

What's new?

Weekly update for CIL network

National Affairs Update

Dublin Bus

In 2000 Dublin Bus introduced low floor buses, which had a safety pole in the wheelchair area. Following the number of complaints by wheelchair users Dublin bus replaced the safety pole with an electronic arm. While Dublin bus acknowledges that there are problems with both, all Dublin buses must comply with the UK safety standards. For this reason all buses must have either the bar or the electronic arm.

Dermot Walsh – Disability Consultant with Dublin Bus - would like your feedback on this. What are your preferences and for what reason? Email: dermotwalsh@eircom.net

Assist Ireland – Website Usability Test

Assist Ireland under the Citizens Information Board would like to test their upgraded website – whether it is user-friendly or not. The test itself takes 10 minutes and assistance over the phone is available upon request. The audience to test the website – people with disabilities, older people, carers and health care professionals.

If you would be interested in participation in the test – please contact Barbora at 01-8730455 / barborakorandova@dublincil.org

Charities Bill Update

The Charities Bill has now moved from the Dail to the Seanad and that the 2nd Stage Seanad debate took place on Wednesday 26th November. The next stage - 3rd Committee Stage - is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 2nd December. The main issues that arose during the Seanad debate are noted below (the full debate can be read at <http://debates.oireachtas.ie/DDebate.aspx?F=SEN20081126.xml&Node=H4#H4>)

The absence of provisions on the promotion and advancement of human rights

Senators argued strongly for the inclusion of the promotion and advancement of human rights as a charitable purpose. The Minister noted that the Bill is seeking neither to narrow nor broaden the charitable purposes that have emerged through case law over the years. He went on to say that the charitable purposes, in section 3 of the Bill, mirror those changes that have developed in common law over many years and have been used by Revenue in considering eligibility for tax exemptions. The Minister also noted that while the express term "human rights" may not be there, many of the issues are, such as the advancement of conflict resolution and reconciliation, the integration of those who are disadvantaged and the promotion of their full participation in society.

The Sealed Collection Box Requirement

The difficulties that will be posed by the proposed "sealed collection box" requirement for charities that fundraise by selling a token for fixed price (such as daffodils on daffodil day) and whose collectors have to "make change" for donors (rather than simply accepting a cash donation of any amount into a sealed box). The Minister noted that he was aware that many charities collect by selling fixed-price emblems, badges or tokens and that his officials are engaging with legal advisers on how we might deal with this issue. The Minister also noted that we do not want to undermine confidence and return to open bucket collections.

That the promotion of amateur sport should be included as a charitable purpose:

Some senators noted that such status would be important for sporting organisations because failure to allow it will prevent sporting organisations from accessing various fundraising streams, including philanthropy, legacy giving, charitable bequests and so on, and exclude them from many soft benefits associated with charitable status, including eligibility for grants and corporate social responsibility programmes. The Minister also noted that in the public consultation process on the Charities Bill the issue of sporting bodies attracting charitable status did not emerge as a matter of concern to any great extent. He also drew attention to the fact that the Revenue Commissioners operate a special scheme of tax-reliefs for sporting bodies and noted that regulation of sporting bodies, as charities would impose additional regulation and scrutiny on those organisations.

The issue of bogus (pre-signed) mass cards.

Many senators made the point that the Bill should make it compulsory for shops that sell mass cards to display charity registration numbers to halt the sale of bogus pre-signed mass cards - a sale which is costing charities a great deal of lost income every year. The Minister noted that he was aware of the issue and that he is taking legal advice on whether it is possible to make provision in the Charities Bill to control the practice of selling pre-signed mass cards in retail outlets.

If you would like any further information on any of the above, please contact Ivan Cooper, Director of Advocacy with the Wheel at ivan@wheel.ie

Combat Poverty Agency

Combat Poverty Agency is currently developing a monitoring report on poverty and social exclusion. The aim of the report is to give a comprehensive overview of trends in poverty and social exclusion by combining EU common indicators of social protection and social inclusion with a set of national-specific indicators. It is intended the report will be updated on a periodic basis. A consultation process with stakeholders on data sources, data gaps, social indicators for inclusion in the report and their desegregation has recently begun. The consultation document including an explanatory note and questionnaire is available to download from Combat Poverty's website (doc file) at www.combatpoverty.ie/survey/2008-11_Questionnaire_PeriodicMonitoringReport.doc

Responses should be forwarded to Joanne Mulholland - joanne.mulholland@combatpoverty.ie or Niamh Kirwan - niamh.kirwan@combatpoverty.ie as soon as possible and not later than 12 December 2008. For further information, contact Joanne Mulholland at 01 – 6026633 or Niamh Kirwan at 01 – 6026636.

