



**Submission on the Review of the White Paper on Irish Aid  
regarding the implications of the UN Convention on the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities**

Amnesty International Ireland appreciates this opportunity to make a submission on the review of the White Paper on Irish Aid. Amnesty International Ireland's submission relates to the mainstreaming of disability within Ireland's humanitarian and development assistance activities.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was opened for signature in 2007 and all of Ireland's programme countries (with the exception of Timor-Leste and Vietnam) have ratified the Convention. In addition, the European Union in 2010 ratified the CRPD, which binds the EU institutions – the Commission, Parliament, Council and Court of Justice – to respect the rights of persons with disabilities. As Ireland moves towards the ratification of the Convention, it is important that Ireland's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) programme complies with the Convention.

Article 32(1)(a) of the CRPD recognises the importance of international cooperation and requires State Parties to the Convention to ensure that international development programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities. There is no doubt that Ireland's ratification of the CRPD will have significant implications for the ODA programme. Therefore, it is important that disability is mainstreamed within the development agenda.

It is important to note also that Article 8 of the CRPD on awareness-raising requires State Parties to the Convention to undertake immediate, effective and appropriate measures to raise awareness throughout society regarding persons with disabilities and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Development and humanitarian programmes funded by Ireland should comply with Article 8 of the CRPD.

In light of the CRPD Amnesty International Ireland recommends that persons with disabilities should be systematically included within Ireland's development aid and humanitarian assistance activities. The issue of disability should be adopted as a crosscutting issue. Any operations on development and humanitarian assistance should respect the principle of

equality, and should not directly or indirectly place barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in and benefiting from these operations.

**Recommendations:**

1. Ireland should seek to comply with the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in particular with Article 32(1)(a) on international cooperation.
2. Irish Aid should ensure that persons with disabilities are systematically included within Ireland's development and humanitarian assistance activities.
3. The issue of disability should be adopted as a crosscutting issue across the ODA programme.
4. Any operations on development and humanitarian assistance should respect the principle of equality and should not directly or indirectly place barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating and benefiting from these operations.

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