

What's new?

Weekly update for CIL network

National Affairs Update

Equality and Rights Alliance (ERA) Update

Nine grounds for discrimination – Nov. 11 - 20

For nine days, from November 11 to November 20, which is the day that the Finance Bill is presented to the Dáil, organisations gathered under ERA will be sending a designed and themed email to all TDs, Senators and MEPs.

Dáil gathering – Nov. 13

The Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform will be before the Dáil for questioning on November 13th. Opposition spokespeople will have submitted questions for oral answer on this day. ERA is planning to have a group protest outside the Dáil on this day. It is likely that this will take place in the morning. TDs will be going into the house for 10:30 a.m.

Petition

ERA will be starting a petition. Signatures will be gathered in writing and via the website.

People's Tribunal – December 1

It is planned to have a People's Tribunal on or around December 10, International Human Rights Day and the 60th anniversary of the UDHR. Traditionally people's tribunals are used to allow people to testify against human rights abuses. As somebody pointed out, the dismantling of an equality and human rights infrastructure in a country like Zimbabwe would be met with outcry. In Ireland, it can be packaged as budgetary rationalisation. So, in many ways it is an abuse of our human rights.

Charities Bill update

The 4th (Report) Stage of the Charities Bill concluded on Wednesday 5th November 2008 when the Bill in its entirety was also passed at 5th Stage. The Bill will now move to the Seanad for consideration there. If no amendments are accepted in the Seanad, then the Bill, on conclusion of its passage, will go to the President to be signed into law. Following enactment, the provisions will then be commenced in stages (establishing the regulator, setting up a register of charities, reporting etc.).

The Wheel reported on some key points included in the bill:

Organisations that promote a political cause that is directly related to the advancement of their charitable purpose will be able to register as charities

This is a big improvement on the original treatment where there was a clear possibility that organisations that promoted a political cause would be excluded from being charities.

The Promotion of Human Rights is not included as a charitable purpose

Unfortunately, amendments proposed by Fine Gael and Labour to include the advancement of human rights were defeated by a vote. The Minister noted however that the Bill was not intended to expand the list of charitable purposes currently recognised by the Revenue Commissioners and that the *Promotion of Human Rights* is not currently recognised as being a charitable purpose. In addition, the Minister reported that all charities currently recognised by the Revenue Commissioners that work in the *Human Rights* field would be automatically included in the new register of charities (see immediately below).

The promotion of Environmental Sustainability is included as a charitable purpose

This is a welcome development as there was no reference to working to address environmental issues in the original Bill.

All organisations currently recognised by the Revenue Commissioners as charities (i.e. with CHY numbers) will be included automatically in the new register when it is established

We welcome this practical solution that will remove any concerns that existing charities might have about whether they will be included in the new Register. This provision will enable organisations that have been awarded charitable tax exemptions by the Revenue Commissioners to be deemed to be registered until their charitable credentials can in time be endorsed by the Regulator.

The Companies Registration Office will automatically forward the annual returns made by charities-that-are-companies to the Charities Regulator (so there will be no *dual filing* for corporate charities)

This is a welcome contribution to reducing to a minimum the additional reporting-burden that will result from the introduction of regulation. Please note, however, that *charities that are companies, and that are not required to attach financial returns to their annual return under company law, will be required to send them to the Charities Regulator with the required Annual Activity Report*. The Annual Activity Report will be a requirement for *all* charities. All other charities (i.e charities that are not companies) will have to supply financial statements to the Charities Regulator together with their Annual Activity Report.

It will be an offence for an organisation that is not a registered charity to describe itself in terms that would cause the public to believe that it is a charity

The Wheel has argued for the need to ensure that organisations that *purport* to be charities, but are not charities, (such as bogus second hand clothes collectors or other bogus charities) should not be able to continue their activities after the Bill is enacted. We are happy to report that this amendment will make it an offence for an organisation (other than a registered charitable organisation) to publish materials i.e. notices, advertisements, promotional material or any other publications *describing itself or its activities in such terms as would cause members of the public to reasonably believe that it is a*

charitable organisation. This should put an end to the activities of bogus clothing collectors etc.

A charity will be permitted to remunerate a trustee/s for providing a service for it as long as that service does not relate to the performance of their duty as a Trustee

Many charities have skilled or professionally qualified trustees who would be willing to provide a service for a charity at a reduced rate, thus saving the charity money. Charities are currently prohibited from making payments of any description to trustees. Following this amendment, charities will be permitted to make such payments - so long as they are reasonable and proportionate - for services carried out by trustees *that are not related to their duties as a Trustee*. Please note that trustees must never be paid for performing their role, as trustees - and this will remain the same in future. It is proposed that the charity's trustees must be satisfied that such a payment would be in the best interests of the charity and where there is only one charity trustee that person must have the approval of the Charity Regulator before proceeding. This section does not apply to employees - who will continue to be prohibited from being trustees.

Charities will be permitted to indemnify trustees from charitable funds

Charities will now be able to indemnify their trustees out of charitable funds for any act done, or omitted from being done, in good faith and in the performance of his or her functions as a charity trustee.

