



Inclusion Ireland

The National Association for People
with an Intellectual Disability.

The Optional Protocol to the UNCRPD



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is a set of rules that Governments can sign up to. These rules protect the rights of people with disabilities, making sure they are respected, treated fairly and get the same chances as everyone else.



When they sign up to the UNCRPD they promise that the systems and laws in their country will work in the way that the convention says is right. There is a special committee that watches how the UNCRPD is followed in each country. This is called the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The Optional Protocol to the UNCRPD is an extra promise that countries can sign up to. It enables individuals and groups to make a complaint to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities if they feel that their rights are not being respected.



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The Committee will look at the laws and systems in their country and decide if they are respecting their rights under the UNCRPD. To do this they must have already tried to fix the problem through their own country's complaints or justice system such as the Ombudsman or the courts in Ireland.



Disabled people in Ireland have called for the government to sign the Optional Protocol for many years. The protocol is an important way for people with disabilities to speak out if they see their rights are not respected. The Irish government told us on 8th October 2024, that they will be signing the Protocol very soon.



To learn more about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities check out our website at www.inclusionireland.ie