European Affairs Update

UK – Social workers allowed to invade disabled people's homes?

Department of Health in UK published a review "No Secrets - guidance on protecting adults in vulnerable situations from crime and abuse". The review was put together with the help of an advisory board of 44 people – professionals, charity representatives and academics, but not one representative of groups run by people with learning difficulties. And there was not a single person with learning difficulties at a Commons launch of the three-month consultation on the review.

A new coalition of non user-led charities, headed by Action on Elder Abuse, announced a campaign for new laws – raised as an option in the review – that would allow social workers to break into the homes of "vulnerable" disabled people if they thought they were being harmed. The call has sparked fierce opposition from disabled people. James Elder-Woodward, chair of Scope's

Independent Living Zone, urged the government not to copy the mistakes of the Scottish Government, which introduced similar laws. He says the emphasis should instead be on empowering disabled people to deal with risk, and developing public awareness of disabled people's value to society.

John Horan, a disabled human rights lawyer, said such legislation would breach international human rights laws, and the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Sue Bott, director of the National Centre for Independent Living, said she would talk to the new coalition as there was a "difficult balance to strike" between ensuring disabled people are not taken advantage of, and not giving agencies a license to interfere in their lives.

Andy Rickell – UK Disability Rights Activist – UK Needs a New Magna Carta

(From an article published by Disability Now!)

Freedom of Speech

This is usually thought of as having a right not to be stopped from speaking your views (except when speaking them is threatening). This right assumes you can communicate already, and therefore will cost the state nothing to provide. However, for disability equality, this needs re-thinking. Freedom of speech needs to be a positive right – it needs to also include the right to get the support to speak or otherwise communicate. This will cost the state more than it currently pays, given the number of disabled people who do not yet have the communication support they need.

The Right to Freedom of Movement

This is usually thought of as having a right not to be prevented from getting yourself from one place to another, including moving house. This right assumes you already have the personal mobility or access to transport and the wherewithal to obtain housing where you choose, and again therefore will cost the state nothing to provide. Again, for the sake of disability equality, this needs re-thinking. Freedom of movement needs to also include the positive rights to personal mobility aids, accessible and affordable transport, and an approach to living choices which provides both accessible housing and the right of access to state funding to pay for the costs of social support – housing, welfare benefits and social care – wherever someone chooses to live.

This is a far cry from the inaccessible housing stock, limited funding, and administrative barriers that disabled people currently face.

The right to equality before the law and access to justice are very important. Yet the route for a disabled person to enforce their legal rights depends on money that disabled people generally don't have, and the limited punishments for discriminatory behaviour are even laughed off by some. Worse, too many disabled people get a rough deal as the victims of crime or as defendants, particularly those with learning difficulties, and their testimony is not accepted or believed.

Christmas Shopping Difficulties – UK Experience

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/living/features/basket-cases>

David Morris (UK) – Taste of Freedom

“In terms of my impairment there was an assumption made that I'd turn into some sort of fat blob and actually needed to go on a diet. So I was put on this special table, separate from the rest of the school, called the diet table, and fed boiled fish and Hermesetas, which just wasn't appropriate for someone like me for whom eating's really important. If you didn't eat it you'd be forced to eat it cold. I absolutely recall at age seven or eight being sat down to a plate of cold processed peas from lunchtime and having to devour them individually with water. Processed peas are one food which I still cannot touch.”

Once free of the institution, gastronomic liberation came in an unlikely form.

“My first recollection in connection with food in a positive way was when I was 18, finding the ability to cook food – I think it was a Vesta curry – in the guise of independent living. I came from a background, which was very white, working class. Fish and chips, meat and two veg. But I remember things like fried mashed potato, cold meat and pickles. And that's all been slotted into my culinary pallet, very traditional, working class food that I've taken and worked with. I've developed a range of patés and worked with mashed potato. I make things like cottage pie. And fish. I recently cooked a fish dish with pesto.”

