



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Consultation on the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Strategy Statement 2025-2027

[Invitation for Submissions](#)



Introduction

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (the Commission) would like to invite you to make a contribution to our consultation process for our new Strategy Statement 2025-2027. This will be our fourth Strategy Statement.

Consultation with Individuals and Stakeholders

We are inviting submissions from people (rights-holders), civil society groups, public bodies and other stakeholders working to eliminate discrimination, and promote and protect human rights and equality. Your contributions will spotlight issues that you believe we should take into account when we are developing our strategic priorities for the next three years.

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 sets out our role to promote and protect human rights, equality and respect for intercultural understanding in Ireland. Our vision is of an inclusive Ireland where human rights and equality are respected.

Under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 (the Act), the overall functions of the Commission are to:

- (a) protect and promote human rights and equality;
- (b) encourage the development of a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding in the State;
- (c) promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights and equality in the State;
- (d) encourage good practice in intercultural relations, to promote tolerance and acceptance of diversity in the State and respect for the freedom and dignity of each person; and
- (e) work towards the elimination of human rights abuses, discrimination and prohibited conduct.

Section 42 of the Act sets out the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. The Duty places a statutory obligation on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity



and protect the human rights of those to whom they provide services and staff when carrying out their daily work. The Commission gives guidance to them to develop policies and good practice based on human rights and equality standards.

The Act provides the framework for the Commission's next Strategy Statement 2025 - 2027.

How can I make a submission?

You can use this form to make a written submission. You can [send your views to us by email](#) or post using this form.

There are four sections to complete in this form:

1. [Group or Organisation Background](#)(only for representatives of groups or organisations)
2. [Context for the Commission's work over the next three years](#)
3. [Performance of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission](#)
4. [Achieving change](#)

If you would like to make a video submission, please visit our website for information on how to submit a video.

The closing date for submissions is **Wednesday 27 March 2024**.



How we will use your information

Your submissions will only be shared internally and with our appointed consultants to inform the development of the next Strategy Statement. Your submissions will not be circulated outside of the Commission. The information provided will not be used for any other purpose. It will be securely stored and only kept for 12 months. We appreciate your time and valuable input to this consultation process.

Consent for use of information

I agree that the information I provide may be used for the purposes outlined above and in accordance with our [Data Protection Information Notice](#).

I do not agree that the information I provide may be used for the purposes outlined above and in accordance with our [Data Protection Information Notice](#).

Please note, if you do not agree, we cannot use your information and you should not complete and submit this form.



Section 1: Group or Organisation Background

Please only fill out this section if you are representing a group or organisation

What is the name of your group or organisation?

PSI- The Pharmacy regulator

Which category or categories does your group or organisation's human rights and equality work relate to?

Please select one or more of the following options:

- Age
- Disability
- Civil status
- Family status (including lone parents and carers)
- Gender (including a transgender person or a person who is transitioning to another gender)
- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Traveller community
- Housing Assistance
- People experiencing or at risk poverty and social exclusion
- People with a history of contact with the criminal justice system
- Other (please specify below)

Click or tap here to enter text.



Section 2: Context for the Commission's work over the next three years

We would like to understand your experience, or the experience of those you represent, so that it informs the human rights and equality context in which the Commission will work over the next three years.

What is going well for you (and/or your community / constituency you represent)?

Max 200 words

N/A

What are the challenges and barriers that you (and/or your community / constituency) face?

Max 300 words

N/A

What do you (and your community/ constituency) need to thrive – to have your human rights and equality protected?

Max 200 words

N/A



Section 3: Performance of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

We would like to understand how you perceive the Commission's performance over the past three years. Set out below are our current strategic priorities. We also encourage you to look at the full [2022-24 Strategy Statement](#) and our [Annual Report 2022](#).

Our Strategic Statement 2022-24 – Strategic Priorities:

1. Economic Equality

We will seek greater economic equality in housing, employment, income and for carers

2. Justice

We will defend access to justice and the rule of law in the international protection system, in the courts and in the use of public powers

3. Respect and Recognition

We will promote the eradication of racism, ableism, ageism and sexism through public understanding and State action

4. Future Proofing

We will respond to crises that threaten rights and equality, including the COVID-19 and climate change

5. Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

We will encourage, report on and enforce the compliance of public bodies, including engaging in consultation with rights holders directly and through civil society organisations towards the promotion of the Duty

What do you think our impact has been over the past three years?

What do you think were the successes? Were there gaps?

Where possible, please refer to a specific aspect of our work – i.e. our legal work; research; legislative and policy submissions; international reporting (e.g. to the UN); anti-human trafficking;



civil society engagement; grants programme; public awareness campaigns; public communication; and promotion of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty etc.

Max. 400 words

As a public body with a statutory obligation to meet the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and the regulator of pharmacies and pharmacists, PSI welcomes the opportunity to participate in this consultation from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) on your new Strategy Statement 2025-2027 and how you have performed in the previous strategy statement.

Looking at the annual report from 2022 it is clear to see that the commission did make progress in all 5 of the strategic priorities that it had set out to achieve. However, it is hard to define the impact over the three years of the strategy statement when there is currently only one annual report available to review from this period.

The successes of the objectives set out can clearly be seen in the report from the legal assistance that was provided to individuals throughout 2022. These legal cases touched on economic equality, justice, respect and recognition and Public sector Equality and Human rights duty.

One of the objectives which there would appear to be gaps on would be objective 4- Futureproofing. The Commission may be doing work to cover this objective but it would appear from the 2022 report that there has not yet been too much to report on.



Section 4: Achieving Change

We would like to understand how we could work effectively to fulfil our mandate and achieve change that will lead to the realisation of an inclusive Ireland where human rights and equality are respected.

What issues should we continue to address as a priority and build upon in our new Strategy Statement 2025-2027 and programme of work?

Max. 300 words

The ongoing work by the Commission looking at economic inequalities and eradication of racism, ableism, ageism and sexism we feel is vital to protecting human rights and equality, which is one of the statutory functions of the commission.

What emerging or other issues should we begin to address in our new Strategy Statement 2025-2027 and programme of work as a priority?

Max. 300 words

As Society continues to move into the digital age we feel it is important for the commission to recognise this. It is important to address new forms of discrimination and harassment in digital and online technology. It is also important as workspaces become more digital that there is no prejudice towards certain populations in the community.

How can we work with and support the further development of civil society as key actors in addressing discrimination and human rights infringements?

Max. 200 words

There may be merit in delivering training to civil society organisations to enhance their expertise on discrimination and human rights infringements.

What impact would you like to have seen from us by 2027?



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Max. 200 words

We would like to see the Commission continue to engage with public to ensure compliance with Public sector equality and human rights duty and how this should be reported

Thank you!



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How do you submit this form?

Please send your submission by 27 March 2024.

You can email this form to:

consultation@ihrec.ie

Please use the subject line: “Submission to IHREC 2025-2027 Strategy Statement Consultation”.

You can also post this form to us at:

Strategy Statement Consultation

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

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