

ICCL ANNUAL REPORT 2024

 Irish Council for
Civil Liberties
FOR ALL OUR RIGHTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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 Irish Council for
Civil Liberties
FOR ALL OUR RIGHTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



I am very pleased to be writing my first Annual Report foreword as Chair of ICCL, a role I took over last year from the indomitable Suzy Byrne. I must start by thanking Suzy for her exceptional chairing and my fellow Board members for placing their trust in me.

It has been an interesting time to come into this role. There is no doubt that we find ourselves at a crucial point in history for human rights and civil liberties, in Ireland and abroad. Internationally, 2024 saw war, military violence and genocide continue while political elections created instability and continued a trend towards authoritarianism. The election of Donald Trump in November, in particular, rippled across the globe.

Here in Ireland, people's fears and uncertainties are being manipulated by bad actors who blame asylum seekers and refugees for our societal shortcomings. While communities are pushing back against hateful rhetoric, we nonetheless continue to see an increase in hate crime targeting minoritised communities, including people arriving here seeking international protection, the LGBTI+ community and people of colour.

These issues are intertwined in all areas of ICCL's work – in equality where we work in solidarity with the communities who experience so much hate; in justice as we strive to ensure oversight, accountability and human rights are all embedded in our policing and justice system; in democratic freedoms as we work to protect a healthy and safe space for civic society; and in digital rights where we fight for enforcement of digital laws and an end to the artificial amplification of hate online.

ICCL's work has never been more important and in particular our independence – we take no State funding – allows us to boldly stand for justice, fairness and equality. Our members, supporters and partner organisations in

There is no doubt that we find ourselves at a crucial point in history for human rights and civil liberties, in Ireland and abroad.

Ireland and abroad contribute greatly to this.

2024 was also a year of change internally in ICCL. In November, after eight years leading the organisation, Liam Herrick departed to take on the role of Chief Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). Liam stewarded the organisation through some of Ireland's most significant recent social movements and challenging times for civil liberties. Under his leadership, ICCL grew and solidified its reputation as Ireland's foremost human rights and civil liberties organisation. We are all very grateful to him for his time with and commitment to ICCL and wish him the best in IHREC.

In my role as Chair, I am grateful to my fellow Board members for their endless commitment and enthusiasm during 2024. We were delighted in early 2025 to welcome Joe O'Brien to the fold as ICCL's new Executive Director after a very competitive process. We look forward to working with Joe in the years ahead. But the final word on behalf of the Board must go to the wonderful team of ICCL staff and volunteers – thank you for another year of impressive and important work.

Colette Kelleher
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



It is a huge honour for me to write my first Annual Report Foreword as Executive Director of ICCL. I have followed the organisation's work for decades and have always been struck by the organisation's strong advocacy and public engagement. I take on the responsibility now of maintaining and growing our influence as Ireland's longest standing human rights organisation with a unique set of priorities that have become increasingly important.

If recent years have taught us anything it is that Ireland is not immune to the societal challenges that other countries have been facing for many years. Indeed, the interconnected nature of our country means we are very open to international influences.

We are witnessing a concerted effort to roll back the hard-won progress on civil liberties and human rights internationally and nationally. ICCL will remain steadfast in our vigilant, outspoken and proactive defence of these rights alongside our members, supporters and partners.

Many minority communities, including migrants, LGBTI+ people, Travellers and people of colour, are experiencing a renewed resistance to the vindication of their rights. We will equally renew our longstanding solidarity with and support of these communities going forward.

Powerful social media platforms are breaching our privacy rights, spreading mis- and disinformation, and increasingly driving division and hate. ICCL will continue advocacy and strategic litigation to enforce regulation and protect people's rights.

Freedom of assembly and expression are core to a vibrant and healthy civic space but often taken for granted in liberal democracies. ICCL will combat any measures that would impinge upon or discourage

**ICCL will remain steadfast
in our vigilant, outspoken
and proactive defence
of human rights.**

people from exercising these rights. Unfortunately, it is clear that the government has plans to limit our ability to assemble and protest peacefully, a trend we have already witnessed abroad.

I may not have been here in 2024, but nonetheless I would like to thank and congratulate the ICCL staff team. This report makes clear just how much they achieved in 12 months. It is clear I am joining an impressive and talented team. I wish Liam well in his new role with IHREC and would in particular like to thank Claire Mc Evoy and Ruth McCourt who served as Acting Co-Directors before my appointment. Thank you finally to our members and supporters, who make our work possible.

While an Annual Report is an opportunity to take stock and reflect on achievements and challenges, it is also the basis on which we move forward. The nature of the world and our society has changed significantly in recent years. We will be engaging with our supporters and stakeholders on this reality soon as we begin work on a new strategic plan for ICCL to ensure we are best placed to address contemporary civil liberties and human rights challenges. I look forward to engaging with you through this process.

Joe O'Brien
Executive Director

OUR WORK

Our Impact

Our Advocacy

Administration of Justice

Equality and Discrimination

Democratic Freedoms

Enforce - Digital Rights





OUR

IMPACT

6	Parliamentary questions	33	Press releases
64	Mentions in Oireachtas debates	330	Media appearances
6	Written submissions on legislation	20K	Social media followers
2	Oireachtas committee appearances	8	Events
1	Oireachtas briefing for TDs and Senators		



Launched a new **Irish Legal Observer Network** to monitor Garda conduct at protests



Published Ireland's **first independent review** of **police reform progress**, revealing significant implementation gaps



The Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024 became law, the culmination of over **three years of ICCL-led advocacy** as Chair of the Coalition Against Hate Crime



Safe Access Zones came into effect



Held the State accountable on human rights, briefing the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Council of Europe's Commission Against Racism and Intolerance



Drove the conversation **on racial discrimination in An Garda Síochána** with a powerful report on policing and racial bias with the Irish Network Against Racism



The Charities (Amendment) Act 2024 enshrined the **“advancement of human rights” as a valid charitable purpose in Irish law** for the first time



Exposed advocacy restrictions in the community, voluntary and non-profit sector with a landmark report



Empowered over 200 organisations through the Rochtain programme, providing expert training in political communications and advocacy



Victory at Europe's highest court



Based on an Enforce report, the **U.S. Federal Trade Commission took action** against an American data broker Mobilewalla



Assisted a U.S. class action that **forced Oracle to settle for \$115 million and close its ad data business**

PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT WINS

- ✓ REFORM OF THE CORONER SERVICE
- ✓ REFORM OF THE COURTS SERVICE
- ✓ RATIFICATION OF THE UN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE (OPCAT)
- ✓ ACTION ON TOXIC ALGORITHMS
- ✓ LEGISLATION TO BAN CONVERSION PRACTICES FOR LGBTI+ PERSONS
- ✓ LEGISLATION TO DISREGARD HISTORICAL OFFENCES RELATED TO THE CRIMINALISATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY
- ✓ IMPLEMENTATION OF SEVERAL EQUALITY STRATEGIES

OUR ADVOCACY

Advocacy in Ireland

In our work, ICCL engages extensively with members of the Oireachtas on legislative proposals and debate.

2024 was the final year of the government's five-year term and saw some significant pieces of legislation passed by the Oireachtas – including the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024, the Charities (Amendment) Act 2024

and the Health (Termination of Pregnancy Services) (Safe Access Zones) Act 2024. ICCL worked extensively on these and other pieces of legislation throughout the year.

ICCL was mentioned 64 times in Oireachtas debates, and many TDs and Senators incorporated our briefings and analysis into their contributions and legislative amendments in the Dáil and Seanad.

Luna Lara Liboni, Equality Senior Policy Officer, ICCL, and chair of the Coalition Against Hate Crime, speaking at a May 2024 press conference with Pádraig Rice, Policy and Research Manager, LGBT Ireland and Martin Collins, Co-Director, Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre, following the publication of annual hate crime statistics by An Garda Síochána.



IN THE OIREACHTAS

We appeared before two Oireachtas Committees in 2024. Dr Johnny Ryan, Director of Enforce (ICCL's digital rights unit), and Dr Kris Shrishak, Senior Fellow, ICCL Enforce, appeared before the **Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth** in February to discuss the protection of children in the use of Artificial Intelligence. The Committee's subsequent report on the issue raised significant concerns and made a number of robust recommendations, including that **recommender systems should be off by default for young people under 16**.



Also in February, Olga Cronin, Surveillance and Human Rights Senior Policy Officer, ICCL Enforce, appeared before the **Joint Committee on Justice** to discuss the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) (Amendment) Bill, the government's proposed legislation to allow for garda use of facial recognition technology. The subsequent pre-legislative scrutiny report published by the Committee **highlighted serious deficiencies with the draft legislation**, including many which were raised by ICCL.



In September, we organised an Oireachtas briefing on the Defamation (Amendment) Bill 2024 for TDs and Senators. The briefing focused on the proposal to remove juries from High Court defamation cases. ICCL is concerned that their removal will further erode the principle of right to trial by one's peers, a view that is shared by many in the legal profession.

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

In November, Ireland went to the polls to elect a new government. On 14 November, ICCL **launched its election manifesto**, setting out 37 measures – nine of them high-priority – to protect civil liberties and human rights in Ireland. We shared our manifesto with political parties and held meetings with them to discuss the measures.

In November, we **analysed the manifestos of the main political parties** as they were published, mainly against our priority election asks, and published our analysis for voters to refer to. In December, after the election and while negotiations were ongoing to form a government and agree a Programme for Government, we engaged with political parties impressing on them the need to ensure the Programme would protect human rights.



ADVOCACY IN IRELAND

8

Parliamentary Questions



64

Mentions in Oireachtas debates



6

Written submissions on legislation



2

Oireachtas Committee appearances



1

Oireachtas briefing for TDs and Senators



International Advocacy

AMICI AND THIRD-PARTY INTERVENTIONS

**ICCL made interventions or was
an amicus curiae to a number
of international cases in 2024.
These related to surveillance,
migration and abortion.**

→ EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

re: spyware (Koukakis v Greece). The case was dismissed by the European Court.

→ EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

re: surveillance during war (Borys Zakharov v Ukraine).

→ EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

re: the use of Pegasus spyware (Brejza and others v Poland). ICCL successfully requested to intervene in the case in 2024 and submitted an amicus in 2025.

→ EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

re: the criminalisation of organisations and individuals working on migration (Amnesty International Hungary et al v Hungary, referred to as the "Stop Soros" law).

→ EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

re: decriminalisation of abortion (Fundamental Precept Violation Petition No. 442) (informative memorandum submitted alongside several INCLO members).

→ BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT

re: decriminalisation of abortion (Fundamental Precept Violation Petition No. 442) (informative memorandum submitted alongside several INCLO members).

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

In September, we presented the findings of our report, *“That’s Not Your Role”: State Funding and Advocacy in the Irish Community, Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector*, on self-censorship among Irish civil society organisations at an expert workshop on civic space in Vienna. The event was hosted by the European Fundamental Rights Agency and brought together activists from across the EU and international organisations to share their expertise and policy work.



Ronan Kennedy, Democratic Freedoms Senior Policy Officer, ICCL, attending a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights civic space workshop



Luna Lara Liboni, Equality Senior Policy Officer, ICCL, engaging with the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In February, we coordinated the civil society response to the 2024 review of Ireland by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, coordinating inputs from 12 organisations. As a result of our advocacy work, the Committee's **concluding observations** reinforced many of ICCL's core concerns.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE



In November, we met with members of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Council of Europe's human rights monitoring body on racism, discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, during its monitoring mission to Ireland. ICCL also provided written information on a variety of issues including hate crime, policing of minorities, discriminatory bias associated with the use of facial recognition technology in policing, and algorithmic amplification of online hate.

Claire Mc Evoy, Head of Research and Policy, ICCL, and Luna Lara Liboni, Equality Senior Policy Officer, ICCL, meeting with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on their monitoring visit to Ireland



ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Key Achievements in 2024

RIGHT TO PROTEST

Launched a **new Irish Legal Observer Network** to monitor Garda conduct at protests nationwide

POLICE REFORM


Published Ireland's **first independent review** of police reform progress, revealing significant implementation gaps

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Led public debate on criminal justice reform, advocating for the abolition of the **Special Criminal Court**, and making recommendations on **jury reform** and reducing **pre-trial detention**

PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

Secured key policy wins in the Programme for Government, including commitments to reform the **Coroner Service**, **Courts Service** and mental health services, as well as ratification of the **UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)**

A photograph of three people in a room with large arched windows. On the left, a man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a dark blazer over a dark t-shirt, looks towards the center. In the center, a woman with dark curly hair and glasses, wearing a black dress, holds an open teal-colored book titled 'COMMITMENT IN IRISH POLICING'. On the right, an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark blazer, gestures with his hands while speaking to the woman. The background is a warm, yellowish-brown wall with large arched windows.

Dr Cian Ó Concubhair, Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice, Maynooth University (left) with Emily Williams, Policing and Justice Policy Officer, ICCL, and Liam Herrick, Executive Director, ICCL, at the launch of an ICCL report analysing the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland.

SEE PAGE 21



THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

As part of our continued focus on the right to protest, ICCL spoke out against restrictions on people's ability to protest in front of government buildings and various proposals to curtail the right to protest, including proposals to ban protest outside politicians' homes and to ban face coverings at protests.

In collaboration with the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the University of Galway, we established the **Irish Legal Observer Network**. The network is overseen by a steering committee comprising Irish academics, international experts and representatives from international civil society organisations. The idea was born following discussions at a March 2024

seminar exploring the **policing of protest** where participants identified the need for an accountability tool to monitor the extent to which protests are being policed in accordance with Ireland's human rights obligations.

Legal observers are trained to independently monitor the policing of protest. Their presence has been effective in promoting human rights-based policing of protest in other jurisdictions such as Australia and the US. In 2024, we trained more than 20 people in Dublin as part of a pilot scheme. We secured funding from the Irish Research Council to continue the work and have plans to take the training across the country in 2025.

ICCL was previously involved in training legal observers in the 1970s-80s and early 2000s, and we are delighted to revive this training for a new generation.



“THE WHOLE PACKAGE WAS AN EYE-OPENER. I'D NO IDEA THERE WERE SO MANY ASPECTS TO PROTESTS. THE QUESTIONS ON THE CONTENTS PAGE ARE BRILLIANT. EXCELLENT PREPARATION BY THE TRAINERS WITH GOOD VISUAL AIDS. GREAT SPACE, BREAKS AND HOSPITALITY. GOOD AMBIENCE.

- PARTICIPANTS IN THE LEGAL OBSERVER TRAINING

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED POLICING

ICCL continued to push for reforms within An Garda Síochána to boost accountability, oversight and human rights-based policing through our research, analysis and events with key stakeholders.

We completed our North-South policing seminar series in collaboration with the Belfast-based Committee on the Administration of Justice. In March we held a private seminar with activists, trade unionists and academics on the policing approach to protest on both sides of the border.

In May, we held our inaugural policing conference “Police Reform in a Changing Ireland: Next Steps After the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland”, as part of which we released Ireland’s **first independent assessment** of progress on reforms recommended by the Commission on the Future of Policing (CoFPI). The report found that significant gaps exist between the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 and the CoFPI recommendations.

In September, we hosted a closed roundtable event with academics and campaigners to discuss how legacy investigations into historic human rights violations should be conducted in the Republic in light of relevant legal obligations and lessons learned from the North. This North-South event series is part of our ‘Policing for Peace’ project, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Community Foundation Ireland and the Community Foundation Northern Ireland programme.

Separately, we **highlighted** the invasive over-policing of Traveller and Roma communities in collaboration with Pavee Point for the Independent Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO).



SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT

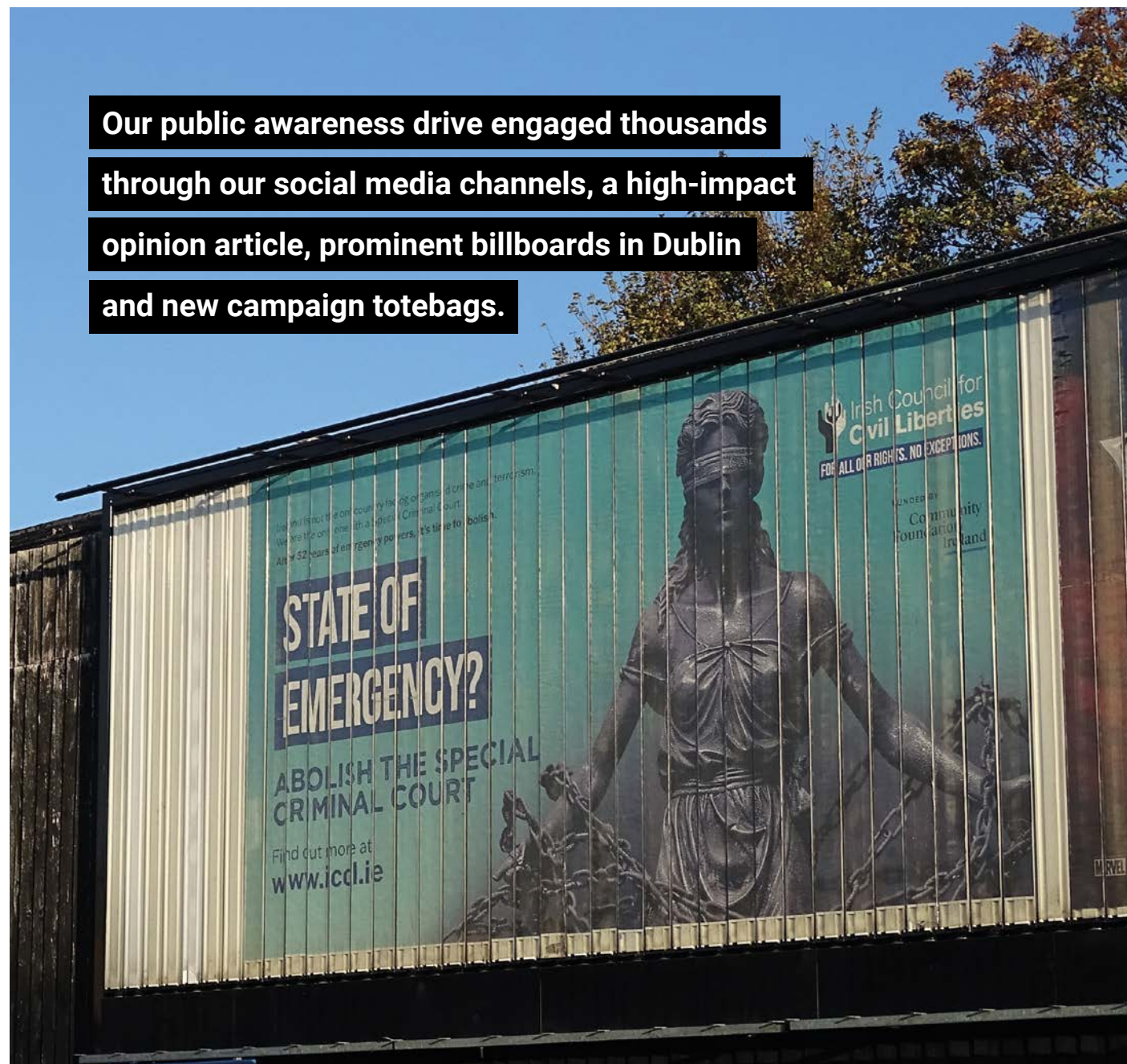
ICCL intensified its **campaign** for the abolition of the Special Criminal Court in 2024, reaffirming our unwavering stance as Ireland's oldest human rights watchdog. Our efforts spotlighted international criticism, the court's impact on fair trial rights and the fundamental issue of jury exclusion.

Our public awareness drive engaged thousands through our social media channels, a high-impact **opinion article**, prominent billboards in Dublin and new campaign totebags.

Additionally, we played a key role in a public consultation on jury reform, offering concrete recommendations to mitigate jury tampering and address concerns often cited to justify the court's existence.

RIGHT: As part of ICCL's "State of Emergency?" campaign, five billboards were installed in the greater Dublin area to raise public awareness and understanding of the Special Criminal Court.

Our public awareness drive engaged thousands through our social media channels, a high-impact opinion article, prominent billboards in Dublin and new campaign totebags.



JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

In December and in collaboration with the University of Limerick School of Law, ICCL published a groundbreaking report on reforming the procedures for selecting and appointing judges in Ireland by Professor Laura Cahillane and Dr Carol Lynch. Entitled ***Judicial Selection Procedures in Ireland***, the report identifies opportunities for reforms that would ensure merit and diversity are both valued in Ireland's judicial appointments. The report follows extensive work by ICCL on the Judicial Appointments Commission Act 2023, which was enacted in late 2024.