Recently working with another disabled chef, Morris took on the running of the food zone at London's Liberty disability arts festival, which he called The Blue Madonna Bistro. “We used 'liberty' as a concept, working with a range of disabled people to prepare, create and serve the food. It was an amazing day. The tent was crowded and we just about broke even. But it was hard, and at one stage we had to put up a notice which said: 'This restaurant is run by hopeless cripples and we need a rest!'”

As for the future, Morris is in early discussions with organisers of other events, with a view to reprising the Blue Madonna concept.

UK Emergency Call System & Pegasus

The emergency call system in UK (999) has nothing to help call-handlers distinguish between the genuine speech-impaired caller and one who is drunk or making a malicious call. The introduction of Minicom, Typetalk and SMS text facilities at emergency call centres has gone some way in improving 999 access for Deaf and some speech-impaired people. However, these solutions require literacy, manual dexterity and technical knowledge or are dependent on specific technologies not available away from home.

After looking at emergency call systems around the world, UK Campaigner Chris Channon has spent three years working closely with Nottinghamshire police developing his own solution to the problem. Pegasus is a secure database that contains the names, addresses and other information volunteered by people who would find it difficult to give this same information via the spoken word in a time of crisis.

Those registered with Pegasus are issued with a personal identification number (PIN) to use when making a call to the police. Once put through, the caller only needs to say "Pegasus" and their PIN. This enables the call-handler to access that person's details from the database. The caller is then asked to confirm their name. The call-handler can then quickly get on with dealing with the situation that prompted the call. The Pegasus PIN can also be shown or told to a police officer in person who can use the information on the database to offer assistance.

A Pegasus pilot scheme has been running since April, and will run until the beginning of 2009, when it will be evaluated – although Nottinghamshire police have said they will allow Pegasus to continue beyond that time. Pegasus will be unsuitable for some – but it has proved popular with those who can use it. At present eighty-one people are on the database and it has enabled a number of them to receive a more prompt and improved response.

For further information, email cyrr@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

UK - Dangerous Shared Surfaces

There is a growing trend by councils in UK to develop their town centres as "shared surfaces" – removing the kerb between the footpath and road, so pavements and roads are at the same level. This idea is supposed to reduce the dominance of vehicles and make streets more "people-friendly". But, as pedestrians and motorists are then expected to acknowledge each other through "eye contact", the idea is not very "friendly" for sight-impaired people.

Research by the charity Guide Dogs has shown that shared surfaces can seriously undermine the safety, confidence and independence of blind and partially sighted people. Carol Thomas, access and inclusion manager for Guide Dogs, said: “The kerb edge is fundamental to the mobility of blind and partially-sighted people, particularly guide dog-owners and long cane-users who are trained to use it as the key orientation cue in the street environment.”

Last year, more than 20 UK disability organisations released a statement saying that shared surfaces would be frightening and dangerous for many disabled and older people. Research commissioned by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) highlighted similar concerns about shared surfaces in home zones – residential streets with shared surfaces.

Despite these concerns, some UK local authorities are pressing ahead with “shared surface” projects.

More research on this issue has now been commissioned by the UK Department for Transport, and Guide Dogs is urging local authorities to stop implementing shared surfaces while the Department for Transport research is undertaken.

International

USA – Barack Obama’s policies around disability issues

Obama’s policies reflect what many disabled activists in USA have been calling for over many years. He was an early and consistent supporter of the Community Choice Act, which would force all states to provide Independent Living services, and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would extend federal hate crime laws to include disability hate crimes. The Hate Crimes act would also introduce tougher sentences for such crimes and the allocation of federal resources for their detection and prosecution. Most significantly on an international level, Obama has pledged to sign the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Add to this a pledge to strengthen the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provide full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which guarantees equality and inclusion in education and investment in early years education for disabled children in mainstream settings. Most important to many disabled people in USA is that Obama’s healthcare plan includes and protects people with pre-existing conditions. This would open up employment to disabled people and most importantly would mean they could be safe and secure in their future.

