applied and experienced in practice at the investigative stage of the criminal process.

### Next Steps:

In late 2019 ICCL launched a Procedural Rights Fellowship in partnership with the Bar of Ireland. A legal professional will join the ICCL team in early 2020 to further our work with regards to the Irish criminal justice system.

ICCL will continue to push for the abolition of the Offences Against the State Act which runs roughshod over many fundamental fair trial rights.

### Judicial Reform

ICCL welcomed the passing of the Judicial Council Bill on 10 July. The creation of an independent Judicial Council with responsibility for judicial training and complaints brought Ireland in line with international best practice on protecting the independence of the judiciary. We called on the new Council to take human rights principles into account when considering mandatory sentencing. We also called on them to define incarceration as a very last resort.

*The creation of a Judicial Council is a significant step towards protecting the independence of the judiciary, something which ICCL has campaigned on for years.*

### Impact:

The creation of a Judicial Council is a significant step towards protecting the independence of the judiciary, something which ICCL has campaigned on for years. The guidelines set out in the Bill allow for greater transparency and public confidence in our judiciary.



# PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

## YOUR RIGHTS WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

### Victims' Rights

ICCL is working towards the implementation of the EU Victims Directive which became law in 2017. That was a landmark moment for the rights of victims of crime within the justice system.

In 2019 we continued to promote Victims Rights' and the implementation of the Victims Rights Act, which stems from the EU Directive. We participated in an EU project on Victims' rights and Public Prosecutors – the Pro-Victims project – and continued to work within the Victims' Rights Alliance (VRA).

*one of our partners in the Victims' Rights Alliance, CARL, secured funding for a Courthouse Dogs project thanks to the coverage. This project will train assistance dogs to help vulnerable victims, such as children, through the traumatic court experience.*

Throughout 2019, ICCL met with key players from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to discuss current issues and our Pro-Victims project. As part of the project, ICCL disseminated a survey to prosecutors to gauge their awareness of the new Victims Rights Act in Ireland. Learning from this survey informs our work going forward, and guides us on how best to engage with prosecutors to further victims' rights in Ireland.

In November 2019, as part of our work with Pro-Victims, ICCL hosted a two-day event in Dublin with partners from Portugal, Croatia and Spain. On the first day of the conference, ICCL held a partner meeting and led the visitors on a tour of the Dublin Criminal Court complex. On day two, ICCL hosted a 40 person conference attended by key stakeholders in victims rights, including members of the Victims Rights Alliance, the Chief State Prosecutor and An Garda Síochána. Media work followed and one of our partners in the Victims' Rights Alliance, CARL, secured funding for a Courthouse Dogs project thanks to the coverage. This project will train assistance dogs to help vulnerable victims, such as children, through the traumatic court experience.

### Impact:

As more legal professionals, civil servants and gardaí become aware of their obligations under the EU Victims' Directive, it becomes easier for those who become victims of crime to claim their rights. This is important because often victims of crime are so traumatised that they are not in a position to learn about or advocate for their own rights.

Next year, we will focus on informing victims themselves about their rights under the Directive.



Founder of the Victims' Rights Alliance Maria McDonald in 2018 with Judy, a dog trained to assist vulnerable and young victims of crime in court.



# EQUALITY

## GENDER EQUALITY

2018 was a truly momentous year for gender equality in Ireland. The massive popular vote to repeal the 8th amendment will inspire and motivate us for years to come.

In January 2019 abortion became legal in Ireland. There was a huge sense of relief for anyone who could become pregnant in Ireland. It was a great moment for everyone who supports full reproductive rights.

But ICCL knew that still not everyone who needed an abortion could access one. Many barriers to access remained, even with the new legislation.

Some counties in Ireland did not provide access to abortion in



2019, including counties with large population centres such as Sligo and Kilkenny.

The mandatory three-day waiting period and second appointment requirement caused untold anguish as well as difficulties around travel, finance and childcare for many women and people who needed an abortion. Those

who need an abortion after the twelve-week limit still had to travel to Britain or face forced childbirth.

In 2019, we worked with our referendum partners through a working group on abortion to identify and resolve these problems. We also led the group's response to the issue of safe zones.

### Safe Zones

Throughout the year, protests at abortion providers continued to grow and intimidate patients accessing healthcare. We began the year with a call to the Minister for Health to legislate for safe zones around abortion providers, small areas where protest would not be allowed. This was a delicate line for us to walk, given that the right to protest is fundamental and protected by the Irish Constitution – not to mention our increased level of engagement with protesters throughout 2019 (see p. XX). In the end, however, it was clear to us that the nature and extent of the interference with the rights of those who needed an abortion, particularly

*“the nature and extent of the interference with the rights of those who needed an abortion, particularly within the social and historical context of how abortion has been stigmatised in Ireland, all combined to justify targetted protections of access to healthcare.”*

within the social and historical context of how abortion has been stigmatised in Ireland, all combined to justify targetted protections of access to healthcare.

Our work on safe zones was met with criticism from some quarters, which was not unexpected. We were always mindful that this type of controversy is unhelpful to people in crisis pregnancies and engaged the media only where necessary. We also worked closely with

healthcare providers and women's rights advocates to ensure that our policy was understood as a right to healthcare issue.

### Next Steps:

In early 2020 we will publish our policy on safe zones and launch a public awareness campaign on this issue. Women and pregnant people must be able to access healthcare in safety, with dignity, and privacy.

# EQUALITY

## GENDER EQUALITY

### Advocacy and Network Building

With Lawyers for Choice and INCLO, we organised a roundtable event for lawyers, doctors and campaigners to discuss the implementation of the new legislation and the obstacles that remain. Expert speakers from Colombia, Argentina, the US and Canada brought an international perspective to the discussion. We identified continued obstacles to accessing abortion services in Ireland and potential means of overcoming them, as well as in consolidating networks both within Ireland and abroad.

With our international colleagues, we opened new lines of engagement on abortion rights with the UN human rights mechanisms – specifically the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Committee Against Torture. We took a lead role within INCLO in

coordinating individual country responses to the Special Rapporteur on his report on domestic violence to the General Assembly in September, referencing its potential impact on access to abortion.

Through INCLO we also contributed to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief's report to the Human Rights Council on the need to counter a global trend of using religious freedom to justify discrimination, including preventing access to abortion.

#### Impact:

Along with our partners in the Abortion Working Group, every day we move closer to our vision of an Ireland where everyone who needs an abortion can get one.

### Transgender Rights

ICCL continued to work to strengthen transgender rights at home and abroad. We organised a lecture delivered by our colleagues at the Transgender Equality Network of Ireland on the Gender Recognition Act for visiting INCLO members in April.