The report identifies opportunities for reforms that would ensure merit and diversity are both valued in Ireland's judicial appointments.

PRE-TRIAL DETENTION AND DENIAL OF BAIL

Alongside Fair Trials Europe and other international partners, in May we launched a groundbreaking **report**, *Improving Judicial Assessment of Flight Risk*, as part of a wider **critical assessment** of bail applications across Europe.

The report was the first of its kind in Ireland, coming at a time when a disproportionate number of people accused of a crime continue to be held in pre-trial detention (remand). In our research, we found that since 2016, there has been a 56% increase in the number of people imprisoned while awaiting trial for minor offences. Another finding was

that foreign nationals are disproportionately affected by flight risk assessments, despite a European Commission recommendation that a person being a foreign national with no links to a state is not on its own a reason to conclude that there is a flight risk.

The report's findings and recommendations on reforms were covered **in *The Irish Times***. In Brussels, the report is informing an ongoing review by the EU Commission of Recommendation 2023/681 on the procedural rights of people suspected and accused of a crime subject to pre-trial detention.

In our research, we found that since 2016, there has been a 56% increase in the number of people imprisoned while awaiting trial for minor offences.

Chryssa Mela, Senior Legal and Policy Officer, Fair Trials Europe, Niamh McCormack, Criminal Justice Policy Officer, ICCL, and Liam Herrick, Executive Director, ICCL, at the launch of ICCL's FLIGHTRISK report on pre-trial detention and denial of bail.



PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT WINS



- ✓ CORONER SERVICE REFORM
- ✓ INSPECTION OF PLACES OF DETENTION
- ✓ IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- ✓ INVESTMENT IN COURTS SERVICE
- ✓ IMPROVED VICTIMS RIGHTS

ICCL secured key commitments in the **Programme for Government**, though some remain vaguely worded. Notably, the government pledged to reform the Coroner Service—a long-standing ICCL priority.

The Programme commits to enacting the Inspection of Places of Detention Bill 2022, a crucial step toward ratifying the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT). Ratification would ensure independent national and international inspections of all places of detention to prevent torture and ill-treatment.

Additionally, the Programme commits to prioritising the enactment of the Mental Health Bill 2024 to modernise Ireland's mental health services. It also commits to reviewing and investing in the Courts Service and considering legislative reforms to better respond to **victims' rights** — an issue ICCL has long championed.

EQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION

Key Achievements in 2024

HATE CRIME

The Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024 became law, **the culmination of over three years of ICCL-led advocacy** as Chair of the Coalition Against Hate Crime. The Coalition was extensively quoted and referenced in Oireachtas debates and reports from 2021 to 2024

SAFE ACCESS ZONES

Safe Access Zones, a key ICCL campaign since 2019, came into effect, **ensuring safe, private and dignified access to abortion services**

UN BODIES

Held the State accountable on human rights, briefing the **UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** and the **Council of Europe's Commission Against Racism and Intolerance** during their reviews of Ireland

LGBTI+ RIGHTS

Advanced LGBTI+ rights, beginning work on **Ireland's first "Know Your Rights" guide for trans and non-binary people** and successfully pushing for new LGBTI+ questions in the national census

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Drove the conversation on racial discrimination in An Garda Síochána with a powerful **joint report on policing and racial bias with the Irish Network Against Racism**

Luna Lara Liboni, Equality Senior Policy Officer, ICCL, standing outside the gates of Leinster House with members of the Coalition Against Hate Crime.





HATE CRIME AND INCITEMENT TO HATRED

In 2024, Ireland passed landmark hate crime legislation, a longstanding priority for ICCL. As Chair of the 23-member **Coalition Against Hate Crime**, ICCL played a pivotal role in shaping the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024 to align it with human rights obligations and the needs of affected communities.

ICCL and the Coalition were mentioned over 40 times in Oireachtas debates and reports on the legislation between 2021 - 2024. Our advocacy – through multiple submissions, **events** and public **statements** – gained widespread coverage in national, regional and international media. The Coalition Against Hate Crime was publicly **thanked** by the Minister for Justice for its work.

Senator Eileen Flynn said: “This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the many organisations within the Coalition Against Hate Crime. Their relentless efforts and commitment to advancing this crucial legislation have been instrumental in reaching this milestone. A heartfelt thank you for your continued support and advocacy in building a more inclusive and safer Ireland for all.”

Before the legislation passed, the Coalition **voiced disappointment** over the removal of incitement to hatred from the draft bill and urged the government to take stronger action against extreme hate speech. We also pressed for a comprehensive strategy to tackle hate and its root causes in Irish society.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Drawing on our extensive experience with UN treaty bodies, ICCL coordinated Ireland's civil society response to the 2024 review of Ireland by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, coordinating input from 12 organisations. The Committee's **concluding observations** reinforced many of ICCL's core concerns, emphasising the urgent need to protect civic space, enact comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and implement stronger measures to advance gender equality for marginalised groups.



Niamh McCormack, Criminal Justice Policy Officer, ICCL, Emily Williams, Policing and Justice Policy Officer, ICCL, and Luna Lara Liboni, Equality Senior Policy Officer, ICCL, standing outside Leinster House with members of the "My Voice, My Choice" campaign.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

In May we welcomed the passage of the Health (Termination of Pregnancy Services) (Safe Access Zones) Act 2024. Safe access zones came into effect in October. ICCL had been **calling for legislation** to ensure safe access to abortion services in privacy, safety and dignity since 2019.

In June, ICCL proudly marched in both Dublin Pride and Trans and Intersex Pride, taking to the stage at Dublin Pride to demand hate crime legislation.



LGBTI+ RIGHTS

In June, ICCL proudly marched in both Dublin Pride and Trans and Intersex Pride, taking to the stage at Dublin Pride to demand hate crime legislation.

In 2024, we partnered with Transgender Equality Network Ireland and ShoutOut to launch work on Ireland's first-ever "Know Your Rights" guide for Trans and Non-Binary People.

ICCL played a key role in the **Savinovskikh and Others v. Russia** case at the European Court of Human Rights, which ruled in 2024 that Russia violated a trans man's and his foster children's rights to privacy and family life by terminating his foster care agreement due to his transition. As the lead signatory of an amicus curiae brief – co-authored with the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO) in 2021 –

ICCL provided critical analysis on regional and international human rights standards.

We also successfully advocated alongside Intersex Ireland for the inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation questions in the next national census. We will continue to advocate to advance the rights of intersex people.

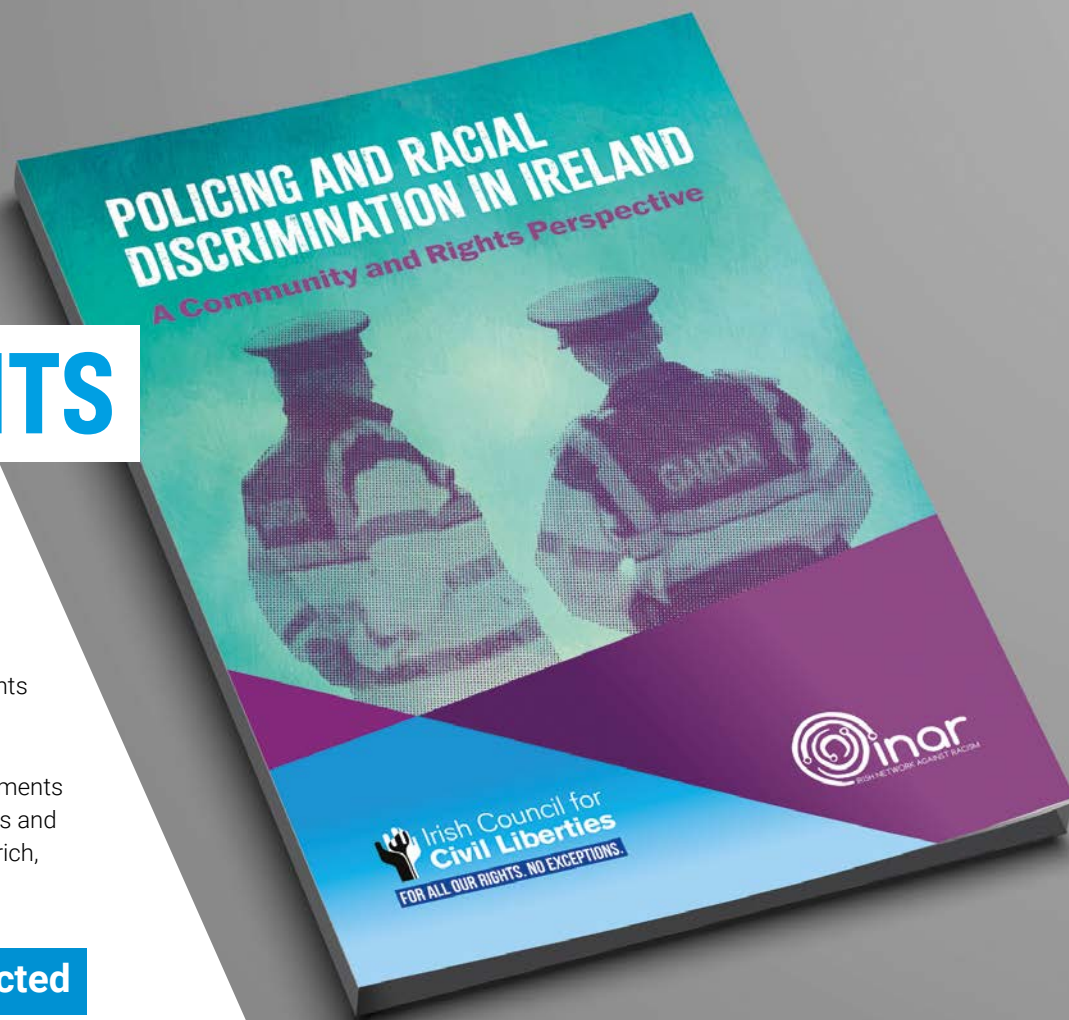
ANTI-RACISM AND MIGRANT RIGHTS

In partnership with the Irish Network Against Racism (INAR), we released a groundbreaking **report** on policing and racial discrimination in Ireland, amplifying community and human rights perspectives. *Policing and Racial Discrimination in Ireland: A Community and Rights Perspective* sparked public debate and prompted a response – and challenge – from An Garda Síochána. To empower affected communities, INAR and ICCL also created a rights toolkit for police stops.