On the other hand it is Republicans who have passed some of the most significant legislation, such as the ADA (George Bush Senior) and Money Follows the Person, which meant disabled people could take the money it costs to live in an institution and use it to buy Independent Living services in the community (George W Bush). America has in the past been a beacon for the rest

of the world in developing independent living, passing the ADA and developing inclusive education. Obama's answer was interesting when he was asked which of his programmes would have to go in the light of the financial crisis. He said that nothing would have to go, but some of them might have to happen more slowly.

Accessible Africa

JJ Bezuidenhout and his wife Jennae decided two years ago to set up a company Access 2 Africa Safaris, to encourage those with accessibility challenges to visit Elephant Coast of South Africa and also to educate those in the hospitality and tourism industries. JJ is a wheelchair user himself. When he and his wife first moved into the area eight years ago, they found many local attractions were inaccessible, so they set about encouraging everyone they came across to be wheelchair-friendly. They had often stayed in places that claimed they had accessible bathrooms, even though JJ couldn't even get through the door.

There is huge investment in tourism in KwaZulu-Natal and many lodges and hotels are being upgraded, so the couple have urged them not to have just one accessible room, but four or five, paving the way for larger groups of wheelchair-users to visit. Most large tourist attractions are now accessible to wheelchair-users and other disabled travellers, thanks in part to the support of the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Association, which complies with the anti-discrimination and access laws introduced by the ANC government after it won power in 1994. These laws also ensured that the huge new tourism developments across South Africa are accessible, and that there is greater awareness of the needs of disabled people.

Access 2 Africa Safaris sets out to make life as easy as possible for people with disabilities visiting South Africa. The company offers free personal care, and arranges for the hire of mobility equipment if required. Transport on safaris is in accessible Volkswagen Microbuses, which have space for two wheelchairs, and access via ramps. Another transport option is a larger Toyota Quantum minibus, with space for five wheelchairs and a hydraulic lift. All vehicles have tie-downs for wheelchairs and air-conditioning. The guests are being picked up by the minibus direct from Durban International Airport.

Each holiday package is designed personally.

Information:

Access 2 Africa Safaris

www.access2africasafaris.co.za

Email info@access2africasafaris.co.za

or jennae@vodamail.co.za or tel 0027 842642194

For a five-day safari and tour – R9,934 per person (about £600)

For a seven-day safari and tour – R12,420 per person (about £750)

For an 11-day safari and tour – R19,500 per person (about £1,180)

Prices above are only a guide and are based on four people per tour, and include all accommodation, safaris, activities, meals, accessible transport with fulltime driver, personal tour guide, safari game rangers and any personal assistance needed, but not flights.

All the newer hotels and lodges have several accessible rooms, and various lodges have accessible rooms with free hoists and shower chairs.

Accommodation near Durban for the 11-day safari is at the five-star Makaranga Lodge, which is fully accessible and has 30 acres of its own botanical gardens, and at the four-star Hilltop Camp on the Hluhluwe Umfolozi reserve, the winner of British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award.

Makaranga Lodge, www.makaranga.com

The Hilltop Camp, www.kznwildlife.com

uShaka Marine World, Durban, www.ushakamarineworld.co.za

Funding Available

Funding Information Sessions under the Grundtvig Adult Education Programme

Leargas is holding information sessions on funding available under the Grundtvig Adult Education programme at the following dates and locations;

Galway Education Centre, Cluain Mhuire, Wellpark, Galway
on Wednesday 3rd December from (2 - 4 pm)

Dublin Cassidy's Hotel, 6-8 Cavendish Row, Upper O'Connell St. Dublin 1
on Friday 5th December (11am - 1pm)

<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=3663>

Resources:

Voices of Poverty

Community Action Network was funded by the Combat Poverty Agency to evaluate a community development and health course. As part of the evaluation, they listened to the stories of the people who had taken part in the course. The group just released a CD containing some of those stories. The stories provide a rare and very valuable insight into the day-to-day lives of people across the country. The CD illustrates how difficult circumstances, combined with a lack of appropriate and timely support, profoundly impact on health.

For more information or to obtain a copy – contact Barбора at 01-8730455 / barborakorandova@dublincil.org

WEBSITE: Deaf and Hard of Hearing People at Work

Jobs, Careers and Callings is a website largely designed as a career exploration site for young people who are deaf or hard of hearing. It features real-life profiles of people who are deaf or hard of hearing and engaged in a wide range of jobs and careers. See: <http://deafhncareer.com>

Upcoming Events

National

Can Human Rights End Poverty?