We also helped to coordinate a webinar delivered to all INCLO members by TENI in July.

We participated in a broader webinar delivered by the Ontario Human Rights Commission on promoting and protecting diversity in the workplace in October, which included a section on how to ensure workplaces are trans inclusive.

We continue to assist with the organisation of a global conference on transgender rights which will take place next year and will include all INCLO members, as well as transgender rights activists from Ireland and around the world.

#### Impact:

Trans rights are human rights. It is important that well-established human rights organisations such as ICCL amplify the voice of our trans allies in the vindication of their rights, so that the struggle is seen, heard and understood.



ICCL's Grace Tierney and Doireann Ansbro at ICCL conference on reproductive rights.

# EQUALITY

## RACIAL EQUALITY AND MIGRATION



ICCL and our INCLC colleagues at the Dáil in protest at Mike Pence's visit.

### ICCL calls for an end to Direct Provision

ICCL made a submission to the Oireachtas consultation on direct provision on 4 June. We added our voice to the long-standing call for the system to be dismantled, given the huge potential for rights violations inherent within it.

This includes violations of the right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, the rights to mental and physical health, the right to education and to work, as well as the rights to family and private life.

We believe the continued institutionalisation of people seeking international protection in our

*We believe the continued institutionalisation of people seeking international protection in our country is just another chapter in a dark history of institutionalisation of people in this State.*

country is just another chapter in a dark history of institutionalisation of vulnerable people in this State.

We strengthened links with people and activists living in Direct Provision through our work supporting protesters. (see page 13)

In 2019, a worrying tendency to smear asylum seekers emerged amongst politicians. This went all the way to the Taoiseach, who asserted those living in Direct Provision could "leave at any time". Towards the end of the year, he said that Direct Provision was "better than using tents".

At ICCL, we think Ireland should aim much higher than that. ICCL challenged every instance of high level racism in the media and we echoed the call of our colleagues working on the ground, for own door accommodation for asylum seekers.

### Next Steps:

ICCL will reiterate our call to end Direct Provision and introduce own-door accommodation at every opportunity, including in any potential election or programme for government advocacy in 2020.



# EQUALITY

## SOCIAL EQUALITY

### Rise of the Far Right

Throughout 2019, ICCL supported the work of the Far Right Observatory, a civil society initiative to map far right activity in Ireland.

There were worrying examples of growing coordination and capacity for the small number of far-right actors working in Ireland through the year. In particular, they focused their efforts on a campaign against Direct Provision centres in specific towns. They played into legitimate fears to bring their hateful message to a larger audience.

#### Next Steps:

ICCL has joined an initiative in discourse analysis, to ensure we can identify and challenge the rallying calls of the far-right, and counter it with a message of tolerance, solidarity and inclusion.

*"ICCL has joined an initiative in discourse analysis, to ensure we can identify and challenge the rallying calls of the far-right, and counter it with a message of tolerance, solidarity and inclusion."*

### Hate Crime

Hate crimes are message crimes. Their purpose is not just to silence the direct victim of the attack, but the victim's entire community. It is an attack on the community's identity, and on their freedom of expression. Throughout 2019, hate crime was a priority for us.

Incredibly, in Ireland there is no specific law to deal with attacks which are motivated by prejudice – including racism, homophobia, misogyny or transphobia. Together with the Coalition Against Hate Crime, in 2019 we continued to loudly demand legislation which would specifically deal with this type of crime.

*Hate crimes are message crimes. Their purpose is not just to silence the direct victim of the attack, but the victim's entire community. It is an attack on the community's identity, and on their freedom of expression.*

ICCL spoke to staff at institutions as diverse as University College Cork and at an internal Trócaire conference about hate crime and the rise of populism.

Racist videos and videos of racist assaults circulated online throughout the year. Our long-standing call for legislation on hate crime was almost always cited in response across national media.

Under pressure, the government continued to consider how to

legislate for hate crime, without advancing anything. Meanwhile, An Garda Síochána began developing their own policies and systems against hate crime, highlighting the urgency of the situation.

ICCL fed into the Coalition against Hate Crime's shadow report for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Ireland was examined by this committee on 2-3 December. The report was presented at the hearing and advocates highlighted the need for hate crime legislation.

#### Impact:

Following the examination, the Committee made a specific recommendation that the Government should legislate against hate crime.

#### Next Steps:

Robust hate crime legislation will continue to be a priority area for ICCL. In anticipation of a general election in 2020, we will be calling on all parties to commit to this as part of a programme for government.

### Hate Speech

ICCL was invited to make a submission to the Department of Justice on its review of the Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 and the question of how to combat hate speech.

The Incitement to Hatred Act is doubly problematic in that it does not adequately deal with extreme forms of hate speech, but it has been used to prosecute less extreme hate speech which should



# EQUALITY

## SOCIAL EQUALITY

be tackled in a different way. ICCL's submission outlined the hate speech pyramid – which differentiates between the most extreme forms of hate speech which Ireland is obliged to outlaw under international human rights law, and other forms of hate speech which, though abhorrent, must be dealt with in different ways in order to protect freedom of speech.

In our submission we also called for hate crime legislation as a priority. That's because when hateful attacks are outlawed, there is also a deterrence effect against hate speech. We had extensive engagement with the Department of Justice and Equality on this issue through 2019. We also called for a review of the Incitement to Hatred Act.

### Next Steps:

Hate speech, alongside the related issues of hate crime and freedom of speech will be a priority for us in 2020. We intend to mount a public campaign if a general election is called.

## Divorce Referendum

Another year, another Referendum win!

The big win for equality this year was the abolition of the mandatory waiting period for divorce. The waiting period is now two years from separation to application, reduced from four years.

The discretion to reduce this period further now lies with the Oireachtas, and ICCL will campaign for this waiting period to be abolished entirely.

ICCL joined a coalition of organisations (One Family, FLAC, the National Women's Council of Ireland, Family Lawyers Association, the Children's Rights Alliance, and the Law Society) working together for a Yes vote in the referendum. During the referendum we issued a number of press statements to encourage people to get out to vote, and to



ICCL joined the civil society coalition to campaign for a YES vote in the divorce referendum.

vote yes. A large part of our messaging focused on domestic violence. The referendum was passed by a large majority.

### Impact:

The abolishment of the mandatory waiting period for divorce is a huge win for freedom and equality. It is particularly important for people living in abusive relationships. ICCL will continue to campaign for the abolishment of the two-year waiting period.

