



# Implementing Human Rights in a Time of Change: Facing Up to Challenges under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

## Conference Programme

Monday, 6 April 2009  
Radisson Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin

- 10.00am** Registration and tea/coffee
- 10.30am** Introduction by Chair, Dr. Maurice Hayes, Chairman, National Forum on Europe
- 10.45am** **Tracking Ireland's Path under the ICCPR**  
Tanya Ward, Deputy Director, Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)
- 10.55am** **Ireland and the ICCPR: Benchmarking Ireland's Progress**  
Keynote speaker: Judge Elisabeth Palm, former UN Human Rights Committee member and Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights
- 11.30am** **International Human Rights in Action: Best Practice in the Implementation of UN Human Rights Committee Conclusions**  
Keynote speaker: Professor Michael O'Flaherty, UN Human Rights Committee member
- 12pm** Q&A
- 12.30pm** Lunch
- 1.45pm** Introduction by Chair, Susan McKay, Journalist and incoming Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland
- Using the UN Human Rights Committee's Conclusions to achieve Social Change**  
Michael Farrell, Senior Solicitor, FLAC and Human Rights Commissioner
- The Irish Human Rights Commission's Role in relation to the UN Human Rights Committee's Recommendations**  
Éamonn Mac Aodha, Chief Executive of the Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC)
- Using the ICCPR in Education and Research**  
Dr. Siobhan Mullally, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University College Cork
- 2.35pm** Open forum with speakers and Committee members
- 3.30pm** Conference Conclusions  
Liam Herrick, Director, Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT)
- 3.40pm** Close

## Biographies of Speakers and Chairs

**Michael Farrell** has been the senior solicitor with FLAC since 2005. He has been a member of the Irish Human Rights Commission since 2001 and is a member of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of Ireland. Formerly a Co-Chairperson of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), prior to joining FLAC he was a solicitor in private practice, working in the areas of criminal and civil litigation. He has taken cases to the UN Human Rights Committee under the ICCPR, to the European Court of Human Rights and the European Committee of Social Rights.

**Liam Herrick** has been the Executive Director of IPRT since November 2007. Before that he was the first Senior Legislation and Policy Review Officer with the Irish Human Rights Commission. He has a broad range of experience in the NGO and State sector. Liam is currently also a Board member of the Children's Rights Alliance and teaches a postgraduate course on international human rights law in the School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin.

**Dr. Maurice Hayes** is the Chairman of the National Forum on Europe, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Ireland Funds, Director of Independent News and Media plc and a writer, columnist and author. He was a member of the 21st and 22nd Seanads and was formerly the Northern Ireland Ombudsman and Boundary Commissioner and was Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services (NI).

**Éamonn MacAodha** is the Chief Executive of the Irish Human Rights Commission. He was Director of Human Rights for the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs 2004-2007 and previously served as Human Rights Officer at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in Geneva. Called to the bar in 1990, he has since worked on political, aid, trade and Anglo-Irish issues with the Department of Foreign Affairs and has served diplomatic postings at the Irish Embassies to the Holy See, South Africa and Israel.

**Susan McKay** is a journalist and author from Derry and is a well known commentator on social issues and the North. Currently writing for the Guardian, Granta, the Irish Times and the Irish News, she is working on a radio documentary for RTE. Next month she will take over as the new Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland. In the 1980's she was one of the founders of the Belfast Rape Crisis Centre.

**Dr. Siobhan Mullally** is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law University College Cork (UCC), where she teaches international human rights law, migration/refugee law and international criminal law. Siobhan has worked as an adviser/consultant on Gender and Human Rights to UN bodies and international NGOs. She was a founding Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights in UCC and was Chairperson of the Irish Refugee Council from 2006 to 2008. Siobhan has penned a range of publications and is editor of the Irish Yearbook of International Law.

**Professor Michael O'Flaherty** is Professor of Applied Human Rights and Co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham. Elected to the UN Human Rights Committee in 2004, he is the only Irish person serving on any UN human rights treaty body. He has held a range of posts at the UN and serves as an advisor to a number of international organisations including OHCHR, UNICEF, the Sierra Leone Special Court and many NGOs worldwide.

**Judge Elisabeth Palm** was a member of the UN Human Rights Committee until 2008 and held the positions of Vice-President of the Committee and Rapporteur on Ireland. Born in Helsingborg in Sweden, she was appointed a judge in a range of courts in Sweden including the Supreme Administrative Court. She became a judge at the European Court of Human Rights in 1988 and Vice-President of that court in 1998. She has participated in numerous national official studies over her career and has a range of published articles.

**Tanya Ward** is the Deputy Director of the ICCL and has formerly worked with the Irish Centre for Migration Studies, the Irish Refugee Council, the Curriculum Development Unit and the City of Dublin VEC. Tanya teaches International Human Rights Law on the MSc in Equality Studies at University College Dublin and was elected to the International Board of the International Federation for Human Rights in April 2007.