



**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.

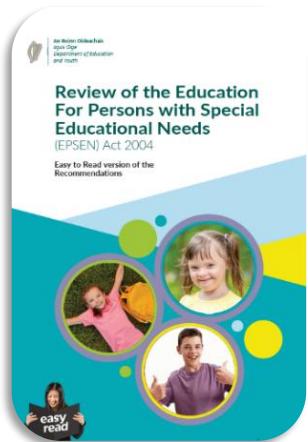


Nearly 1 in 4 disabled people still live in big group settings.

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.

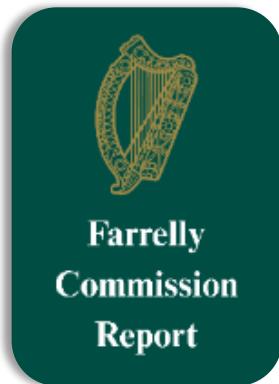


But:

- 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



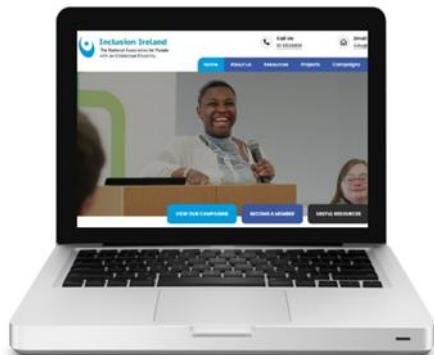
You may have some questions about what's in this document.

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](mailto:info@inclusionireland.ie)



You can also visit our website  
[www.inclusionireland.ie](http://www.inclusionireland.ie)



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