In partnership with 35 other organisations, in May we **shared concerns** on homelessness among international protection applicants. We spoke at a press conference coordinated by the Irish Refugee Council, where we highlighted the rights of people seeking international protection and our concerns at how the State is not fulfilling those rights. We have continued to raise these concerns through media work.

We also pushed for greater accountability on human rights in our **report** to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the Council of Europe’s human rights monitoring body. We strongly encouraged ECRI to critically assess the delivery of commitments in Ireland’s many national plans and strategies to avoid the “policy rich, action poor” trap.

**To empower affected
communities, INAR and
ICCL also created a rights
toolkit for police stops.**



DISABILITY RIGHTS

Throughout the year, ICCL partnered with the WALK Self-Advocacy Group to empower activists with intellectual disabilities. Through workshops on equality, public speaking and event organising, we strengthened their advocacy skills and supported them to

organise a self-advocacy conference. We also proudly sponsored the Second Chance Dance, led by WALK advocate Fiadhnaí Canning, ensuring that those excluded from social events because of who they are had a chance to experience a truly unforgettable night.

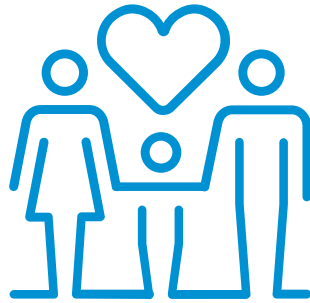
In October we **welcomed** the Government's commitment to accede to the UN Operational Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, a long-standing demand. We reminded people that while it is essential that everyone in Ireland has access to human rights complaint mechanisms to vindicate their rights, we also need to ensure that rights are not violated in the first place.

Throughout the year, ICCL
partnered with the WALK
Self-Advocacy Group to
empower activists with
intellectual disabilities.

RIGHT: Luna Lara Liboni, Equality Senior Policy Officer, ICCL and Ruth McCourt, Head of Communications and Development, ICCL, with members of the WALK Self-Advocacy Group.



REFERENDUM ON FAMILY AND CARE



In January, ICCL provided members of the Oireachtas with **recommendations** on the wording for the proposed constitutional amendments in the area of family and care, with a focus on how the Oireachtas could ensure that any proposed referendum text provided the best opportunity to strengthen the protection of human rights under the Constitution.

After analysing the wording subsequently published by Government, we concluded that the proposed text on “family” would expand constitutional protection for families to include those which are not based on marriage. This was

very welcome, as was the proposed deletion of Article 41.2, which negatively stereotypes women. However, we believed that the proposed text on “care” would not provide meaningful legal protection to any person who gives or receives care.

As a result, ICCL decided not to take part in the referendum campaign, which we felt was the most appropriate response given our assessment of the likely legal impact of these referendums and our stated mission.

Both proposed amendments were rejected on 8 March 2024.

**However, we believed that the proposed text on
“care” would not provide meaningful legal protection
to any person who gives or receives care.**



CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

In July we expressed concerns regarding last-minute provisions in the Courts, Civil Law, Criminal Law and Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024 to allow naturalised Irish citizens to have their citizenship revoked. This introduced a new process for revoking Irish citizenship granted by way of naturalisation. We believe this measure undermines the government’s broader commitment to integration and contradicts the fundamental principle of equality under the Constitution.



PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT WINS

We secured several wins in the **Programme for Government**, including commitments to reform legislation on incitement to hatred, to advance legislation to ban conversion practices for LGBTI+ persons and to disregard historical offences related to the criminalisation of homosexuality. Furthermore, the Programme committed to implementing several equality strategies, in line with asks in the **ICCL General Election Manifesto**. All of these asks were made in consultation with civil society groups representing marginalised groups.

- ✓ REFORM LEGISLATION ON INCITEMENT TO HATRED
- ✓ ADVANCE LEGISLATION TO BAN CONVERSION PRACTICES FOR LGBTI+ PERSONS
- ✓ DISREGARD HISTORICAL OFFENCES RELATED TO THE CRIMINALISATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY
- ✓ IMPLEMENT EQUALITY STRATEGIES



DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS

Key Achievements in 2024

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Charities (Amendment) Act 2024 enshrined the **“advancement of human rights” as a valid charitable purpose** in Irish law for the first time

CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY

Exposed advocacy restrictions in the community, voluntary and non-profit sector with a **landmark report revealing widespread self-censorship among publicly funded organisations**

TRAINING

Empowered over 200 organisations through the Rochtain programme, **providing expert training in political communications and advocacy**

RULE OF LAW

Led Ireland's contribution to the **European Commission's annual Rule of Law report**, coordinating inputs from civil society and securing key recommendations in the final report

PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

Secured commitments to key policy reforms in the Programme for Government, including changes to political party funding, ethics in public office, Electoral Commission support, **implementation of the Electoral Reform Act and a review of the Freedom of Information Act**

ICCL, LGBT+ organisations, activists and allies gathering in Dublin to protest against Hungary's law banning Pride.

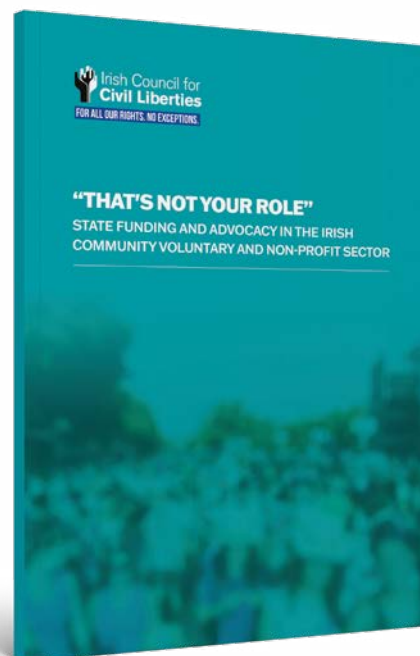
Photo: Dublin LGBTQ Pride (@dublinpride on Instagram).



RESTRICTIONS ON THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND NON-PROFIT SECTOR

ICCL's landmark **report**, *"That's Not Your Role": State Funding and Advocacy in the Irish Community, Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector*, was launched at an event in April attended by over 200 people and has been shaping discourse within the sector since. For the first time, the report provides clear evidence that State funders use both implicit and explicit threats of funding withdrawal to silence dissent and curtail critical advocacy by organisations.

As an organisation fully independent of State funding, ICCL was widely praised for exposing this form of censorship in a way that other organisations cannot. The report's impact further cemented ICCL's leadership in Ireland in defending civic space and democratic freedoms.



A KEY RECOMMENDATION from the report is the need to **modify funding agreements to ensure that the acceptance of State funding does not preclude criticism of government policy, campaigning or advocacy.**

Have you ever felt that your organisation's funding was put at risk because of commentary, campaigning or advocacy that you engaged in? How did this risk present itself?

"[Government Department] official has clearly stated to both the Board and CEO that an organisation in receipt of funding from the [Government Department] is not free to disagree with government policy and implicit in that member organisations of our networks, without having been directly threatened, are reluctant to be seen to take positions that would be at odds with [Government Department]."

THE REPORT'S KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

Almost two-fifths (37%) of research participants reported that they have curtailed their advocacy, campaigning or communications efforts for fear of impacting their funding.

Almost half (48%) of organisations working in homelessness and addiction, which are particularly likely to be involved in frontline service delivery and therefore to be in receipt of State funding, reported curtailment of advocacy for fear of impacting funding.

The report also highlights significant concerns about stakeholder engagement in the policy-making process, including reports that organisations' contributions are not taken into consideration and a lack of transparency in how stakeholder engagements are conducted.

ICCL hosted a panel discussion on the report at the Wheel's Annual Summit in May 2024, bringing stakeholders together to discuss the report's findings and international best practice for ensuring organisational independence. In December, one of ICCL's partner organisations, Nytt Europa, announced it would replicate our study in Denmark.

ACHIEVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS A VALID CHARITABLE PURPOSE

The enactment of the Charities (Amendment) Act 2024 in July was a key policy objective for ICCL and the culmination of years of work. When fully commenced, the “advancement of human rights” will be recognised as a charitable purpose for the first time in Irish law and organisations which work in this area, including ICCL, will be able to register as a charity.

As part of this work, in 2024 we began coordinating a group of NGOs working to ensure that the regulatory system for this new charitable purpose will fully respect freedom of association.

**The “advancement of human rights”
will be recognised as a charitable purpose
for the first time in Irish law.**

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY

In January 2024 we launched the **Rochtain** pilot project, aimed at supporting smaller organisations to successfully navigate political advocacy. This project was funded by the St Stephen’s Green Trust. Recognising the challenges these groups face in engaging effectively with elected representatives, Rochtain provides training, seminars and one-to-one support. In 2024 we supported over 200 Irish community and voluntary organisations through the project to:



Enhance their capacity to engage with elected representatives;



Improve their understanding of the domestic political system in Ireland;



Understand how legislation is developed and enacted.


ROCHTAIN
DEMOCRATISING ADVOCACY

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE ROCHTAIN TRAINING SESSIONS

“ I LOVED THE FACT THAT IT BASICALLY LAID OUT THE PATHWAY FOR AN ACTIVIST/ORGANISATION TO START FROM THE BEGINNING OF PROPOSING A BILL TO WHO TO CONTACT EXACTLY TO FINALLY HAVE THE BILL ENACTED. IT WAS A GREAT GUIDE AND HAD THE EXACT INFORMATION REQUIRED. IT WAS PERFECT!

“ VERY CLEAR EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS. OVERALL THE SESSION WAS SO INFORMATIVE BUT WHAT I FOUND PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR ME WERE THE PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS LIKE SIGNING UP FOR EMAILS UPDATES AND DOWNLOADING THE OIREACTHAS APP.

“ AS SOMEONE NEW TO THE COUNTRY, THE FIRST HALF WITH THE INFO ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE BILL PROCESS WAS, YES DENSE, BUT INVALUABLE.

“ THE CONTENT AND FACILITATORS WERE EXCELLENT. THE SPACE WAS EXCELLENT TOO. THE FOOD WAS 10/10. EVEN THE DIVERSITY OF PARTICIPANTS WAS AMAZING.



RULE OF LAW REPORTING

The European Commission made five recommendations in its **Rule of Law report** chapter on Ireland in 2024, of which four were recommendations ICCL made in **a joint civil society submission** to the process. These were on the need to reduce the cost of litigation to ensure access to justice, strengthen Ireland's ethics framework for public office holders, reform defamation law, and address obstacles to access to funding for civil society organisations. ICCL coordinated inputs from nine partner organisations for the process.



PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT WINS

We secured a number of wins in the **Programme for Government**, including commitments on continued reform of political party funding, an update to the ethics in public office legislation, and resources and support for the Independent Electoral Commission to play a central role in safeguarding Irish democracy.

The Programme also committed to completing a review of the Freedom of Information Act and to supporting the Covid-19 evaluation. ICCL has long **campaigned** on the need for a human rights impact assessment on the use of emergency powers and an assessment of the extent to which the pandemic response complied with Ireland's national, regional and international human rights obligations.

- ✓ REFORM OF POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING
- ✓ UPDATE TO THE ETHICS IN PUBLIC OFFICE LEGISLATION
- ✓ INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION SUPPORT
- ✓ FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REVIEW
- ✓ SUPPORTING THE COVID-19 EVALUATION
- ✓ ASSESSMENT ON THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS



Enforce

In 2024 Enforce intervened in Europe, Australia and the United States.

Our biggest impacts in the year were:

- Victory at Europe's highest court
- Based on an Enforce report, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) ordered Mobilewalla, a firm claiming to have data from 1.9 billion people's devices, to stop collecting data
- Assisted U.S. class action that forced Oracle to settle for \$115 million and close its ad data business
- Won improvements to new EU artificial intelligence rules
- Pushed toxic algorithms into the Programme for Government

Nathan Freed Wessler, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Olga Cronin, Human Rights and Surveillance Senior Policy Officer, ICCL Enforce, and Robert Williams, the first known person to be wrongfully arrested as a result of facial recognition technology.



ADAPTING TO EUROPE'S CHANGING POLITICS

2024 was a significant year for Enforce in Brussels. Anticipating that Europe's 2024 elections would shift power farther from the left, we developed our relationships with the European People's Party (EPP) in Brussels and with Ursula von der Leyen's own Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Party in Germany. Both are conservative parties.

This was important: after the elections, the EPP became the decisive force in the European Parliament and Commission, and is interested in our view that Europe's failure to enforce digital rights has severe economic and security implications. The CDU now holds Germany's chancellorship.

Our engagement has been successful. For example, in June we gave a **keynote in Berlin** at the invitation of the CDU's think tank, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. In September, the EPP invited us to **speak at its European Parliament** hearing.

In November, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung published **a paper written by Enforce** that urges the European Commission to pressure Ireland and Luxembourg to fully apply the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) against the giant U.S. and Chinese tech firms. Our paper

also presented a mechanism for von der Leyen to coherently deploy the diverse enforcement powers spread between Commission directorates, agencies and Member State authorities, against big tech firms. We continued to engage with other parties, too. The Socialists and Democrats party's think tank invited us to **recommend what the new Commission** should do.



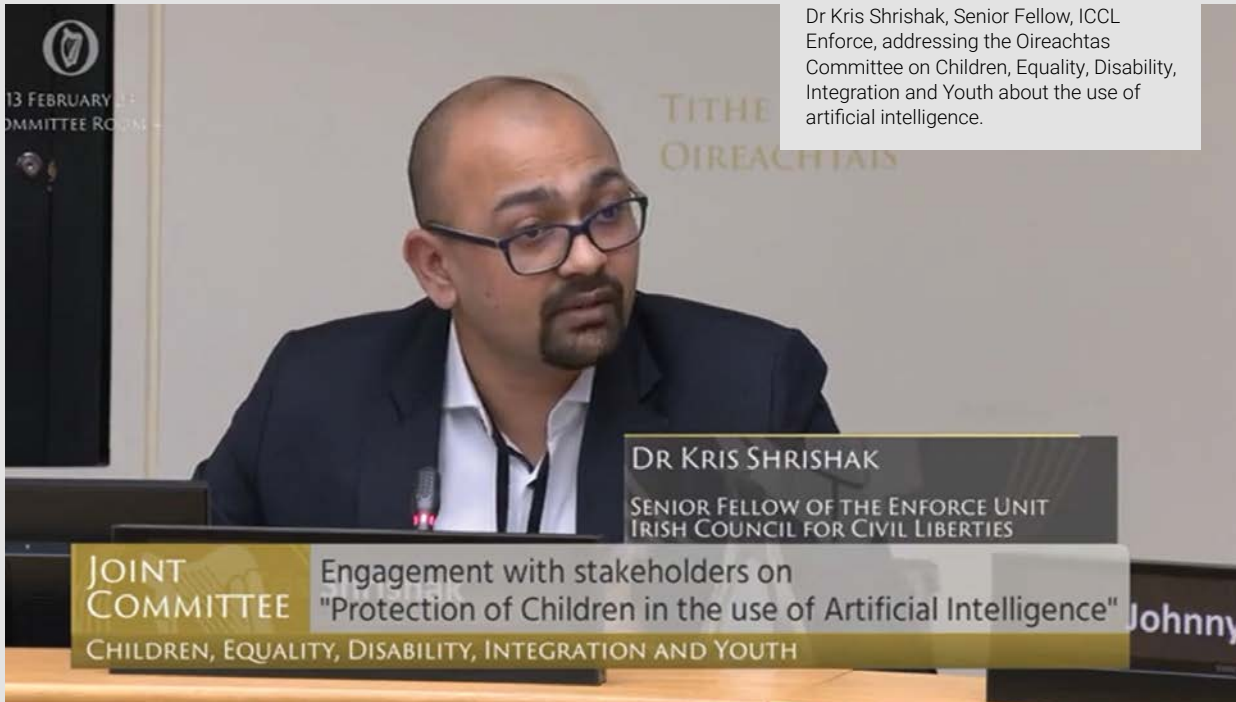
Johnny Ryan, Director, ICCL **Enforce**, speaking at an EPP European Parliament hearing.

LITIGATION

We were **victorious at the European Court of Justice** in March. Answering important legal questions that we proposed, Europe's top court found that industry trade body IAB Europe is legally responsible for the Transparency and Consent Framework (TCF) system. TCF consent popups have spammed Europeans for half a decade on almost every website, and are relied upon by Google, Microsoft, Amazon and others to legitimise the enormous data breach at the heart of the real-time bidding (RTB) online advertising industry. The judgement will inform the Brussels Court of Appeal's decision on TCF. It is also consequential for EU data law in itself.

We also had litigation setbacks. Our challenge against the Irish Data Protection Commission at the Irish High Court for not investigating the security problems of Google's RTB was dismissed by the High Court and Court of Appeal in 2024. Our position was later vindicated by the European Court of Justice's **decision** in a different case (to which we were not a party).

Our case in Hamburg against IAB TechLab, the RTB industry's standards body, was dismissed on procedural grounds. Separately, we withdrew as a class representative from **a class action in Northern California against Oracle**, a major data broker, to allow the other class representatives to proceed. Enforce helped develop the case, and can take some credit for the **\$115 million settlement** in July that marked the end of Oracle's tracking-based advertising business.



Dr Kris Shrishak, Senior Fellow, ICCL Enforce, addressing the Oireachtas Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth about the use of artificial intelligence.

EU RULES FOR AI

We secured improvements to the new EU AI Act, which was finalised in June. AI Act regulation of AI models will rely on codes of practice that are now being developed. We prevailed upon the European Commission to open up the codes' drafting process, which was initially focused on large tech firms. We also prevailed on the Commission to propose higher "no conflicts" requirements for members of its AI Scientific Advisory Council. In Ireland, we urged the Government to establish a clear structure for the various AI authorities to operate together, and a pool of independent experts, including educators and trade unions, who can provide evidence of harm. Throughout the year, Enforce participated at policy and research meetings in Europe, the UK, Canada and Australia.

We prevailed upon the European Commission to open up the drafting process, which was initially focused on large tech firms.

RECOMMENDER ALGORITHMS

Toxic algorithms control how we see the world on social media. As we [told the Oireachtas Children's Committee](#) in February, they push self-harm and suicide into children's feeds. We assisted RTÉ PrimeTime's investigative unit [reporting](#) on this in April. Our August [opinion article in The Irish Times](#) argued that they also derail Europe's politics and turn our communities against each other. Switching algorithms off is not a speech issue. People – not algorithms – should be free to decide what they say, see, and share online.

In late 2023 we had prevailed on Ireland's new media regulator, Coimisiún na Meán, to ban these systems being

on by default on major video platforms, and had engaged at senior level with the European Commission to secure its approval. However, despite our efforts — applying significant media pressure, commissioning a [national poll](#) with Uplift finding that **82% of the Irish public** want algorithms switched off, and leading 62 civil society organisations across Ireland in [calling for the ban](#) — we were stymied by opposition from the European Commission.

However, our pressure pushed toxic algorithms into the Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Social Democrats and Labour manifestos, and we secured a (vague) commitment to act on the problem in the Programme for Government.

FACIAL RECOGNITION

We applied concerted pressure through much of the year against a draft bill allowing Garda use of facial recognition technology (FRT), appearing at the Oireachtas Justice Committee, engaging with stakeholders and drawing public attention to the hazards. We prevailed on the Government's AI Advisory Council to warn of **"gradual mission creep" towards a mass surveillance society**. In June, we held an event in Dublin where Detroit

man Robert Williams, who had been wrongfully arrested due to FRT, told his story alongside his ACLU lawyer. We also organised a session with police and government stakeholders.

In October, we commissioned artist Emmalene Blake to complete **a large mural** in Dublin city against Garda use of FRT. It was speedily removed by Dublin City Council.



ACTION AGAINST THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DATA BREACH: "RTB"

Acting on research by Enforce, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) ordered a major data firm called Mobilewalla to stop collecting data in the United States. Mobilewalla claims to have five years of data from 1.9 billion people's devices. FTC Chair Lina Kahn said **Enforce's research** "revealed the relative ease with which foreign adversaries can gather sensitive data on Americans".

In October, we released a significant **report in Australia** on the national security risk caused by the data free-for-all at the heart of the online

advertising system. It was widely reported by Australia's premier broadcaster.

In December we filed a **complaint** to the FTC (with EPIC, a US privacy organisation) against Google under a new U.S. law that prohibits sharing data about Americans with foreign "adversaries". The complaint presents new data showing the sensitivity of the information being sent by Google's real-time bidding (RTB) advertising system. We presented evidence that Google knew of the problem for over a decade and that its CEO failed to heed internal warnings.

