

Ireland's draft combined 5th, 6th and 7th Period Report under CERD

What's in Ireland's combined Fifth to Seventh Report ?

The Report is broken down into 3 Parts.

- Part 1 provides general context and baseline information from the census and gives an overview of major relevant policy changes.
- Part 2 contains Ireland's response to recommendations made by the UN Committee in Paragraphs 11 to 36 of Concluding Observations on 3rd and 4th Reports
- Part 3 contains further information on the way in which Ireland is applying the provisions in Articles 1 – 7 of the Convention

When it is finally submitted, relevant national strategies such as the Migrant Integration Strategy, The National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy and the National Strategy for Women and Girls will be included as Appendices to support the information given in the report.

What were the UN Committee's observations in the wake of Ireland's combined 3rd and 4th Report?

The Committee's observations highlighted a number of areas where they felt Ireland was not fully meeting its obligations under the Convention. These included

- Issues affecting Travellers such as recognition of Traveller ethnicity, Traveller accommodation and Traveller education.
- Issues affecting asylum seekers including a multi-layered application process, the standard of direct provision centres and time spent in them and the right to work.
- Issues relating to racism including the lack of a separate anti-racism strategies, the quality of anti-racist legislation and policing of racist incidents and behaviour

What does Ireland's combined 5th, 6th and 7th report say in response to Committee's observations?

A considerable amount of time has elapsed since the Committee made their observations back in 2011. The combined 5th, 6th and 7th report highlights a number of significant changes at policy and operational level that have impacted positively on the issues raised by the Committee in the intervening period. These include:

- New Government strategies in the area of Migrant Integration, Traveller and Roma Inclusion and Gender equality (Women and Girls Strategy)
- Formal Recognition of Traveller Ethnicity by the Irish Government
- A complete overhaul of Ireland's legislation governing international protection applicants and improvements to accommodation standard following a major cross-sectoral review (Judge Mahon)

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- The Establishment of the Garda Síochána Racial, Intercultural and Diversity Office (GRIDO)
- The historic 'yes vote' in the referendum on marriage equality in 2016 and subsequent enactment of legislation legalising same

What are issues were raised during the public consultation meetings?

At the three meetings in Galway, Cork and Dublin a number of themes emerged during all three discussions including:

- Indirect racism – lack of Traveller and migrant representation on national media
- Direct Provision – poor standards of accommodation
- Racial profiling by the Garda Síochána
- Lack of consistent statistics and definitions on racist crime
- The Rights of women within migrant and Traveller and Roma communities