## Drugs Decriminalisation

In 2019, ICCL added our voice to the 'Safer From Harm' campaign to decriminalise the possession of drugs for personal use.

This campaign has been driven by grassroots organisations, led by Ana Liffey Drugs Project, who work with communities affected by poverty and inequality. ICCL made a submission to the government's call for information before it reviewed the legislation.

Following a very disappointing report by the expert Committee set up to examine the question of decriminalisation, the government decided not to recommend any significant change to the current law on criminalisation of drugs. For ICCL, this was a missed opportunity to save lives.

During the summer, ICCL publicly supported the campaign for Safe Injection Facilities.

### Next Steps:

In the long-term, ICCL will continue to push for decriminalisation in our advocacy efforts. The Safer From Harm campaign will now focus on securing support from all parties ahead of the General Election.

In the meantime, we are vocal in our support for better services for drug users.

# PRIVACY & INFORMATION RIGHTS

## ICCL CAMPAIGNS TO STOP THE PUBLIC SERVICES CARD

INCLO colleagues supported our call to scrap the Public Services Card.



### Stop the Public Services Card!

ICCL continues to campaign for the abolition of the Public Services Card and 2019 was a year of significant wins for this campaign. At the start of 2019 we engaged with the media and members of the Oireachtas to raise awareness of the issue, particularly regarding concerns that the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC)'s interim report would not be made public. We also carried out a survey of Government agencies that use the PSC and the fact that many of them do not find it useful. Many news outlets covered the news of our survey findings.

In July 2019, ICCL hosted UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty Philip Alston to address the problems with the PSC and digital

welfare state in Ireland. During his visit Professor Alston held a number of meetings with members of the media as well as with affected residents in Ireland.

*Professor Alston talked to a packed audience about the security problems inherent in digital identity schemes and how the poor tend to be the guinea pigs for new surveillance tech.*

At a public evening event hosted by ICCL and held in Pavee Point, Professor Alston talked to a packed audience about the security problems inherent in digital identity schemes and how the poor tend to be the guinea pigs for new surveillance tech.

A landmark moment in the campaign to end the PSC came in August 2019 when the DPC released their report on the PSC. The report ruled that the Government has no legal right to store data collected for the PSC. It was a blow to the Department of Employment Social Protection and was also a real vindication of ICCL's efforts.

But we felt that the DPC report did not go far enough. We engaged in a significant media campaign at this time highlighting the real dangers of the Public Services Card and calling for it to be scrapped.

In the Autumn, ICCL gathered signatures on a petition to stop the PSC, which was circulated widely amongst our members and supporters. Further, we engaged in media work regarding the National Childcare Scheme. We considered it unacceptable that parents would lose out on payments if they applied for the scheme offline – which was the only way to avoid getting a Public Services Card in the process.

### Impact:

ICCL has led the campaign against the Public Services Card for several years. In 2019, we saw a huge turnaround in public opinion on the issue, due in no small part to our persistent challenging of the government's evasiveness on the issue. We will stay the course and are confident that 2020 will see the abolition of the card for once and for all.

# PRIVACY & INFORMATION RIGHTS

## DATA RETENTION, SHARING AND SURVEILLANCE

ICCL is fighting for strong legal protections on the use (or abuse) and retention of personal data.

### International Legal Case: Surveillance

ICCL is a member of a coalition of 10 NGOs appealing a landmark legal case on bulk surveillance to the European Court of Human Rights (Big Brother Watch v. UK) on bulk surveillance. Bulk surveillance is the large-scale collection and retention of private communications data, rather than targeted surveillance. In April 2019, following acceptance by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights of a referral request, Liberty (our partner organisation in the UK) drafted arguments regarding limits to bulk surveillance. The hearing was held on 10 July. Though it will be an uphill battle to convince the court to ban bulk surveillance, Liberty (who

is representing seven INCLO organisations, including ICCL, in the case) is hopeful that we will be successful in securing safeguards against bulk surveillance.

### Next Steps:

Following our 2019 submissions, we await the final decision of the Grand Chamber, which only a small number of the most significant cases are heard at. Our hope is that bulk surveillance will be banned outright as illegal. Failing that, we hope to at least have secured safeguards in the UK's regime in favour of privacy and freedom of expression. Any changes in UK law will be of international significance.

### Facial Recognition Technology: On Children?

In December ICCL conducted a media campaign against the introduction of facial recognition technology at the new National Children's Hospital. There was considerable public outcry but the decision, unfortunately, had already been taken.

### Next Steps:

The public awareness campaign highlighted for us that the public

are not comfortable with FRT, particularly when it is used against children. We will build on this momentum in the future and challenge the use of FRT everywhere we see it.



## INTERNATIONAL WORK

ICCL continues to house the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations' (INCLO) programme of work on information and privacy rights. Through 2019 ICCL and INCLO worked to advance and develop this programme of work through many international appearances, projects, and engagement with various bodies including the United Nations.

### Spying on Dissent

In March 2019, ICCL together with other INCLO members completed submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. The submission informed his thematic report regarding the increasing use of online surveillance technologies by policing institutions against protestors.

These submissions were published and disseminated as the Spying on Dissent report. Spying on Dissent was formally launched in June 2019. It details 13 case studies from INCLO countries and gives recommendations regarding the roll-out of these technologies. ICCL gave an oral statement on behalf of INCLO to the UN Human Rights Council 41st session on 26 June describing problems attached to surveillance policing technologies in INCLO member countries (including Ireland) and introduced the Spying on Dissent report.

### Impact:

Through this international work, ICCL is directly shaping international human rights standards in this field.

# PRIVACY & INFORMATION RIGHTS

## TECHNOLOGY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

ICCL continues to monitor developments around the regulation of online content – arising in the context of hate speech, sexual content, child protection, and political advertising. We are working to ensure that online content moderation is informed by human rights standards and transparency.

### Online Content Moderation

Our rights, including freedom of expression and privacy, apply online in the same way as they do offline. In April 2019 ICCL highlighted this in a submission to the public consultation on regulation of online content by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Our submission set out the issues and fundamental rights challenges facing state and corporate attempts to regulate content online, as well as solutions. ICCL then held a bilateral meeting with the Department regarding the

*Our rights, including freedom of expression and privacy, apply online in the same way as they do offline.*

content of the harassment bill and our fundamental freedoms.