BREAK BIG TECH'S ILL-GOTTEN POWER

We led civil society organisations in **submissions** to competition **authorities** advising on how to query OpenAI and Microsoft about their relationship, and collaborated on further AI-themed submissions.



Office of the Chair

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Federal Trade Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

Statement of Chair Lina M. Khan
Joined by Commissioner Alvaro M. Bedoya & Commissioner Rebecca Kelly Slaughter
In the Matter of Mobilewalla, Inc.
Commission File No. 2023196

December 3, 2024

Last year a new report revealed the relative ease with which foreign adversaries can gather sensitive data on Americans.¹ Foreign states could identify, for example, whether someone has a substance abuse problem, a gambling addiction, or major financial problems—a "torrent of blackmail data" ripe for abuse.² The report noted that people susceptible to this type of surveillance include active military personnel, defense officials, lawmakers, and judges. Beyond government leaders, hundreds of millions of Americans are at risk. Precise location data, for example, can be harnessed by law enforcers monitoring political rallies or religious gatherings, managers tracking employees engaged in union organizing, or stalkers keeping tabs on their victims.

The mechanism for this surveillance is shockingly commonplace: "real-time bidding" (RTB) exchanges, an advertising technology used by a huge swath of websites and apps. RTB exchanges host the online auctions that determine which advertisement gets served to a specific individual on a specific website or app. Because these ads are targeted, RTB technology captures reams of personal data, such as a person's browsing history and their location and movements over time—and then broadcasts this sensitive data to anyone seeking to bid on the ad slot. One report estimates that RTB technologies track and broadcast what every U.S. internet user does every 30 seconds they are online—or 747 times a day on average.³ Strikingly, a firm can capture and retain individuals' web browsing data, location data, and other sensitive details even when it does not serve any ads to them. Bipartisan groups of lawmakers have noted that the exposure of

¹ IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES, AMERICA'S HIDDEN SECURITY CRISIS: HOW DATA ABOUT UNITED STATES DEFENCE PERSONNEL & POLITICAL LEADERS FLOWS TO FOREIGN STATES & NON-STATE ACTORS (2023), <https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Americas-hidden-security-crisis.pdf> [“AMERICA'S HIDDEN SECURITY CRISIS”]. See also Justin Sherman, et al., *Data Brokers and the Sale of Data on U.S. Military Personnel Risks to Privacy, Safety, and National Security* (Duke Univ. Sanford Sch. of Pub. Pol'y 2023), <https://techpolicy.sanford.duke.edu/data-brokers-and-the-sale-of-data-on-us-military-personnel/>; Joseph Cox, *The Hundreds of Little-Known Firms Getting Data on Americans*, VICE (June 28, 2021), <https://www.vice.com/en/article/hundreds-companies-bidstream-data-location-browsing/>; Dhruv Mehrotra & Dell Cameron, *Anyone Can Buy Data Tracking US Soldiers and Spies to Nuclear Vaults and Brothels in Germany*, WIRED (Nov. 19, 2024), <https://www.wired.com/story/phone-data-us-soldiers-spies-nuclear-germany/>; Sean Lyngaas, *Researchers find sensitive personal data of US military personnel is for sale online*, CNN (Nov. 6, 2023), <https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/06/politics/data-of-military-personnel-for-sale-online/index.html>.

² AMERICA'S HIDDEN SECURITY CRISIS at 15.

³ *Id.* at p. 7.

OUR

COMMUNICATIONS

Media

ICCL is the country's foremost civil liberties organisation and is regularly called upon to provide expert comment and analysis for international, national and local media.

Our media presence enables us to reach new audiences, influence public debate and pressure institutions, politicians and policy-makers to respect and uphold human rights in Ireland.

In 2024, ICCL focused on strengthening our position as a "go-to" expert on key civil liberties issues and making timely, insightful and evidence-based interventions in the public arena.

ICCL's positions and spokespeople appeared in the media 330 times in 2024 – almost once a day. Internationally, we secured coverage in

media outlets such as Forbes, BBC, Politico, Al Jazeera and Tagesspiegel. In Ireland, we appeared frequently in national broadcast and print outlets. We placed seven opinion articles with Irish and international media, valuable opportunities for us to clearly make the case for human rights and civil liberties considerations in Irish and international policy-making.



mural warning how Garda use of facial recognition technology could lead to innocent people misidentified as criminal suspects has been unveiled in Dublin. IMAGE: Fergal Phillips



Hate crimes are spreading fear in communities. We need new legislation now

By LUNA LARA LIBONI
CHAIR OF THE COALITION AGAINST HATE CRIME

HATE crime and extreme hate speech are spreading in our communities. We live in a climate of increasing intolerance towards minority groups, both online and offline. Hate crimes and hate speech are on the rise, with the number of hate crimes recorded by the Garda Síochána increasing by 12% in 2023 and 20% in 2024. We know this is only the tip of the iceberg, with the under-reporting of hate crimes experienced by targeted communities significantly higher. Hate crimes are criminal offences – committed with a hate element based on one or more attributes of the victim's personal characteristics or status. In Ireland, race, nationality and sexual orientation are the top three recorded grounds for these crimes, according to the Garda Síochána. Hate crimes tell people that they are not safe and welcome. A single act of violence or harassment that goes beyond the individual targeted – it leaves individual people targeted – it leaves communities feeling unsafe. People in fear, communities in fear, and the fabric of society is torn. That's why we are in the Coalition Against Hate Crime.

Against Hate Crime say that Hate Crime is not just an act of violence or harassment, it is a message that says to the community that they are not safe and welcome. A single act of violence or harassment that goes beyond the individual targeted – it leaves individual people targeted – it leaves communities feeling unsafe. People in fear, communities in fear, and the fabric of society is torn. That's why we are in the Coalition Against Hate Crime.

The recent Garda survey carried out by the Coalition Against Hate Crime of over 400 members of minority communities found that 47% of respondents had experienced a hate crime or a hate speech incident in the last 12 months. About a third of respondents reported feeling unsafe when a hate crime was committed against someone in their community. This climate of fear takes its toll on people's mental health. 47% of respondents said they feel anxious when a hate crime occurs against their community. These findings are backed up by international research. The coalition – made up of 23 groups representing various communities affected by hate crimes – has been successful in securing a commitment from the Government to introduce hate crime legislation in the summer of 2024.

Many of our organisations have directly from their communities about the impact of hate crime and its impact on the community. Ireland has been unable to address hate crime effectively through the criminal justice system for too long. Research by the University of Limerick and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties has shown that the hate element of a crime – which makes a crime a hate crime – is not addressed in a consistent way and often disappears as a case makes its way through the criminal justice system. The new legislation would make the words visible, recognising and addressing the additional harm caused by a crime that targets a person's identity. It would also send a clear message that while freedom of speech is a cornerstone of our democracy – it is protected in Ireland, incitement to violence and hatred are not taken. The Government has a duty to protect its citizens and to ensure that hate crime legislation is as strong as possible. This is a first step towards addressing the harm caused by hate crime. Hate crime legislation is not just for people who are targeted, it is for everyone. The Government has a duty to protect its citizens and to ensure that hate crime legislation is as strong as possible. This is a first step towards addressing the harm caused by hate crime. Hate crime legislation is not just for people who are targeted, it is for everyone.

Babies caught speeding, Garda system shows

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) has released a report showing that the Garda Síochána's use of facial recognition technology has led to the identification of babies as suspects in criminal cases. The report, titled 'Babies caught speeding, Garda system shows', highlights the potential for misuse of the technology and the need for robust safeguards. The ICCL is calling for a comprehensive review of the Garda's use of facial recognition technology to ensure it is used lawfully and responsibly.



Liam Herrick: Stardust inquests show the urgent need for reform of coroner system

The tragedy of Stardust lies not just in the appalling and avoidable loss of so many young lives but also in the continued violation of the rights of the victims through the denial of truth and justice over four decades, writes Liam Herrick of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties



DR JOHNNY RYAN
Senior Fellow, Irish Council of Civil Liberties

Impact

On **policing**, we are one of few voices in the media advocating for continued reform of An Garda Síochána. With quick responses to developments, we have ensured that media coverage of policing issues includes a human rights and sometimes dissenting perspective. By parsing and analysing policing reports and statistics, we have also successfully pushed policing issues onto the front pages of national newspapers and influenced editorial lines in Irish media.

Our campaign to highlight the extensive damage and harm caused by **recommender systems** continued to gain traction in the media. We have successfully inserted recommender systems into the public conversation about online safety, offering a solution (switching off recommender systems) which does not impact on freedom of speech.

Our campaign against Garda use of **facial recognition technology** and sustained pressure on this topic was one of the factors which led to the draft bill not being completed in the government's term.

We intervened through the media to defend the rights of **people seeking international protection** in Ireland, including on the right to accommodation, cross-border police checks and the prosecution of people arriving into Ireland without documentation.

We continued to lead the Coalition Against Hate Crime and to coordinate proactive and reactive media work making the case for **hate crime legislation**. While the Coalition was disappointed that incitement to hatred was dropped from the Bill before it was passed, its enactment marks a hugely significant step for Ireland and the culmination of years of campaigning on the parts of all the Coalition members.



Campaigns

STATE OF EMERGENCY? 52 YEARS OF THE SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT

In June, ICCL launched a new public campaign, "State of Emergency? 52 Years of the Special Criminal Court" as part of our decades-long efforts to abolish the non-jury court.

The ongoing campaign seeks to build public awareness of the existence and human rights infringements of the Special Criminal Court and support for its abolition. The campaign launch coincided with the annual renewal of emergency

powers in the Oireachtas, which underpins the continued existence of the court. The campaign featured a dedicated landing page on our website, social media posts and new tote bags.

In October, ICCL placed five billboards in the greater Dublin area to raise awareness of our campaign. This was complemented by media work, including an op-ed in the *Irish Examiner*.

This campaign was supported by Community Foundation Ireland.

The ongoing campaign seeks to build public awareness of the existence and human rights infringements of the Special Criminal Court and support for its abolition.





Emmalene Blake (artist) and Olga Cronin, Human Rights and Surveillance Senior Policy Officer, ICCL Enforce, at ICCL's FRT mural in Dublin, created by Emmalene.

FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

We continued our campaign against the introduction of facial recognition technology (FRT) into Irish policing in 2024. Our #IDoNotConsent petition reached about 2,400 signatures by the end of 2024.

