



Inclusion Ireland

The National Association for People
with an Intellectual Disability.

Disability Rights in Ireland: What the UN Is Saying

An Easy Read Guide from Inclusion Ireland



What's Happening?



United Nations

The **United Nations** (or '**UN**' for short) checks how countries treat disabled people.



Ireland is being checked on how it respects the rights of disabled people.



A **right** is something that everyone should have, no matter who they are.

Rights help you:

- Be safe
- Be treated fairly
- Make choices about your own life

List of Issues

- Education?
- Independent Living?
- Cost of Disability?



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The UN has sent the Irish Government a list of questions about disabled people's rights.

This is called a **List of Issues**.



Inclusion Ireland

The National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability.



Inclusion Ireland welcomes the UN asking these questions.

What does the List of Issues Say?



The UN says there are big gaps between:

- What the Government promises.
- What life is really like for people with intellectual disabilities.



Many of the UN's questions match what:

- People with intellectual disabilities.
 - Families.
 - Self-advocates, and
- Inclusion Ireland have been saying this for a long time.

Living in the Community



Everyone has the right to live in the community and independently.

This means:

- Choosing where you live.
- Choosing who you live with, and
- Getting the supports you need.



Many people with intellectual disabilities:

- Live in large group homes.
- Or live with family because there is no other choice.



This is not real choice or independent living.

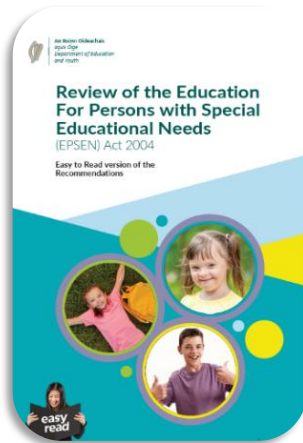


Nearly 1 in 4 disabled people still live in big group settings.

The UN is asking the Government:

- Why is this still happening?
- When will it change?

Inclusive Education



School children with intellectual disabilities have the right to learn with non-disabled peers.

The Government has said the education system needs to change to make this happen.



But:

- Children do not have clear rights to supports.
- Families cannot appeal when things go wrong.
- There is no clear plan or timeline.

This means many children are still left out of school life.

Keeping People Safe



The UN is very concerned about disabled people's safety. This is called **safeguarding**.

It mentions **the Grace case**, where a woman with an intellectual disability was badly harmed.

This shows what can happen when systems fail.



People with intellectual disabilities may be at higher risk of harm because:

- They are not listened to.
- They do not have an advocate.
- Services are not checked properly.



**Adult
Safeguarding
Bill**

The UN says Ireland needs strong safeguarding laws that stop harm before it happens.

Cost of Disability and Money



Living with a disability costs more.

Disabled people often pay extra for:

- Transport
- Therapies
- Extra supports



Inclusion Ireland asked people about this for our 2026 Pre-Budget Submission.



We found out that **nearly 8 in 10 families** said these costs have a **big impact on their budget.**

Many adults with intellectual disabilities say social welfare payments are not enough.



The UN says the Government must act.

This includes bringing in a **cost of disability payment**.

A cost of disability payment is extra money from the Government. It would help disabled people pay for extra costs, like transport and care.

What Inclusion Ireland is saying



Inclusion Ireland is calling on the Government to:

- Take the UN's questions seriously.
- Set out clear actions that it will do and when.
- Be open and accountable.



People with intellectual disabilities deserve:

- Rights
- Choice
- Safety
- Support
- and dignity

How to Get in Touch



You may have some questions about what's in this document.

If you would like to:

- Learn more about this guide.
- Ask questions about the List of Issues.



You can email us at
info@inclusionireland.ie



You can also visit our website
www.inclusionireland.ie



You can also call our office at
+353 (0)1 855 9891.