It is difficult to moderate problematic online content while still respecting freedom of expression. There are no easy answers. But more problems arise when companies take content down without providing clarity around what is and is not acceptable on their platforms. Users of these platforms need to be able to understand why something has been removed, and indeed they are

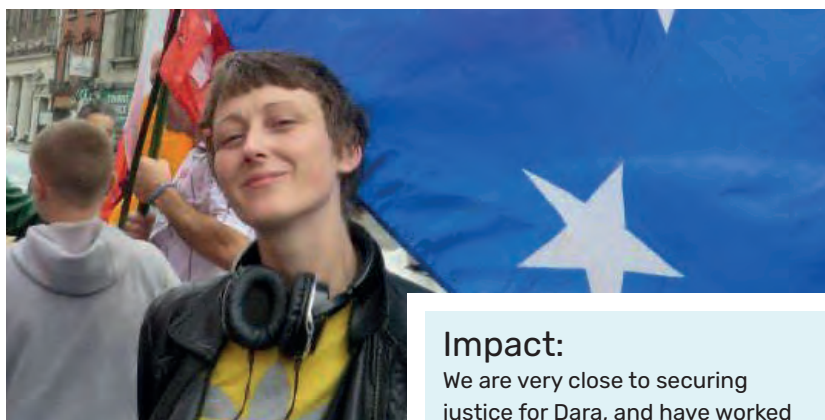
entitled to an opportunity challenge that removal. That's why in July we called for radical transparency about take-downs. We aimed our call at the social media giants, all of which have EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) headquarters in Dublin.

We continue to engage with lawmakers and big tech companies with regard to our concerns around the regulation of online content.

### Online Gendered Harassment: Justice for Dara

In October 2019 ICCL made a submission to the Oireachtas Justice Committee's examination of harmful online content, in which we focused on the need to outlaw image-based sexual abuse (inappropriately known as revenge porn). ICCL also gave oral submissions at the Oireachtas committee on this subject. This formed the basis of our Justice for Dara campaign.

In memory of Dara Quigley, a young journalist whose intimate images were inappropriately shared online, ICCL called on the Irish government to outlaw image-based sexual abuse. We



Dara Quigley

have worked closely with Dara's family throughout this campaign to secure justice on her behalf. The media covered our calls widely and we circulated a petition among our members, supporters, and the public to amplify our message. See also p36

#### Impact:

We are very close to securing justice for Dara, and have worked closely with her family every step of the way. Increased public awareness of problems with prosecuting image-based abuse has increased calls for legal reform. And we are closer to securing key legal reforms to ensure an end to image-based sexual abuse in Ireland.



# PRIVACY & INFORMATION RIGHTS

## TECHNOLOGY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



David Carroll - the man who sued Cambridge Analytica - calls time on human rights abuses online.

### Tech for Good

Dublin houses the EMEA headquarters of many of the world's largest technology companies. We are working to engage tech workers in Ireland to harness their power as human rights advocates. We are also working to secure INCLO's role in Dublin, the EU's tech hub.

In September 2019 ICCL hosted a three-day "Human Rights Proofing Tech" convening of technologists from all INCLO 15 member organisations and allies. As part of this convening, ICCL held a public event for tech workers in the Spencer Hotel.

David Carroll, the man who sued Cambridge Analytica, Laura Nolan,



Laura Nolan, Ramy Raoof, David Carroll, and ICCL's Elizabeth Farries and Liam Herrick all spoke about online human rights

a former Google employee and founder of the campaign to stop killer robots, and Ramy Raoof, human rights technologist, all spoke on a panel discussing pressing issues around big tech, our data, and human rights. Dublin tech workers were able to engage with some of the world's leading thinkers in the tech and

*Dublin tech workers were able to engage with some of the world's leading thinkers in the tech and human rights arena and left the event empowered to play an important role in furthering the conversation around tech and human rights.*

human rights arena and left the event empowered to play an important role in furthering the conversation around tech and human rights.

ICCL will continue to engage Ireland's tech workers to ensure that tech in Ireland is used for good.

# HUMAN RIGHTS

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## FREEDOM FROM TORTURE



*ICCL believes detention should be considered in its broadest sense, to include not just prisons but nursing homes, Direct Provision centres and psychiatric institutions.*

ICCL and our partners working on prisoners' rights, the Irish Penal Reform Trust, continued to lead a campaign to secure Ireland's ratification of the UN Optional Protocol Against Torture (OPCAT). Without this, ICCL fears that ill-treatment that could amount to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment could be taking place behind closed or locked doors. We know that the best way to prevent ill treatment behind closed doors is by ensuring independent and unannounced inspections can take place.

Ratification of OPCAT would oblige the government to establish a National Preventative Mechanism in Ireland. An NPM would have the power to carry out independent inspections of all places of detention. ICCL believes detention should be considered in its broadest sense, to include not just prisons but nursing homes, Direct Provision centres and psychiatric institutions.

Until we have an independent inspection mechanism many people continue to be vulnerable to ill-treatment up to and including torture behind closed or locked doors.

For more than 11 years Ireland has promised ratification with no progress being made.

### Advocacy

ICCL sent letters to the Department of Justice, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Defence calling for the ratification of OPCAT and the creation of a National Preventative Mechanism coordinated by IHREC.

At a meeting with the Department of Justice in September, we were told OPCAT was in a "queue" of legislation for drafting. In a subsequent meeting with the Garda Inspectorate, ICCL raised concerns over inspection of garda detention cells. It should be the independent Inspectorate, rather than the Inspector of Prisons, who carries out this work. ICCL again raised this issue with the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture during their visit to Ireland in September. We expect the issue to be covered in their forthcoming report to government.

Citing our work, Senator Lynn Ruane posed a parliamentary question to Minister David Stanton about the ratification of the treaty and mechanisms for the prevention of torture. The Minister gave the firmest assurances yet about a timeline for ratification.

ICCL also provided the Senator with significant input

for a widely-read op-ed she wrote on the same issue. The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) invited us to participate on an Advisory Group working on Human Rights Based Approach to Health Services – including places of involuntary detention such as psychiatric institutions or nursing homes. ICCL contributed its human rights expertise to the subsequent report for healthcare workers on how to implement human rights in their daily work.

### Next Steps:

Ratification of OPCAT and the establishment of a comprehensive national inspections system for all places of detention is essential to ensure human rights protection for all people in all types of detention in Ireland.

ICCL is facing serious intransigence from government on this crucial issue. For eleven years, the government has told us that legislation is imminent. It is clear that it is not.

In 2020, we will bring this campaign to the public. We will call for OPCAT to be included in the programme for government and we will inform and empower the general public to call for immediate action in this essential area.

# HUMAN RIGHTS

## THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND THE CORONERS SYSTEM



Dr Vicky Conway at the launch of the coroners reform project.