In June, ICCL hosted a film screening and panel discussion with Robert Williams, a Black man from Detroit who is the first known person to be wrongfully arrested because of FRT, and Nathan Freed

Wessler from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

In October, we commissioned artist Emmalene Blake to complete a large mural in Dublin city. A video by Emmalene and ICCL on social media about the mural was viewed over 78,000 times and had over 5,000 engagements. The mural was swiftly subject to a removal order from Dublin City Council.

SALLINS MEN

ICCL continued to campaign for a public inquiry into the case of the Sallins Men. In September 2023, we submitted a civil society petition to the Department of Justice calling for a public inquiry. We continued to follow up with the Minister for Justice in 2024, but we received no fulsome response or update.

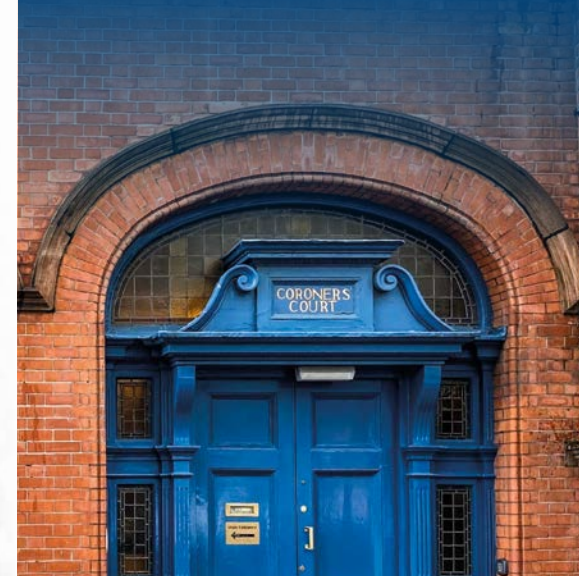


Liam Herrick, Executive Director, ICCL, Osgur Breatnach and Nicky Kelly, two of the Sallins Men, and Christopher Stanley, KRW Law, pictured outside the Department of Justice with the civil society petition calling on the Department to establish a public inquiry into the case of the Sallins Men.

CORONER SERVICE

In 2024, ICCL continued to campaign for a restructured and modernised Coroner Service that aligns with international best practice, enhances the support available to bereaved families and is not burdened by unnecessary delays.

We monitored the progress of the Stardust inquests and in April used the media to make the case that the success of the Stardust inquests highlights the urgent need for reform of the Service generally.



Events

ICCL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM AWARD 2024

DUBLIN, SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY



The winner of the 2024 ICCL Human Rights Film Award was **Bye Bye Tiberias**, a Palestinian documentary. The film was selected by a four-strong panel of jury members:

- Writer Una Mullally;
- Associate Professor in Law at UCD and Academic Director of the UCD Centre for Human Rights, Dr Marie-Luce Paris;
- Executive Director of ShoutOut, Ruadhán Ó Críodáin;
- Visual artist and journalist, Ala Buisir.

The winner was announced at the DIFF Awards Ceremony in The Complex in Dublin on Sunday 25 February.



THE POLICING OF PROTEST IN IRELAND: A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE?

DUBLIN, THURSDAY 14 MARCH

In collaboration with the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), we held a closed seminar on the policing of protest with academics and representatives of organisations involved in protest on the island of Ireland, North and South.

This event was part of our “Policing for Peace” project, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Community Foundation Ireland and the Community Foundation Northern Ireland programme. The [seminar report](#) is published on our website.



“THAT’S NOT YOUR ROLE” REPORT LAUNCH ONLINE, WEDNESDAY 1 MAY

In May, ICCL launched a new report, *“That’s Not Your Role”: State Funding and Advocacy in the Irish Community, Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector*, at an online event that was attended by representatives of over 150 organisations.

ICCL ANNUAL POLICING CONFERENCE 2024:

“POLICE REFORM IN A CHANGING IRELAND: NEXT STEPS AFTER THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF POLICING”

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, THURSDAY 16 MAY

ICCL, in partnership with CAJ and hosted by Maynooth University, held its inaugural annual policing conference ‘Police Reform in a Changing Ireland: Next Steps After the Commission on the Future of Policing’ on 16 May. This conference took a past, present and future view of human rights-based policing on the island of Ireland, more than five years on from the publication of the final report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland (CoFPI). At the conference, ICCL also presented the findings of new research analysing the implementation of CoFPI’s recommendations.

Speakers included Alyson Kilpatrick, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland

Human Rights Commission; Andy George, President, National Black Police Association (UK); Helen Hall, Chief Executive Officer, Policing Authority; Prof. Donncha O’Connell, former member of CoFPI and Professor of Law, University of Galway; Maria Elena Costa Sa, Human Rights and Community Development Lead, Irish Network Against Racism; and Emily Williams, Policing and Justice Policy Officer, ICCL.

This event was part of our “Policing for Peace” project, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Community Foundation Ireland and the Community Foundation Northern Ireland programme. The [conference report](#) is published on our website.

This conference took a past, present and future view of human rights-based policing on the island of Ireland.



FLIGHT RISK REPORT LAUNCH

DUBLIN, TUESDAY 7 MAY

Alongside Fair Trials Europe and our international project partners, ICCL hosted a half-day event in Dublin to launch our groundbreaking new report, *Improving Judicial Assessment of Flight Risk*. Speakers included Prof. Mary Rogan of Trinity College Dublin, Chryssa Mela of Fair Trials Europe and Niamh McCormack, ICCL's Criminal Justice Policy Officer. This report raised concerns about pre-trial detention and denial of bail and received coverage in *The Irish Times*, the *Irish Examiner* and *Irish Legal News*.



FACING FACTS: FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

DUBLIN, WEDNESDAY 5 MAY

On Wednesday 5 June, ICCL hosted a film screening of "Coded Bias", a documentary about facial recognition technology (FRT), followed by a panel discussion on FRT. The panel was chaired by *The Irish Times* columnist Karlin Lillington and featured Robert Williams, the first known person wrongfully arrested and detained in the US based on FRT, Nathan Freed Wessler of the ACLU, Niamh O'Mahony of Football Supporters Europe and ICCL's Surveillance and Human Rights Senior Policy Officer, Olga Cronin. The event was part of our "#IDoNotConsent to FRT" campaign.

POLICING FOR PEACE AND THE COMMITMENT TO “REPEAL AND REPLACE” THE NORTHERN IRELAND LEGACY ACT:

HOW SHOULD THE IRISH GOVERNMENT DEAL WITH LEGACY INVESTIGATIONS IN ITS JURISDICTION?

DUBLIN, TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

ICCL, in collaboration with CAJ, hosted a closed roundtable event with academics and campaigners to discuss how legacy investigations into historic human rights violations should be conducted in the Republic in light of relevant legal obligations, opportunities in the current political climate and lessons learned from the peace process in the North. This event was part of our “Policing for Peace” project, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Community Foundation Ireland and the Community Foundation Northern Ireland programme. The [roundtable report](#) is published on our website.



OIREACHTAS BRIEFING ON DEFAMATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024

DUBLIN, THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

ICCL held a briefing in the Oireachtas for TDs and Senators on the proposal to remove juries from defamation proceedings as included in the Defamation (Amendment) Bill 2024. ICCL is concerned that their removal will further erode the principle of right to trial by one's peers, a view that is shared by many in the legal profession.

We were joined at the event by retired High Court Judge Bernard Barton; Karyn Harty, Global Co-Chair of Disputes and partner and Head of the Litigation practice group in Dentons Dublin; and Professor Neville Cox, Trinity College School of Law; all of whom outlined the risks of the proposal.

CRIMINALISATION OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS IN IRELAND

DUBLIN, WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER

ICCL and the Bar Council of Ireland hosted the first event in a series co-organised between the two organisations. The event explored the challenges and contradictions being experienced by legal practitioners and international protection applicants. The purpose of the event was to arm practitioners with tools when advocating for clients in this unique and vulnerable position, and to

highlight the difficulties that foreign nationals face in custody and within the criminal justice system as a whole.

The discussion also considered how Ireland performs relative to our European neighbours in upholding international human rights obligations for international protection applicants and outlined concrete steps that could be taken to improve policy and practice.

The event explored the challenges

and contradictions being experienced

by legal practitioners and international

protection applicants.

Social Media

Social media is a very helpful tool for ICCL to connect with our supporters and people interested in our work. However, the online landscape has become increasingly challenging for activists and organisations such as ICCL. Elon Musk's takeover of X (formerly Twitter) has cultivated an unwelcoming digital environment for members of marginalised communities and organisations working on progressive issues.

Many of our allies and supporters have stopped using X and some have left altogether for other platforms. Over the course of 2024, ICCL increasingly focused on alternative channels – primarily LinkedIn and Instagram – to connect with our audience, promote our work and grow support for the issues we campaign on.



 **INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS** **2,037**

 **LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS** **3,147**

 **TWITTER/X FOLLOWERS** **15,579**

OUR PEOPLE

We are extremely lucky to have a tightknit team of hard-working and passionate colleagues. In 2024, we continued to expand our team, welcoming new colleagues in communications, policy and membership.

Unfortunately, however, after eight years we said goodbye to our Executive Director, Liam Herrick, who left ICCL to take up the role of Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). Liam joined ICCL in 2016 and stewarded the organisation through some of Ireland's most significant social movements in recent years, including the campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment, and through the Covid-19 pandemic when ICCL repeatedly

and forcefully made the case that the government response should respect people's human rights and civil liberties.

Under Liam's leadership, the organisation and its impact were transformed and expanded. We will continue to go from strength to strength, but we know we wouldn't be where we are today without him.

Our Communications and Campaigns Officer, Tara Grace Connolly, sadly also left the organisation to take up a new role with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. We wish them both the best in their future careers and are deeply grateful for their contributions to ICCL.

We had the pleasure of welcoming three new members to our team. In May, Claire Mc Evoy joined us as Head of Research and Policy. In June, Lilith Ferreyra-Carroll became ICCL's new Membership and Development Officer and in November, Molly Kavanagh was appointed Communications and Campaigns Officer.

Upon Liam's departure in November, Claire Mc Evoy and Ruth McCourt took up the joint roles of Acting Co-Director of ICCL.

Alexander Langan McDonnell BL was our 2024 Procedural Rights Fellow and contributed to our work on the criminal justice system and our event series with the Bar Council.