There will be no requirement for foreign-based charities to have a registered place of business in Ireland prior to their registering with the Regulator

There were many other amendments of a technical nature agreed during the 4th Stage of the Bill and we have restricted ourselves to advising on the most significant issues where we had sought changes.

For more information regarding the Charities Bill please contact Ivan Cooper at 01-454 8727 or by emailing ivan@wheel.ie.

European Affairs Update

Job Opportunities for Visually Impaired in France

Strong job prospects now await the visually impaired in the growing Beauty and Well Being sector in France. For the first time, the Thalgo Training School opens its doors to visually impaired students who will earn the same professional degree as their sighted peers. Facials, full body treatments, nail beauty, cosmetic care and perfumery are some of the subjects covered in the Beauty and Cosmetics course. The opening of this degree to visually impaired students is the result of a collaborative initiative involving several French key players in the area of job inclusion. Further information from Virginie Forest, virginie.forest.pro@gmail.com

International News

UN Convention

On Monday 3rd November 2008 the first Conference of States Parties on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) elected the new Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which will be in charge of monitoring the implementation of the CRPD. The Committee comprises seven men and five women, of which nine are persons with disabilities. The twelve Committee members elected are:

Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (Bangladesh) (4-year term)
Amna Ali Al Suweidi (Qatar) (4-year term)
György Könczei (Hungary) (2-year term)
Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain) (4-year term)
Cveto Uršic (Slovenia) (2-year term)
Jia Yang (China) (4-year term)
Mohamed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan) (4-year term)
Ron McCallum (Australia) (2-year term)
Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chile) (4-year term)
Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador) (2-year term)
Lotfi Ben Lallohom (Tunisia) (2-year term)
Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya) (2-year term)

CIL News

Offaly Leader

Offaly CIL published third issue (Autumn 2008) of Offaly Leader – newsletter for local Leaders (Co. Offaly & Co. Laois). If you would like to obtain a copy – please contact Barбора at 01-8730455 (barborakorandova@dublincil.org) or Sarah at 057-9322832 (sarah@ocil.ie)

NAG

National Advisory Group on Independent Living will be holding the next meeting on Monday 10th November 2008. The group is working on the evaluation of Strategic Plan 2005-2007 and on creation of a new strategy for next couple of years.

CIL Network Council

The next CIL Network Council Officers' meeting will be held on Friday 28th November 2008 in Longford. The officers will meet together with Michael McCabe (Chairperson of CIL Carmichael House) to discuss the outcomes of the last Council meeting in Tullamore.

Resources:

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

IDA is an international network representing the following organisations: Disabled Peoples' International, Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, Rehabilitation International, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the Deafblind, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum. IDA was formed in 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa, with the aim of being a spokesperson for the international disability movement in global policy matters and of facilitating co-operation and exchanges of information between the international disability organisations, primarily in relation to multilateral organisations. IDA runs an online forum that you can join – have a look at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IDA_CRPD_Forum/. For more information on International Disability Alliance please visit the following website: <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/index.html>

American Online Career Portal

GettingHired.com is an interesting job/career site focused on people with disabilities "Where people with disabilities gather, network, and find success in the workplace with enlightened employers." The site includes resume-posting for job seekers and job-posting for employers. See: <http://www.gettinghired.com>

Assistive Technology

IntelliSwitch is the leading wireless or wired switch interface for Windows or Macintosh. Product is compatible with any Macintosh or Windows®-based computer with a USB port (Mouse Input Compatibility: USB). The product provides accessibility solution for people with Cerebral Palsy, Learning Disabilities and Mobility Impairment.

Manufacturer Information: [Madentec Limited](#)

Upcoming Events

National

PWDI – Rathdown Dun Laoghaire Network Meeting

The next meeting of this group will take on Thursday, 13th November 2008 at 7.30pm in the Stillorgan Park Hotel. To participate or to learn more about PWDI please contact Barbora at 01-8730455 (barborakorandova@dublincil.org) or Dermot Hayes at 087-9038002 (hayes.ennis@eircom.net).

International

Conference of the National Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow", Ottawa, ON ~ November 14 - 16, 2008

This year's event will be an exciting opportunity for students, consumer advocates, service providers, employers and all others interested in exploring key issues of equal access to post-secondary education and employment for students and graduates with disabilities. More information here: <http://www.neads.ca/conference2008/en>

ATIA 2009 "Showcasing Excellence in Assistive Technology", Orlando, FL ~ January 28 - 31, 2009

ATIA 2009 Orlando marks the 10th Annual conference and promises to offer the best Assistive Technology education and networking opportunities in the industry. The ATIA Conference features the latest products and services, showcasing more than 125 exhibitors in one of the most comprehensive exhibitions in the industry. More information here: <http://www.atia.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3280>

i-CREATe Convention – 22nd – 26th April 2009 - Singapore

The theme "Accessible Tourism" promotes accessibility for all with the adoption of universal design, where Assistive technologies will be used and introduced in the environment to improve accessible tourism. There will also be a 3 days exhibition running alongside with the conference and will be opened to trade and public and the 2nd instalment of the Student Design Challenge will also be featured in this event. For more information go to: http://icreate.start-centre.com/icreate2009/downloads/CFP2009_17102008.pdf

