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An Comhchoiste um Nithe a Bhaineann le Míchumas an Clár Oibre

2024

Joint Committee on Disability Matters Work Programme

2024

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Table of Contents

Membership	5
Introduction.....	6
Remit of the Joint Committee on Disability Matters	6
Key policy priorities	6
General provisions and implementation of the UNCRPD	7
Participation in political, cultural, community and public life.....	7
Accessibility	8
Health and life.....	8
Independent and adequate standard of living and social protection	8
Autonomy and integrity	9
Equality and non-discrimination	9
Awareness-raising	9
Employment	9
Education.....	9
Access to justice	10
Freedom from exploitation, violence, and abuse	10
Agreement of Work Programme.....	10
Appendix	11
Appendix 1: UNCRPD Categorisation	11

Related information

Publications

All publications for this committee are available on the [Oireachtas website](#)

Committee videos

Footage of Committee proceedings can be found on the [Committee videos page](#).

Contact details

The contact details for the Committee can be found on the [Committee page](#).

Terms of reference

Read the [terms of reference](#) for the Committee.

Committee Membership

Cathaoirleach

[Michael Moynihan TD](#), Fianna Fáil

Leas-Cathaoirleach

[Pauline Tully TD](#), Sinn Féin

Members

[Seán Canney TD](#), Independent

[Dessie Ellis TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Frankie Feighan TD](#), Fine Gael

[Gary Gannon TD](#), Social Democrats

[Emer Higgins TD](#), Fine Gael

[Brian Leddin](#), Green Party

[Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Tom Clonan](#), Independent

[Senator Eileen Flynn](#), Independent

[Senator Erin McGreehan](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Fiona O'Loughlin](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Mary Seery Kearney](#), Fine Gael

Introduction

The Joint Committee on Disability Matters was established following Orders of Dáil Éireann and of Seanad Éireann on 22 September 2020 and 25 September 2020 respectively. Standing Orders 100(4) (Dáil Éireann) and 77(4) (Seanad Éireann) require that “as soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil/Seanad Éireann”.

Remit of the Joint Committee on Disability Matters

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Joint Committee considered and made recommendations on its remit and reported on this in December 2020. The Joint Committee considered revised Terms of Reference and these revised Terms of Reference were agreed by Dáil Éireann on the 21 April 2021 and Seanad Éireann on the 24 May 2021.

Key policy priorities

The Joint Committee shall aim for consensus, based on the human rights model of disability as outlined under the UNCRPD, on policy directions in respect of the following issues affecting people with disabilities as directed by its Terms of Reference.

The UNCRPD is a benchmark for the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in society and as part of the Committees role in monitoring the Convention, the Committee has developed its Work Programme in line with emerging themes from the UNCRPD ([Appendix 1](#)).

The Joint Committee is also empowered to consider other policy issues, within its Terms of Reference over the period. The Committee may hold public meetings under its Work Programme to monitor progress of the drafting and initiation of required and relevant legislation needed to implement the UNCRPD, as set out in the Terms of Reference.

General provisions and implementation of the UNCRPD

- Consideration of the active involvement and consultation of Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO's), self-advocates and persons with disabilities on policy and legislation implementation.
- Monitoring the new National Disability Inclusion Strategy actions to implement the UNCRPD across Government, departments, Local Government
- Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UNCRPD
- Considering systems to collect disaggregated data on disability and tackling underreporting.
- Monitoring the UNCRPD and mainstreaming human rights in national parliaments
- Considering EU funding to reflect the national ambition for the delivery of the UNCRPD
- Intersectionality of UNCRPD, the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and related obligations
- Disability-inclusive development and climate mitigation and adaptation

Participation in political, cultural, community and public life

- Inclusive democracy in Ireland

Accessibility

- Planning for inclusive communities (housing, transport, and the built environment) and the role of universal design
- Accessibility and reasonable accommodation in public bodies
- Consideration of the lack of personal transport schemes
- Making communication accessible for all
- Implementation of the principles of Universal Design

Health and life

- Service transformation, innovation, and sustainability in the provision of disability services
- Transforming Lives reform programme (PDS, New Directions, Time to Move on
- Sláintecare with the Action Plan for Disability Services 2024 – 2026
- Invisible disabilities
- Progressing Disability Services
- Provision of respite and appropriate supports
- Integrating mental health and disability

Independent and adequate standard of living and social protection

- Independent living models and providing choice on where to live for people with disabilities
- Community development to support inclusion
- Considering a right to Personal Assistance
- Personal budgets – financing models
- Eliminating long-term reliance on disability payments
- Access to social housing through Local Authorities for people with disabilities
- Trans-institutionalism

Autonomy and integrity

- Independent decision making and the right to have a choice
- Deprivation of liberty

Equality and non-discrimination

- Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty as a pathway to transition from the medical model to human rights model of disability
- Achieving Equal Rights and Equity for Women with Disabilities
- Discrimination inside and outside the workplace in Ireland

Awareness-raising

- Raising awareness
- Celebrating United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Employment

- Career pathways for persons with disabilities
- Comprehensive Employment Strategy and Reasonable Accommodation

Education

- An inclusive education for an inclusive society
- Universal design principles for learning
- Transition pathways between primary, secondary, and further education
- Transition pathways between education and employment

Access to justice

- Access to justice for people with disabilities in the Irish Criminal and Civil Justice System
- Accessibility and supports within the Irish Penal System

Freedom from exploitation, violence, and abuse

- Safeguarding Persons at risk of abuse and exploitation of people with disability
- Sexual and gender-based violence against disabled women

Agreement of Work Programme

The Committee agreed to review its Work Programme on a regular basis. The inclusion of items in this Work Programme does not necessarily mean that a topic will be considered by the Committee within the timeline set out. Similarly, non-inclusion of a topic does not preclude the Committee from considering such areas.

This Work Programme for 2024 of the Joint Committee on Disability Matters was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 20 March 2024. In accordance with Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas. It was also agreed that the Work Programme would be published to the Committee's page on the Oireachtas website.

Michael Moynihan, T.D.

Cathaoirleach

Appendix 1

UNCRPD Categorisation

Categorisation	Articles
General provisions and implementation of the UNCRPD	Articles 1–4, Articles 11, 18, 22, 31, 32, 33
Participation in political, cultural, community and public life	Article 29, 30
Accessibility	Articles 9, 21, 30
Health and life	Articles 10, 23, 25
Independent and adequate standard of living and social protection	Articles 19, 20, 26, 28
Autonomy and integrity	Articles 12, 14, 15, 17
Equality and non-discrimination	Article 5
Awareness-raising	Article 8
Education	Articles 7, 24
Employment	Article 27
Access to justice	Articles 12, 13
Freedom from exploitation, violence, and abuse	Articles 6, 16