



Universal Periodic Review

REVIEWING HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRELAND

Your Rights. Right Now.

Deirdre Duffy (Irish Council for Civil Liberties): Riga, 27/28 Nov 2012



Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

- Examination by UN Human Rights Council every 4 years
- Recommendations by UN Member States
- Ireland's UPR: 6 October 2011

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Civil Society Coalition: *Your Rights Right Now*

- 17 Civil Society Organisations in steering group
- Broad range of human rights issues
- Collective action of hundreds of civil society groups

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UPR and Human Rights Engagement

- High profile political process
- Broad range of rights covered
- Unique opportunity to explain human rights to wider public

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Public Engagement: Outcomes

- .84 submissions to civil society coalition
- .125 signatories to the civil society report
- .Over 200 people at UPR civil society events
- .National coverage in press, radio and television
- .127 UPR recommendations made to Ireland

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How did we achieve this?

- .Connected the local to the international
- .Education
- .Participation

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Public Engagement: Tools

- .Plain English Guide
- .17 information and consultation events
- .Fliers
- .Templates (different languages)
- .Videography

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Public Engagement: Tools (contd.)

- .Inclusion in civil society stakeholder report
- .Website
- .Human rights competition
- .Attendance at UPR hearing before UN Human Rights Council
- .Media

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Impact of Public Engagement

- Progression of legal and policy reform
- Holding government to account
- Higher level of engagement in next UPR cycle and with other human rights mechanisms
- Human rights discourse advanced
- Rights holders empowered

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What next for Ireland's UPR?

- Implementation is key
- Involvement of civil society
- Returning to communities around the country
- Developing further and deeper participation
- Interim report due in October 2013

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