To celebrate 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights leading human rights and anti poverty actors will come together for this important debate which takes place on Tuesday 9th December 2008 (3-4:30pm) at the Irish Aid Centre, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. The discussion will be moderated by Colm O'Gorman, Executive Director, Amnesty International Ireland and speakers will include: Her Excellency, Ms. Priscilla Jana, the South African Ambassador to Ireland; Justin Kilcullen, Trocaire; Dr Katherine Zappone, An Cosán, Irish Human Rights Commission; Conor Hickey, Crosscare; Paul Cullen, The Irish Times and Connell Foley, Concern. To register please contact Megan O'Malley at yas@amnesty.ie or tel:01- 8638300.

College Fair for Students with Disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties (December 10, Dublin)

A unique one-day event for students with a disability or specific learning difficulty considering their college options in Ireland in 2009. The event is hosted by the Dublin Institute of Technology in association with AHEAD & Disability Advisors Working Network.

Wednesday 10th December 2008 (1pm - 4pm)

Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street, Dublin - In the Atrium

Organised by AHEAD, the Association of Higher Education Access and Disability
<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=2985>

Assistive Technology Networking Day

On Wednesday 28th January 2009 in Dublin Enable Ireland & Assist Ireland will host Assistive Technology Networking Day to discuss and share ideas about the role and use of Assistive Technology in Ireland. We hope to explore topics such as establishing a national Assistive Technology Forum, promoting and sharing Assistive Technology information, skill-sharing, best practice for Assistive Technology and Assistive Technology research. If you are interested in attending this meeting – please contact Moira Fraser in Citizens Information Board at moira.fraser@ciboard.ie by Friday 12th December.

Public Meeting: Against The Cuts (December 2, Dublin)

On Tuesday December 2nd (7.30pm)

at the Ringsend Community Centre, Thorncastle St., Ringsend, Dublin 4

Organised by People Before Profit Alliance

<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=2436>

International

e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference – 30th November to 2nd December 2008 in Vienna

E-inclusion ('e' standing for electronic) aims to ensure that disadvantaged people are not excluded due to their lack of digital literacy or Internet access. E-inclusion also means taking new advantages of new opportunities offered by digital and technical services for the inclusion of socially disadvantaged people and less-favoured areas. The Information Society has the potential to distribute knowledge more equally and to offer new job opportunities, by overcoming the traditional barriers to mobility and geographic distance.

The conference aims at accelerating progress towards an information society for all (digital inclusion), in order to combat social and economic exclusion. It will provide a forum to discuss policies to achieve an inclusive, barrier-free, information society and the related social and economic benefits. An exhibition will feature the best in e-Inclusion in Europe and worldwide. Some 1200 participants are expected. All 35 finalists of the 2008 e-Inclusion Awards competition will be at the exhibition and the winners will be announced at the conference gala dinner. Enable Ireland has been short listed for E-accessibility award – for more details please contact Siobhan Long at 01-4992354. The conference is jointly organised by the European Commission and the hosting Austrian Government, in cooperation with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The programme of the conference can be accessed here:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/e-inclusion/2008/doc/programme.pdf

Gerry Ellis will be attending this event on behalf of European Disability Forum.

First International Conference "Accessible Tourism for All", Belgrade, Serbia 13-14 December 2008

The aim of the conference is the promotion of accessible tourist destinations, public transport and all forms of travel content as well as increasing profits and improving the general business viability of the actual business on the global and local levels. Registration form available here:

http://www.accessibletourism.org/resources/dunav_conf-registration-english.pdf

European Day of People with Disabilities Conference

1-2 December 2008, Brussels. To mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, the European Commission organises a policy conference in the first week of December each year, in close cooperation with the European Disability Forum (EDF). The theme of the Conference will be "Acting Locally for a Society for All". The Conference will focus on how EU action/legislation reaches the local level and will provide examples of disability mainstreaming, including developments in accessible tourism. The conference takes place in the Charlemagne Conference Centre. The programme of the event can be accessed here:

http://www.accessibletourism.org/resources/edpd2008_draft_programme_en.pdf

For further information, contact Ms. Paulette Matkovic Ramirez at 0032-22988215 or by emailing paulette.matkovic-ramirez@ec.europa.eu

Publications

Accessible Housing in USA Report

Visitability is American movement promoting accessible home design. The authors of the report examine different types of visitability initiatives, challenges to implementation, and opportunities for further acceptance. The design parameters needed for visitability include a zero-step entrance, wide doorways, and at least one half bathroom on the main floor.

http://www.hcbs.org/files/148/7375/visitability_report.pdf

Institute of Human Rights - Finland

Two working papers (papers that are work in progress) were published.