OUR BOARD

CHAIRPERSON SUZY BYRNE

(until June 2024)

CHAIRPERSON COLETTE KELLEHER

(from June 2024)

CLAIRE BRUTON

LIZ CAROLAN

STEPHEN CASEY

(from April 2024)

SHARON DILLON-LYONS

DANIEL HOLDER

STIOFÁIN MACDÁIBHÉAD

BULELANI MFACO

DAMIAN O'BROIN

DR MUIRIS Ó CÉIDIGH

(until June 2024)

NATHALIE WEADICK



Chairperson Suzy Byrne

(until June 2024)

Suzy Byrne is a disabled woman, activist and broadcaster with extensive experience in the community and voluntary sectors. She currently works as a regional manager for the National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities. Suzy has worked in print and broadcast media on LGBT and other rights issues both nationally and internationally. She was co-chairperson of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) during the campaign to decriminalise homosexuality in 1993 and has also chaired the International Lesbian and Gay Youth Organisation (IGLYO). Suzy's term as Chair of ICCL ended in June 2024.



Chairperson Colette Kelleher

(from June 2024)

Colette Kelleher joined the Board in April 2024 and was appointed Chairperson in June. She served as an independent Senator from 2016 to 2020 and recently retired as CEO of Tabor Group, an addiction treatment centre based in Cork. Colette previously served as the Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, during which time the organisation published its first Charter on Human Rights and Dementia. She has an MBA from University College Cork and recently qualified as a Family Therapist, holding an M.Sc. in Systemic Psychotherapy from the Clanwilliam Institute.



Claire Bruton

Claire Bruton is a practising barrister in the area of employment and equality law. She is the author of the second edition of Employment Equality Law (co-authors Bolger and Kimber) published in 2022. She was recently appointed by the Minister for Enterprise to the Employment Law Reform Group.



Liz Carolan

Liz Carolan is a writer, advisor and advocate working on technology and its impact on democracy. She has held roles at the Open Data Institute, the Africa Governance Initiative and the Institute for Government, and is the founder of Digital Action and the Transparent Referendum Initiative. She is currently advising a number of tech and society focused initiatives and is the publisher of TheBriefing.ie newsletter.



Stephen Casey (from April 2024)

Stephen Casey joined the Board in April 2024. He is a Chartered Accountant and senior executive at DCC plc. He has worked in a variety of different leadership roles in the energy, technology and food and beverage sectors, and has particular expertise in governance, financial control, strategy and capital allocation. He holds a degree in Economics from Trinity College Dublin.



Sharon Dillon-Lyons

Sharon Dillon-Lyons is a practising barrister with a broad civil law practice, as well as experience working in policy and compliance with non-governmental organisations. She also has experience of best practice tools to monitor implementation of policies, procedures and compliance with legal and contractual obligations. Sharon lectures in DIT, Dorset College and Public Affairs Ireland where she co-presents on the Freedom of Information training course.



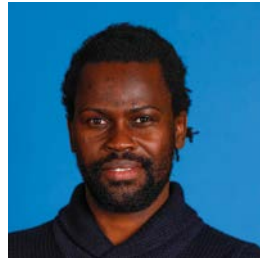
Daniel Holder

Daniel Holder is Director of the Belfast-based human rights NGO the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ). He is also the Co-Convener of the Equality Coalition, a network of equality NGOs and trade unions jointly convened by CAJ and UNISON in the north. Prior to this, he worked in the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.



Stiofáin MacDáibhéad

Stiofáin MacDáibhéad is a communications strategist with over 20 years of senior-level experience in strategic communications, public affairs and political engagement. He has advised on election campaigns at local, national and European levels. As Director of Global Communications for a UK-based Plc, Stiofáin leads initiatives that enhance corporate visibility, positioning and political engagement across international markets. A trusted advisor to several NGOs, he is known for his strategic insight and ability to drive impactful narratives that support meaningful causes.



Bulelani Mfaco

Bulelani Mfaco is a former spokesperson for the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI). MASI is a grassroots campaign group which campaigns against direct provision and deportations, defends the fundamental right to seek asylum, and agitates for a more humane asylum process. Bulelani cut his campaigning teeth in his native South Africa where from an early age he was involved in protests for adequate housing, access to land, healthcare and improved policing.



Damian O'Broin

Damian O'Broin is the founder and Managing Director of Ask Direct. He leads a team of talented fundraisers to inspire more people to take action and support the causes they care about. He believes that we'll only achieve a better world if people use their time, money and voice to build it.



Dr Muiris Ó Céidigh (until June 2024)

Dr Muiris Ó Céidigh is a Trustee of the Institute for Conflict Research in Belfast and the CEO of the National Milk Agency. He holds a Doctorate in Governance from Queens University Belfast. His primary degree was a BA in Law and Sociology from NUI Galway followed by an LLB. He also holds an MBA and an MSc in Economics from Trinity College Dublin, in addition to an MA in Public Management from the Institute of Public Administration. His term on the ICCL Board ended in June 2024.



Nathalie Weadick

Nathalie Weadick is a curator of architecture and spatial practice based in Dublin. She was formerly director of the Irish Architecture Foundation, an organisation committed to communicating the culture of architecture and urbanism to the public.

OUR STAFF



Executive Director
(to November 2024)
Liam Herrick



Office and Operations
Manager
Chris McCartin



Policing and Justice
Policy Officer
Emily Williams



Acting Co-Director
(from November 2024)
Head of Research and Policy
(from May 2024)
Claire Mc Evoy



Democratic Freedoms
Senior Policy Officer
Ronan Kennedy



Criminal Justice
Policy Officer
Niamh McCormack



Acting Co-Director
(from November 2024)
Head of Communications
and Development
Ruth McCourt



Equality and Hate Crime
Senior Policy Officer
Luna Lara Liboni



Finance and
Administration Officer
Deirdre Gough



Communications and
Campaigns Officer
(to August 2024)

Tara Grace Connolly



Communications and
Campaigns Officer
(from November 2024)

Molly Kavanagh



Membership and
Development Officer
(from June 2024)

Lilith Ferreyra-Carroll



Procedural Rights Fellow

**Alexander Langan
Mac Donnell**



Equality and
Hate Crime Intern

Brian Lyons



Policing and
Justice Policy Intern

Patricia Rodican

Enforce



Director of ICCL Enforce

Dr Johnny Ryan
FRHistS



Senior Fellow

Dr Kris Shrishak



Surveillance and
Human Rights
Senior Policy Officer

Olga Cronin

OUR FUNDING

ICCL is fully independent of government and big business, allowing us to speak out without fear or compromise. It is only possible thanks to the support of our members and donors.

The majority of ICCL's funding comes from charitable trusts and foundations which are committed to supporting human rights and civil liberties around the world. We are grateful to them for their continued support of our work and their belief in our vision for Ireland.

ICCL would like to thank the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Rowan Trust, the Open Society Foundations, Luminate, Limelight Foundation

and the European AI & Society Fund for their support for our work in 2024.

We also received support for specific projects from the following organisations, to whom we express our gratitude: St Stephen's Green Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO), Community Foundation Ireland, the European Commission, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), the Bar of Ireland and the Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties).

In the face of increasing encroachments on human rights in Ireland and abroad, we

remain committed to building a movement for progressive action on human rights and civil liberties. Our members and supporters, including the Friends of ICCL, support our work on an ongoing basis. Their support has been crucial to our growth as they provide critical funding for our core campaigning work. Beyond financial support, they also strengthen our advocacy by supporting campaigns, emailing politicians, signing petitions, attending events and taking other forms of direct action.

To everyone who supports our work, we are grateful to have you by our side.

Thank you.

THE
SIGRID
RAUSING
TRUST

OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

The
Rowan
Trust

Community
Foundation
Ireland

Luminate

Limelight

INCLO

THE
JOSEPH
ROWNTREE
CHARITABLE
TRUST

European
Commission

sstg | st.stephen's
green trust

CIVIL
LIBERTIES
UNION FOR
EUROPE

Coimisiún na hÉireann
um Chearta an Duine
agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and
Equality Commission

THE BAR
OF IRELAND
The Law Library

European
Artificial Intelligence
& Society Fund

OUR FINANCES

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
BALANCE SHEET

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
INCOME BREAKDOWN
BALANCE SHEET



IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024)

	2024	2023
	€	€
Income		
Membership Fees	13,725	14,635
Other Income	13	-
Total Income	13,738	14,635
Expenditure on Activities		
Bank Charges	421	444
Research and Policy Development	635	14,000
Campaigning and Communications	-	-
Total Expenditure	1,056	14,444
Surplus/Deficit of Income over Expenditure	12,682	191

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
 (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024)

	2024	2023
	€	€
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	24,644	25,962
Payables: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Accruals	0	14,000
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>24,644</u>	<u>11,962</u>
Reserves		
Funds brought forward	11,962	11,771
Income Statement	12,682	191
Members' Funds	<u>24,644</u>	<u>11,962</u>

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024)

	2024	2023
	€	€
Income		
Total Income*	1,483,426	1,280,411
Expenditure		
Costs of Campaigns, Publications, Awareness and Fundraising Activities	1,181,835	1,113,103
Support Costs (Governance, Administration and Capacity Building Costs)	170,966	119,649
Total Expenditure	1,352,801	1,232,752
Deficit/Surplus	130,625	47,659
Total Comprehensive Income	130,625	47,659

* For full breakdown of income please see page 71

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INCOME BREAKDOWN

(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024)

	2024
	€
Open Society Foundations	411,753
The Rowan Trust	201,291
Luminate Group	189,263
Sigrid Rausing Trust	171,364
Limelight	150,000
International Newtwork of Civil Liberties Organisations	99,947
European AI Fund	84,117
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	57,000
European Commission	34,398
Digital Freedom Fund	26,617
St Stephen's Green Trust	15,000
Bar of Ireland	10,000
Donations	8,894
Community Foundation Ireland	6,125
Civil Liberties Union for Europe	5,000
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	4,600
Trust for Civil Liberties Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	2,408
Other	5,649
Total	<u>€1,483,426</u>

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

BALANCE SHEET

(AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024)

	2024	2023
	€	€
Fixed assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	7,859	10,705
Current Assets		
Receivables	48,862	84,422
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,689,861	1,542,143
	<u>1,736,723</u>	<u>1,626,565</u>
Payables: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(1,441,089)	(1,462,456)
Net Current Assets	295,634	164,109
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	303,493	174,814
Amounts falling due after more than one year	(2,807)	(4,753)
Net Assets	<u>300,686</u>	<u>170,061</u>
Reserves		
Retained Surplus	<u>300,686</u>	<u>170,061</u>



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