In 2019, ICCL commissioned a research project into the Coroners' system in Ireland. Our researchers brought together families who felt the inquiries into the deaths of their loved ones had been inadequate. We launched the investigation in February.

Throughout 2019, we supported various campaigns by families calling for justice for their loved ones, such as Dara Quigley (see p XX) and Shane O'Farrell.

Unfortunately, the research project has been delayed due to an illness on the team but we hope it can be completed in 2020.

### Next Steps:

The research project will restart in 2020.

## TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE – JUSTICE FOR LEGACIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Ireland's dark history of institutional abuse continues to present violations into the present day. Victims' groups continue to search for family members, with no documentary evidence of what happened to them. New legislation on adoption caused an outcry amongst advocates for the rights of adoptees, who still cannot access their birth certs. The State, despite all the cover-ups and hurt caused, continues to shroud its investigatory work in secrecy.

ICCL's main point of advocacy is our ongoing call for the ratification of the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances (CED).

*Ireland's dark history of institutional abuse continues to present violations into the present day.*

Ratification of this would require the government to conduct thorough and impartial inquiries into the disappearances of women and children from Mother and Baby Homes and other institutions across the country. It would also require a reparations programme far more generous of spirit than that which is currently in place. So far, we have not seen the type of investigation into these gross human rights violations that would satisfy the requirements of the CED.



At the ICCL film awards Eileen Flynn congratulated Mannix Flynn on a Special Commendation for his film *Land Without God* which deals with the legacy of institutional abuse.



# HUMAN RIGHTS

## TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE – JUSTICE FOR LEGACIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

### Media Work

#### Convention on Enforced Disappearances

On the International Day of the Disappeared on 30 August we once again called on government to ratify the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances.

We further called for criminal investigations into the missing burial locations of hundreds – possibly thousands – of children at mother and baby homes.

#### Commission of Investigation interim report

When the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes released its fifth interim report, we called for criminal investigations into the abuses. In response the Department of Children said the report would be referred to gardai for appropriate attention, but we are not aware of any prosecutions in relation to these matters to date. The Commission is due to submit its final report in 2020.

#### Retention of Records Bill

We also made a public call that the Retention of Records bill would be amended so that witness testimony provided to the State would be anonymised rather than sealed for 75 years as proposed by the legislation. Opposition to this Bill meant it became the subject of a report by the Oireachtas Education

Committee and was not passed before the calling of the General Election in 2020. It is likely that the next Government may try to re-introduce this regressive Bill.

#### Impact:

Though the Irish public is aware of many of the institutional human rights abuses that took place, there is not yet a broad understanding that they constitute some of the most serious human rights abuses possible. The disappearance of possibly thousands of children is not thought of in the same terms as well-known examples of enforced disappearances such as those in Argentina or Spain. Likewise, the controversy over the adoption bill is not well-understood as a legacy of illegal adoption practices involving state and church-run institutions.

Through our media work highlighting the very serious and ongoing nature of these human rights violations, we are enhancing public understanding of the role the state played and continues to play in these grave abuses.

### Rights of Adopted People

We wrote to all Senators before they debated the **Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill**, highlighting that the Bill as it stood would not vindicate the identity rights of adopted people, and could lead to further violations of their rights. This was in support of the Adoption Rights Alliance position in opposition to any system where birth parents could veto or object to an adopted person's access to their own birth records. ICCL met with Minister Zappone and legal experts and advocates on 4 July in an attempt to reach a resolution on the Bill.

Further to our efforts amendments were made to the Bill. However, these were deemed unacceptable by advocates in that they gave powers of adjudication to Tusla where a dispute arose. The Attorney General later deemed the proposals unconstitutional and that part of the legislation was shelved. However, the government did proceed with legislation to make the falsification or concealment of adoption records a criminal offence.

#### Impact:

Our support for the Adoption Rights Alliance proved crucial. Though the issue is unresolved, we are at least satisfied that adoptees will not have to go through a potentially traumatising battle to obtain their birth records via Tusla. It is also extremely important that tampering with adoption records is now a crime.

#### Next Steps:

The denial of access to birth records remains an ongoing human rights violation for thousands of adopted people. We will be seeking to have this historical injustice addressed in the next Programme for Government.

# CIVIL LIBERTIES

## CIVIC SPACE

Ireland has a strong and vibrant civil society. The positive changes in recent years have come from grassroots movements and for the team at ICCL it has been inspirational to be part of that.

But life on the ground for community and voluntary groups is not easy, particularly when grassroots movements try to organise more formally. Various restrictions make it almost impossible for a new organisation working on human rights to establish itself. The Charities Act does not consider promoting human rights to be a legitimate charitable purpose. And the Electoral Act outlaws the use of donations of €100 or more for “political purposes”. The enforcement body under the Electoral Act, SIPOC, has broadly interpreted any advocacy directed at politicians to come under this law. They have sought to prosecute residents’ associations, large campaigning organisations and small issue-based associations. Would-be changemakers are held personally liable, which deters them from their work. In short, it is illegal for any organisation that receives substantial funding to present ideas for change to politicians.

ICCL leads the Coalition for Civil Society Freedom, a coalition of six organisations, in calling for modernisation of these political campaigning rules.

We are campaigning for new rules which would prevent electoral interference while also allowing community organisations to have a voice in public life.



Liam Herrick, Senator Lynn Ruane, Amnesty Ireland’s Colm O’Gorman and Education Equality’s April Duff launch Senator Ruane’s Electoral Amendment Bill.

## Advocacy

In April, we presented a call to the Department of Housing and Local Government for the establishment of an Electoral Commission and put forward suggestions for voter registration reform to improve access to the right to vote and strengthen the integrity of the register. The government later committed to the establishment of an Electoral Commission, though the time-frame remains unclear. Very disappointingly, the department refused to commit to reforming the restrictions affecting community organisations during that process.

Working with the Civic Engagement Group in the Seanad, ICCL then helped draft a Private Member’s Bill on Civil Society Freedom to amend the Electoral Act. The Bill was published on 16 May and we secured broad cross party support for this reform. We will use this political support to continue to push for reform in 2020.

## Media Work

This remains an issue which is complicated and where we continue to face challenges in explaining how the Electoral Act is detrimentally affecting Irish civil society. That is why

our nuanced position of supporting stronger electoral integrity measures and differentiating civil society advocacy from electoral campaigning has been so important.

## Network Building

ICCL contributed to a European wide strategy for civil society to address common challenges. The strategy was led by international partners including the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Liberties (the Civil Liberties Platform for Europe) and the European Centre for Not for Profit Law. One of the outcomes of this collaboration has been an initiative to include a European Values Fund in the EU Budget to support civil society within the EU. ICCL has also been vocal in drawing attention to the persecution of civil society in Hungary and Poland and in raising the deteriorating situation in those countries with the Irish government.

