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Ratifications/Accessions: 182 Signatories\*: 164 Ratifications/Accessions: 96 Signatories\*: 94 (\* Signatories include countries or regional integration organizations that have signed the Convention and its Optional Protocol) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (A/RES/61/106) was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the Convention. This is the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day. It is the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century and is the first human rights convention to be open for signature by regional integration organizations. The Convention entered into force on 3 May 2008. The Convention follows decades of work by the United Nations to change attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. It takes to a new height the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as "objects" of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as "subjects" with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society. The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension. It adopts a broad categorization of persons with disabilities and reaffirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It clarifies and qualifies how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and identifies areas where adaptations have to be made for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights and areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced. The Convention was negotiated during eight sessions of an Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly from 2002 to 2006, making it the fastest negotiated human rights treaty. Full text of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Other translations \* Sign Language\* Easy read versions\* Other related publications CRPD Training Guide – PDF (OHCHR, 2014) \* These non-official versions of the Convention are provided by other sources and are for informational purposes only; they do not constitute endorsement of, or an approval by, the United Nations of any of the text or products, services, or opinions of the organization or individual. The United Nations bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of their statements and opinions. Preamble Article 1 – Purpose Article 2 – Definitions Article 3 – General principles Article 4 – General obligations Article 5 – Equality and non-discrimination Article 6 – Women with disabilities Article 7 – Children with disabilities Article 8 – Awareness-raising Article 9 – Accessibility Article 10 – Right to life Article 11 – Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies Article 12 – Equal recognition before the law Article 13 – Access to justice Article 14 – Liberty and security of person Article 15 – Freedom of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment Article 16 – Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse Article 17 – Protecting the integrity of the person Article 18 – Liberty of movement and nationality Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community Article 20 – Personal mobility Article 21 – Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information Article 22 – Respect for privacy Article 23 – Respect for home and the family Article 24 – Education Article 25 – Health Article 26 – Habilitation and rehabilitation Article 27 – Work and employment Article 28 – Adequate standard of living and social protection Article 29 – Participation in political and public life Article 30 – Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport Article 31 – Statistics and data collection Article 32 – International cooperation Article 33 – National implementation and monitoring Article 34 – Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 35 – Reports by States Parties Article 36 – Consideration of reports Article 37 – Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee Article 38 – Relationship of the Committee with other bodies Article 39 – Report of the Committee Article 40 – Conference of States Parties Article 41 – Depositary Article 42 – Signature Article 43 – Consent to be bound Article 44 – Regional integration organizations Article 45 – Entry into force Article 46 – Reservations Article 47 – Amendments Article 48 – Denunciation Article 49 – Accessible format Article 50 – Authentic texts The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (A/RES/61/106) was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There are currently 177 ratifications to the CRPD and 92 ratifications to its Optional Protocol. The CRPD is a landmark international treaty. It is a comprehensive human rights convention and international development tool, and is at the heart of the disability rights movement. Read the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in the UN languages, and other translations. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2006. Ireland signed the Convention in 2007 and further to its ratification in March 2018 it enters into force from 19 April 2018. The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. It applies established human rights principles from the UN Declaration on Human Rights to the situation of people with disabilities. It covers civil and political rights to equal treatment and freedom from discrimination, and social and economic rights in areas like education, health care, employment and transport. States which ratify the UN Convention commit themselves to delivering civil and political rights to people with disabilities, and to progressive realisation of social and economic rights. While Ireland has been working to ensure domestic legislation is put in place to ensure the State can meet the obligations it assumes under the terms of the UNCRPD, there are a range of national strategies and programmes in place to advance the implementation of the Convention's provisions, including to empower persons with disabilities to live self-directed lives of their own choosing. Basic civil and political rights for all are guaranteed under the Constitution. Ireland's extensive suite of equality legislation outlaws discrimination, and successive iterations of the National Disability Strategy have set out an approach of progressive realisation of the aims of the Convention, working to resolve many social and economic issues. Other national policies and strategies include the Comprehensive Employment Strategy, the Transforming Lives programme, a Vision for Change and the National Housing Strategy for Persons with Disabilities. Prior to ratification, the National Disability Authority worked closely with departments and agencies to identify areas of policy and practice requiring specific attention and to guide on what needed to be done to prepare for ratification. We have also worked closely to support and advise on the implementation of the national strategies and programmes which together can support the progressive realisation of the rights enshrined in the UNCRPD. Under section 3 of the Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 the National Disability Authority will be granted a statutory role to provide information and advice to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in its role as the official monitoring body for Ireland's compliance with the Convention. The NDA's work in this regard will include the development and provision of statistical information to assist the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in its review of the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice in the State relating to the protection of persons with disabilities. The Government formally ratified the Convention in 2018 and it entered into force on 19 April 2018. The NDA looks forward to continuing its work to inform and support the development and implementation of policy to realise the rights enshrined in the Convention, and to progress Ireland's journey towards equal participation of persons with disabilities in our society. More information on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities The United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) says that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The UNCRPD requires change, from viewing people with disabilities as receivers of charity, medical treatment, and social protection to viewing people with disabilities as people with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights, people who are capable of making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent and people who are capable of being active members of society. The UNCRPD identifies 26 important rights that impact the lives of persons with disabilities. