

Have your say on the state of racism in Ireland

Reporting to CERD: How it works and why your voice matters



UN CERD, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, was the first of the UN's 10 Human Rights Treaties (1965). Ireland is a signatory and the Convention outlines our obligations as a State to eliminate racial discrimination.



CERD, the Committee on the Elimination of Racist Discrimination, is the UN Treaty Body. It monitors the implementation of the Convention and ensures that Member States, like Ireland, are sticking to their obligations.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

- Fill in our CERD Questionnaire
- Fill in a Template for CERD reporting
- Participate in our CERD consultations

www.enarireland.org/CERD19

1

CERD report

CERD examines each state every **5 years**. The Irish Government is required to implement CERD recommendations within that time.

Based on the Geneva hearing, the CERD Committee prepares a new report. It addresses its concerns and recommendations to each state (including Ireland) in the form of "**concluding observations**".

2

Government report

The Government is required to submit its report regularly to the Committee.

The Government (State Party) Report should outline the legislative, judicial, policy and other measures they have taken to give effect to the Convention.

First, the Government publishes a **draft report** to the public and asks for responses from organisations & individuals. Then, it revises the draft and submits the **the final report** to CERD (the last one in late 2018).

3

Parallel reports

• CIVIL SOCIETY REPORTS

Civil society voices its concerns and contributes to the examination in **Civil Society Alternative Reports** (collective or by individual organisations). **Collective reports usually have a stronger impact.** ENAR Ireland is coordinating the **Collective Report in 2019** for submission to CERD in autumn.

• NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION'S REPORT

At the same time IHREC is preparing the **Irish National Human Rights Institution's (NIHRI) Report** to CERD.

4

Geneva hearing

The CERD Committee meets in Geneva and **examines** Ireland by looking at:

- its own previous CERD Report,
- the Government Report
- National Human Rights Institution's Reports,
- Civil Society Alternative Reports.
- hearing presentations from all of the above.

Based on this examination the CERD prepares its **new report** on the State.

Stay updated
FOLLOW #CERD19

WHY THIS REPORTING PROCESS (AND YOUR VOICE!) IS SO IMPORTANT

- CERD needs **evidence-based information** from civil society about how well Ireland is meeting its obligations.
- The Convention has had a significant **impact on national legislation**. Many states have adopted policies and plans against racism outlawing hate crime & racial discrimination by the state, in the workplace, or in the provision of services.
- The CERD reporting system has prompted individual States to **enact anti-racist legislation or amend existing laws**.