## Impact and Next Steps:

Having garnered Seanad support for amending the Electoral Act, we are on the road to change – to making sure that activists can carry out their work without fear of potentially ruinous legal action against them. Now we need to generate support in the Dáil. This will be a priority for us in 2020.

Towards the end of 2019, the Coalition for Civil Society Freedom began the process of recruiting a policy officer who will lead the development of our campaign for reform over the next two year – this added capacity is very exciting and greatly increases our chances of success!

# CIVIL LIBERTIES

## FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

ICCL recognises that artists play a crucial role in championing human rights in Ireland. Through our film awards and our work on artistic censorship, we have built important alliances with artists and arts body on key issues about freedom of expression.

In 2019, we strengthened and deepened connections with artists who had been censored during the referendum to 2018 Repeal the 8th amendment. But censorship of art continued in 2019 – most notably when a State-run library cancelled a child-friendly drag performance because of a transphobic campaign against the group of performers.

In solidarity with artists across Ireland and the globe who have



Evelyn O'Rourke hosted a panel with Cian O'Brien, Lyan Bell and Declan Long.

been subjected to censorship, we celebrated freedom of artistic expression with a day-long conference at Project Arts Centre. We invited Beth Hayden, leader of the censored drag performance group, to speak at the conference. She spoke to Una Mullally, censored author, and Cian O'Brien, artistic director of Project Arts Centre. Project is the home of Maser's censored mural for repeal. Discussion ranged from funding for the arts to social media bans, and from self-censorship to self-care.



Artists joined ICCL to call for the Repeal of the Censorship Act.

At the event we launched our call for the repeal of the Censorship of Publications Act, a relic from a past age when publications on topics such as sex, queer lifestyles, and abortion were all banned. Abolishing it would be a symbolic step for artistic freedom of expression. The call received widespread media coverage.

ICCL spoke at a similar event on 2 May – OutStraight says no to Censorship – which touched on the same themes and presented another opportunity to call for the repeal of the Censorship Act.

Towards the end of the year, ICCL hosted a conversation at the iconic George Bernard Shaw pub just before it closed down. Widely seen as a home-from-home for artists, the closure became symbolic of the wider problems faced by the artistic community in a society which values profit over artistic expression.

### Impact:

We continued to support artists, writers and performers who were silenced in 2018 and 2019. Censorship, when it goes unchallenged, can lead to self-censorship by artists. Our support should help to mitigate this chilling effect on free expression.

We also raised awareness of the importance of free expression, challenging the nefarious narrative that the only people who value free speech are on the far-right.

### Next Steps:

We will continue to advocate the Repeal of the Censorship Act, and continue to communicate the value of free expression through collaboration with the artistic community.

# CIVIL LIBERTIES

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

We continue to learn from our partners overseas, to support wherever we can, and to advocate together for a better world: a world with human rights as its foundation.

### Brexit

In 2019, Brexit dominated concerns across the island of Ireland. Northern Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement are already facing very serious human rights challenges. The spectre of a hard border on the island unearths trauma and fear buried in plain sight since the conflict ended some twenty years ago.

Civil society in the North is facing a UK government which is openly derisive of human rights but they are standing firm. ICCL stands in solidarity with our sister organisations in the North.

During 2019, we made joint representations to the Irish government with civil society partners North and South on issues relating to citizenship and border control arising from the Brexit process.

ICCL and colleagues in IHREC contributed to a roundtable on human rights structures during a two day conference in Belfast on Brexit, Devolution and Civil Society in September. Later in the year, ICCL spoke at a conference on the renaissance of the peace process.

Brexit has also given rise to reflections on possible changes to the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. ICCL has made the case that any such process must be based on principles of human rights. It is also the case that any border poll would require Constitutional change in the South – an occasion which could present us with an opportunity to reimagine our entire society, and bring the Constitution in line with the vision of all of the international human rights treaties Ireland has ratified.

### Next Steps:

ICCL is firmly committed to an all-island approach to human rights. We will continue to work closely with our partners in Northern Ireland as Brexit unfolds.

### International Networks

ICCL is a member of the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO). INCLO supports ICCL's communication and fundraising work, our work on information rights and our work on protest rights. ICCL in turn feeds into INCLO pillars on areas of work on religious freedom and equal treatment; policing and protest; and information rights.

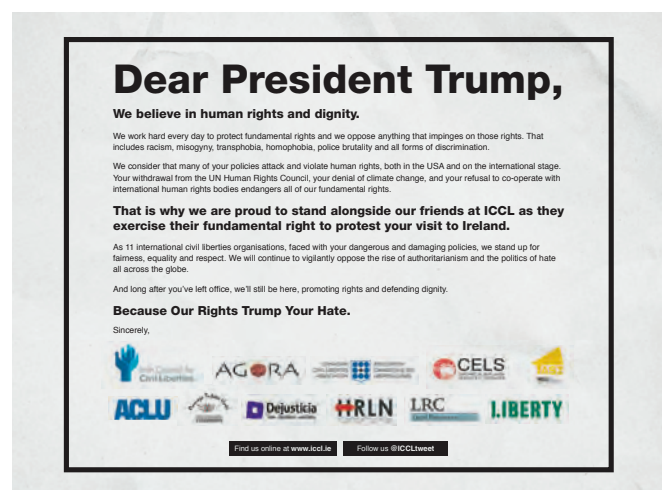
In 2019, ICCL staff members attended INCLO conferences on positive communications; on leading international NGOs; and on communications in a hostile environment. Led by our expert colleagues, these learning exchanges are essential in a world where

far-right actors are also exchanging strategies and information.

There were many international advocacy initiatives as part of our INCLO membership. As an example, ICCL co-signed an open letter on the US Government's proposed "Commission on Unalienable Rights", which would have global implications.

ICCL is also a member of the Justicia and LEAP networks, which inform our work on legal rights. See also page 15.

ICCL is also an active member of Liberties, a conglomeration focusing on civil and political rights across the EU. In 2019, we partnered with Liberties on our Tech for Good event (see page 25).



ICCL ran an ad in two national newspapers when Trump came to town



# COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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IRISH COUNCIL FOR  
**CIVIL LIBERTIES**



# Media Report

## Media

ICCL believes in transparency in all of our work, and we believe in changing opinions and minds through public communications. That is why all of ICCL's policy work is accompanied by press work, and why we actively respond to reports of human rights issues in the media, on social media, and information received to us over the ICCL phone or email lines.