Implementing the Digital Accessibility Agenda of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Challenges and Opportunities for Signatory States

This seminar is co-organized by UNITAR and G3ict, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs in co-operation with the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) and the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The seminar will be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, in Conference Room 4 (tbc), on 3 December 2008 from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

21 - 23 November 2008, MADRID (Spain) - TIFLOINNOVA - International Exhibition of Assistive Technology for People with Visual Disabilities

Organised by ONCE-CIDAT, this year's edition will display the latest products and trends within the world market of Assistive technology for blind and partially-sighted people. More information can be obtained at the following website: <http://tifloinnova2008.once.es/index.cfm?idi=ing>

20 - 23 April 2009, WROCLOW (Poland) - Conference and Workshop on Assistive Technologies for People with Vision and Hearing Impairments: Past Successes and Future Challenges

This is the sixth event in the CVHI international conference series on Assistive Technologies and Rehabilitation Engineering supported by the European Commission. CVHI is part of the CWST project, <http://cwst.icchp.org>. Topics will deal with the engineering and scientific aspects of Assistive technology for sensory impaired people. Information soon available from: www.elec.gla.ac.uk/Events_page/CVHI/cvhi

Publications

Equality Authority

In October 2008 the Equality Authority published the following publication: The Role and Aspirations of the Non-Governmental Sector in Articulating and Representing the Interests of Groups Experiencing Inequality. If you would like to get a copy, please contact Barbora at 01-8730455 (barborakorandova@dublincil.org)

Direct – November 2008

The latest issue of a newsletter published by Hampshire Center for Independent Living is available in CIL Carmichael House office. The newsletter is informing Leaders receiving Direct Payments in UK on topics such as UK Government proposal to change Social Care, advantages of Individual Budgets, Community Law advice centres and more. If you would like to receive a copy please contact Barbora at 01-8730455 or by emailing barborakorandova@dublincil.org

Training

Effective Surveys and Questionnaires

The Consultation Institute is running training in Belfast on 3rd December 2008. The training will focus on planning surveys and questionnaires, layout and design, e-questionnaires and how to deal with collected data. For more information contact Martin Woodrow at 0044-1414-160790 or by emailing martin@consultationinstitute.org

Business Writing Skills – Carmichael Centre – Dublin 7

On Thursday 13th November the training above will take place in Carmichael Centre in Dublin. The course is aiming to help participants to adapt their writing to their readers' needs, to use language effectively to get their message across and to identify and correct basic punctuation and grammatical errors. This training is suitable for everybody who is producing reports or any other business documents. For more details or to book your place please contact Derek O'Reilly at 01-8735285 or by emailing derekoreilly@carmichaelcentre.ie

Enhancing Communications for your Organisation (Advanced)

[Carmelite Community Centre](#), Aungier Street, Dublin 2.
18th November 2008, 9:15 am-1.00pm. (Questions and networking 12.30pm - 1.00pm)

Registration from 9:00am. This training is organized by the Wheel and is aiming to explore themes such as messaging, crisis management, relationship marketing, communications opportunities on the Internet, audience segmentation and integrated campaigning. For more information or to book your place please contact the Wheel at 01-454 8727 or by emailing info@wheel.ie

Culture

Everybody Loves Sylvia

By Pierre De Marivaux

VENUE | Project Arts Centre, The Cube (wheelchair accessible)

PREVIEWS | 20, 21, 22 November (tickets for €12.00 – just quote: Sylvia preview offer when booking your tickets)

OPENS | 24 November

RUNS UNTIL | 6 December

TICKETS | €18 /€14

BOOKING | Project Arts Centre (01) 881 9613 or online at www.project.ie

Adaptation of French classic boulevard comedy.

Ouch!

Ouch! is a website from the BBC that reflects the lives and experiences of disabled people. It has articles, blogs, a very busy message board and an award-winning downloadable radio show - The Ouch Podcast). It's aimed at those with a stakehold in disability: family, friends, professionals and, rather importantly, disabled people themselves - without whom all this would be a bit meaningless.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/>

Belgium Theatres – Audio-description of Plays

Audio-description was launched for the first time in amateur and professional theatres by the Brussels Association of Amateur Theatres (ABCD) on 4 October 2008. About 20 different plays, amounting to more than 40 performances, will be offered in audio-description in French-speaking Belgium during the 2008-2009 theatre season. A training scheme in live audio-description for the performing arts was developed in 2007 by the project coordinator Christine Welche and a professional actor Cedric Juliens. 12 audio-describers have been trained so far. 13 plays were audio-described as part of the training scheme with the support of various theatre companies in Brussels.

Further information from Christine Welche audio-description@abcd-theatre.be or on the website <http://www.abcd-theatre.be/textes/audio-description.html> .

**IF THERE IS ANYTHING RELEVANT YOU
OR YOUR ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE
TO SHARE WITH THE NETWORK, PLEASE
EMAIL BARBORA AT
barborakorandova@dublincil.org**