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and came into force in 2008. Our mission is to champion the rights of people with an intellectual disability in Ireland through securing the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Equality and non-discrimination – The right to enjoy equal protection and benefit of the law (article 5) Women with disabilities – The right of women with disabilities to full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms (article 6) Children with disabilities – Children with disabilities enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children (article 7) Awareness-raising – A commitment by the state to raising awareness, to encourage respect for the rights and dignity of the person, to combat stereotypes and to promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities (article 8) Accessibility – So that people with disabilities can live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life. Accessible – Buildings – Roads – Transport – Schools – Hospitals – Workplaces – Businesses – Services – Public spaces – Information – Communication systems -Technology (article 9) Right to life – "Every human being has the inherent right to life, and we shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others." (article 10) Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies – In times of risk, conflict, emergency or natural disaster, all necessary measures are taken to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities. (article 11) Equal recognition before the law – A right to recognition as persons before the law, to enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others, to own property and to control their financial affairs, with safeguards to prevent abuse (article 12) Access to justice – A right to effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others with appropriate accommodations in all legal proceedings and training for those working in the field of administration of justice (article 13) Liberty and security of the person – The right to liberty and security on an equal basis with others – "The existence of a disability shall not justify a deprivation of liberty." (article 14) Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment – No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. This is a right for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others. (article 15) Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse – Persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, shall be protected from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse. Protection includes providing information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. All services to persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities. (article 16) Protecting the integrity of the person – A right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others (article 17) Liberty of movement and nationality – The right to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others (article 18) Living independently and being included in the community – The right to live in the community, be included and participate in the community, the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live, with support and responsive community services (article 19) Personal mobility – Ensuring personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, in the manner and at the time of their choice and at affordable cost (article 20) Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information – The right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to look for, receive and pass on information and ideas. (article 21) Respect for privacy – The right to the protection of the law against arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. (article 22) Respect for home and the family – On an equal basis with others, the right to marry and found a family, decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and access to reproductive and family planning education and to retain their fertility. Respect for home and family also includes the right to services and support to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect, and segregation of children with disabilities. A child shall not be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents. (article 23) Education – The right of persons with disabilities to education without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity and the right to an inclusive education system at all levels, in the communities in which they live, and lifelong learning (article 24) Health – We recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. We shall: Provide the same range, quality, and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons. Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, all as close as possible to people's own communities. Provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent. Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance and prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability. (article 25) Habilitation and rehabilitation – The right to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life through comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services. (article 26) Work and employment – Recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and a work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. We shall: Have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services, vocational and continuing training. Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace. Ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour (article 27) Adequate standard of living and social protection – the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The right to social protection without discrimination on the basis of disability. Equal access to clean water services, appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs, social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes, public housing programmes and retirement benefits and programmes. For persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty we must ensure access to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, adequate training, counselling, financial assistance, and respite care. (article 28) Participation in political and public life – A guarantee of political rights and the opportunity to enjoy on an equal basis with others. This includes the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected and the right to participate in non-governmental organizations and associations and political parties. (article 29) Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport – The right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life including access to cultural materials (TV, theatre etc.), participation to the fullest extent possible in mainstream sporting activities at all levels and an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities. (article 30) More Information Inclusion Ireland UNCRPD Leaflet For the full UNCRPD and more information visit the UNCRPD webpage To raise awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities we have developed a poster display with activity sheets for students. The project introduces the topic of the UNCRPD and encourages discussion and understanding. Students learn that human rights belong to everybody, that children and adults with disability should enjoy the same rights as everyone else and that we should never have to choose between human rights. The completed work is signed off by the supervising teacher or group leader. A certificate of completion will be awarded to each student. To take part or for more information about this project please contact Inclusion Ireland at [info@inclusionireland.ie](mailto:info@inclusionireland.ie)

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