In 2019, we prioritised national broadcasters and the broadsheets in print media. This is based on reasoning that these are media consumed by our advocacy targets. ICCL spoke to RTÉ's flagship programme Morning Ireland 8 times and to Today with Seán O'Rourke another 8 times over the course of 2019. These are the two radio programmes with the highest listenership in the country. We featured on the Six One News – to an audience of 650,000 – three times. We frequently spoke to the Last Word (Today FM) and to Newstalk FM and we appeared on Virgin Media's The Tonight Show a number of times. We also prioritise local radio stations such as LMFM (Louth/Meath), CRC FM (Mayo) and Highland Radio (Donegal).

Our work featured in 16 Irish Times articles, and the Irish Examiner

### Six One News (Web)



Broadcast on: October 23rd, 2019

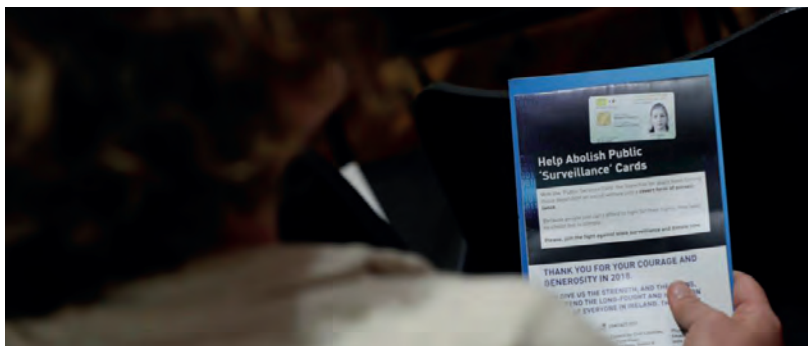


Elizabeth Farries spoke to the Six One News about the Justice for Dara campaign

*ICCL spoke to RTÉ's flagship programme Morning Ireland 8 times and to Today with Seán O'Rourke another 8 times over the course of 2019. These are the two radio programmes with the highest listenership in the country. We featured on the Six One News – to an audience of 650,000 – three times.*

featured us in 29 articles. There was also significant media coverage in the Irish Independent and Sunday Business Post. During 2019, the Dublin Inquirer invited us to

write a monthly column on policing reform. These articles have been very well-received and are now a key piece of our public-facing work on garda reform.



Members and supporters were called on to help abolish the Public Services Card

Our media presence responded very well to our campaigning work. We saw significant spikes when the Data Protection Commissioner declared part of the Public Services Card to be illegal. Media coverage of our Justice for Dara campaign was also significant and included our more general work on online content moderation and image-based sexual abuse.

# Media Report

## Events

### Launch of Coroner's Project

We launched our coroner reform project on 7 February (see more on page 27). Guest speakers included Phil Scraton, who campaigned for Justice for Hillsborough, and Deborah Coles of the UK-based organisation Inquest. We invited families interested in the project to attend. We sent a press notice out to media so that they would be aware of the project if and when related issues arose in the news cycle.

### Human Rights on Film Award Relunched

On 13 February we relaunched our annual human rights in film award in partnership with the Dublin International Film Festival. Activist Eileen Flynn presented the prize of €1000 worth of editing time at Virgin Media to the directors of *Heartbound: A Different Kind of Love* at an intimate award ceremony in Dublin.

Jurors Suzy Byrne, Emmet Kirwan, Bulelani Mfaco, SORCHA POLLAK and Aoife Kelleher chose the winner from a selection of 8 films. Mannix Flynn's



SORCHA POLLAK, Bulelani Mfaco, Aoife Kelleher and Emmet Kirwan launch the 2019 ICCL Human Rights on Film Award

film *Land of God* received a special commendation. Flynn's *Land Without God* was released in October. ICCL hosted a Q&A with him at the Lighthouse on 19 October.

### The Best Banned in the Land: a Forum on Artistic Freedom of Expression

The ordered removal of Maser's Repeal the 8th mural in 2018



Una Mullally, Beth Hayden and Project's Cian O'Brien at Maser's Repeal the 8th mural

brought censorship to the fore once again. We built on alliances with artists built during that time to host an event focused on freedom of expression at Project Arts Centre.

We called for the repeal of the archaic Censorship of Publications Act. Guests including Be Aware Theatre Company, Lian Bell, Donal Fallon, Declan Long and Una Mullally encouraged the audience to share views on issues such as funding, promotion, social media restrictions and self-censorship.  
*See more on page 30*

### Members AGM

The AGM took place on 15 May with a drinks reception afterwards, where members could meet staff and ask about parts of the work that interest them. ICCL also hosted a drinks reception for members at Christmas-time.



Una Mullally, Lian Bell, Donal Fallon and John O'Donnell at the The Best Banned in the Land: a Forum on Artistic Freedom of Expression



# Media Report

## Events



UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston spoke about the Public Services Card at an ICCL event in July

### Keeping Tabs: The Surveillance of People in Poverty

On 29 July the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, Philip Alston, visited Ireland in an unofficial capacity. At ICCL's request he agreed to speak about the Public Services Card as an example of how emerging technologies can impact the privacy rights of those living in extreme poverty.

The event took place at Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and was almost literally packed to the rafters. A drinks reception took place afterwards. This event succeeded in deepening links with the Traveller community and also in communicating the new message that the Public Services Card is inherently discriminatory.

### Tech for Good, Tech for Rights

On 4 September, with the support of INCLO, we hosted David Carroll, Laura Nolan and Ramy Raoof, three of the online world's most exciting activists. We aimed our efforts at a

new audience; and succeeded in bringing together just under 100 techies living in Dublin.

*See more on page 25*

### Protest Under Fire: How Dissent is Silenced

For the third year running, ICCL hosted a panel at the Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival. In 2019, we focused on protest rights. The right to protest is one of the most important human rights issues globally. Threats to the right to protest manifest themselves in different ways throughout different regions. Some protesters face military backlash, others face greater electronic surveillance, and some face a shrinking civil space for opposition and dissent more generally. This panel gathered two protesters from Ireland and one from abroad to discuss the current trends in protest, the threats to the right to protest which they face, and how civil society can work to protect this vital human right.



David Carroll - the man who sued Cambridge Analytica - calls time on human rights abuses online.



# Media Report

## Campaigning

### Women of ICCL

We carried out a mini-campaign to encourage women to join ICCL on International Women's Day on 8 March. On social media we profiled some of the inspirational women who have been associated with ICCL over the years, including Mary Robinson, Ivana Bacik and Ailbhe Smyth. While the response on Twitter was excellent, we were amazed by the response on Facebook, which saw a post reach increase of 78%, post engagement rate of almost 3000 people and a 603% increase in our page likes.

*"we profiled some of the inspirational women who have been associated with ICCL over the years, including Mary Robinson, Ivana Bacik and Ailbhe Smyth."*

### Public Services Card

When the DPC declared the PSC to be partially illegal, our two-year campaign to scrap the card really paid off. We were shown to be the canary in the goldmine.

We launched a petition to scrap the card, which will be presented to the next Minister for Social Protection in 2020. Our membership and supporter engagement increased significantly due to this campaign – at its peak we had a member joining every day.



Dara Quigley

### Justice for Dara

We were proud to be able to lend support to Dara Quigley's family in 2019. Dara took her own life in 2017 after sensitive images of her arrest were circulated online. Her family had not been privy to the GSOC report on garda involvement and the coroner had not heard the case.

In October we made a submission to the Oireachtas Committee examination of harmful online content in which we focused on the need to outlaw image-based sexual abuse. ICCL appeared before this Committee and invited Dara's mother Aileen to attend with us.

We later supported Aileen to tell her story to RTÉ media and an online petition was signed by almost 3000 people. On 13 November, the Taoiseach acknowledged Dara's case in the Dáil. Not only did he commit to following up with

*The tragic example of Dara's case helped people to understand why our work on garda reform, online content moderation, coroners reform and image-based sexual abuse is so urgent and important.*

GSOC but also referred to the four recommendations made by ICCL in our report. The tragic example of Dara's case helped people to understand why our work on garda reform, online content moderation, coroners reform and image-based sexual abuse is so urgent and important.

As a society, we are indebted to families like Dara's who fight for justice against an often intractable system.



# OUR SUPPORT

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IRISH COUNCIL FOR  
**CIVIL LIBERTIES**



# Thanks to Funders

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The resources to support ICCL's work come from a number of sources including grants received for projects, support from a variety of charitable trusts and foundations, and gifts and donations from individuals. Since our foundation, we have also had an informed membership base who feed into our work.

The majority of our funding comes from trusts and foundations. ICCL relies on a diverse funding base thanks to the generous support of a number of organisations. We are so grateful to them for the continuing support of our work. We would like to extend sincere thanks to Sigrid Rausing Trust and the Open Society Foundations. We would like to thank the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations for their support of our work on Protest and our work on Information Rights.

In the area of project funding, we receive support from a number of trusts and foundations. ICCL would like to thank the Community Foundation Ireland and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission for their support for our work on Garda and coroner reform. We would also like to thank UNESCO One City One Book, the Irish Writers Centre, Poetry Ireland, and the Writers' Guild for their collaboration and support of our work on artistic freedom of expression.

A persistent and key challenge for ICCL into the future is to build a significant and consistent level of financial support from our members and supporters. The Friends of ICCL is a key network

of supporters established in 2018 who provide a substantial financial gift to ICCL on an ongoing basis. We are so grateful to the Friends of ICCL for their support and we look forward to welcoming new Friends going forward. This year we have taken steps towards growing our member base and deepening our engagement with our members.

We'd like to sincerely thank all of our funders, supporters, and members for your unwavering commitment to ICCL's work throughout the years. 2019 has been a year of incredible progress for the organisation and it would not have been possible without your generous support. We continue to work to ensure that Ireland is a most just, free, and equal place for all and we are proud to have you all standing with us.

**Thank you.**

*We are so grateful to the Friends of ICCL for their support and we look forward to welcoming new Friends going forward. This year we have taken steps towards growing our member base and deepening our engagement with our members.*





# OUR FINANCES

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IRISH COUNCIL FOR  
**CIVIL LIBERTIES**



IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
 (FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019)

	2019	2018
	€	€
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	7,508	5,728
Other Income	0	179
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,508</b>	<b>5,907</b>
<b>Expenditure on Activities</b>		
Bank Charges	113	95
Research and Policy Development	35,000	0
Campaigning and Communications	1,175	12,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>36,288</b>	<b>12,095</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(28,780)</b>	<b>(6,188)</b>

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

**BALANCE SHEET**

**(AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019)**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	€	€
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<b>26,336</b>	<b>38,940</b>
<b>Payables: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>		
Accruals	<b>(16,176)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>10,160</b>	<b>38,940</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Funds brought forward	<b>38,940</b>	<b>45,128</b>
Income Statement	<b>(28,780)</b>	<b>(6,188)</b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>	<b>10,160</b>	<b>38,940</b>



IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED  
BY GUARANTEE

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019)**

	2019	2018
	€	€
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Total Income*</b>	<b>460,131</b>	<b>829,704</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Costs of Campaigns, Publications, Awareness and Fundraising Activities	(402,295)	(716,233)
Support Costs (Governance, Administration and Capacity Building Costs)	(98,860)	(162,810)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(501,155)</b>	<b>(879,043)</b>
<b>Deficit/Surplus Before Tax</b>	<b>(41,024)</b>	<b>(49,339)</b>
<b>Tax on (Deficit/Surplus)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,812**</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b><u>(41,024)</u></b>	<b><u>(30,527)</u></b>

\* For full breakdown of income please see page 44

\*\* Adjustment to tax charge in respect of previous year (2017)

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IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED  
BY GUARANTEE

**INCOME BREAKDOWN**  
**(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019)**

	<b>2019</b>
	€
International Network for Civil Liberties Organisations	<b>€129,839</b>
Sigrid Rausing Trust	<b>€101,522</b>
Open Society Foundation	<b>€77,367</b>
Trust for Civil Liberties, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	<b>€73,455</b>
Membership Fees	<b>€36,176</b>
Community Foundation Ireland	<b>€15,000</b>
European Commission	<b>€10,628</b>
Civil Liberties Union for Europe	<b>€6,000</b>
Donations	<b>€5,969</b>
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	<b>€2,102</b>
Other (Training, Consultancy, Seminar Expense Reimbursement)	<b>€2,072</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>€460,131</u></b>

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED  
BY GUARANTEE

**BALANCE SHEET**  
(AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019)

	2019	2018
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment	250	0
<b>Current Assests</b>		
Debtors	84,414	236,555
Cash at Bank and in Hand	337,059	389,074
	<u>421,473</u>	<u>625,629</u>
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	(347,249)	(510,131)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>74,224</b>	<b>115,498</b>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<b>74,224</b>	<b>115,498</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Retained Surplus	<u>74,474</u>	<u>115,498</u>









Irish Council for  
**Civil Liberties**

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