Katsui, H. (2008) Downside of the Human Rights-Based Approach to Disability in Development. Working Paper Series of IDS at Helsinki University 2/2008.

Available at

<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/katsui/files/2008/11/downside-of-hrba.doc>

Katsui, H. (2008) Mainstreaming Disability Issues in Japanese and Finnish Development Policies and Practices. Working Paper Series of IDS at Helsinki University 1/2008. Available at

<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/katsui/files/2008/11/mainstreaming.doc>

Please forward your feedback to Hisayo Katsui (Senior Researcher, PhD)

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Disability Status Report (USA, 2007)

This summary of demographic and economic statistics from 2007 on the non-institutionalized population with disabilities is meant for policy makers, advocates, reporters, and the public. Data include information on the population size and disability prevalence for various demographic subpopulations, as well as statistics related to employment, earnings, and household income. Comparisons are made to people without disabilities and across disability types.

http://www.hcbs.org/files/148/7383/2007_Disability_Status_Report.pdf

EU - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion, by the European Community, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Report available online at:

http://g3ict.com/resource_center/publications_and_reports/p/productCategory_w_hitepapers/subCat_0/id_139

ONLINE BROCHURES: Employment and Youth with Disabilities

The US Office of Disability Employment Policy has two new brochures (in PDF format) that focus on employment for youth with disabilities:

"Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce: Including Talents of young People with Disabilities" estimates that there are approximately 2.4 million young people (ages 16 -24) in America. It encourages employers to proactively recruit from this labour pool and points them towards some organizations that can assist them in finding qualified applicants. See:

http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/shaping_tomorrows_workforce.pdf

"Essential Skills to Getting a Job: What Young People with Disabilities Need to Know" is an overview of basic skills, issues and information that can help young people with disabilities to succeed in the job search process. See:

http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/essential_job_skills.pdf

ONLINE NEWSLETTER: US Business Leadership Network

The US Business Leadership Network has just launched their new electronic Biz2Biz Report – targeted at readers who want to keep informed about business-to-business strategies of workforce and marketplace inclusion of people with disabilities. The first three issues will be freely available. Beginning in January 2009, however, it will become available to USBLN members only.

<http://wsbln.org/2008USBLNNewsletterOCTOBER.pdf>

Guidelines for Editing for Low Vision Readers

Some guidance regarding styles for leaflet from the "See it right" publication for Clear Print from the Royal National Institute of Blind People in USA - not a standard, but research-based.

http://g3ict.com/resource_center/publications_and_reports/p/productCategory_w_hitepapers/subCat_0/id_141

Training

Living and Working in Diverse Ireland

One-day workshop, FETAC level 3 certificate, delivered by John Doyle.

The course is aiming to promote tolerance, acceptance and respect of people from different cultures and backgrounds. Additionally, it will help participants deal with cultural differences and diversity in a positive manner both in work and in their daily lives.

The course has been previously delivered to various government departments, Dublin City Council, Trinity College Dublin and many more. For more information please contact Barbora at 01-8730455 or by emailing barborakorandova@dublincil.org

You can also contact John Doyle directly at 01-4662874 / 085-7451764 / jdandd@eircom.net

Effective Surveys & Questionnaires – 3rd December, Belfast

Best practice use of survey techniques and questionnaires, in the context of public and stakeholder consultations, and public engagement generally, is dealt with in this hands-on, practical course from The Consultation Institute.

Subjects covered include planning a survey/questionnaire exercise, constructing effective and meaningful questions, layout and design, e-questionnaires and dealing with the data.

For more information contact Martin Woodrow at

martin@consultationinstitute.org

Distance-learning course: Human Rights Advocacy

4 February - 14 April 2009, Distance learning course

This Human Rights Education Association (HREA) distance learning course provides human rights activists with a range of proven human rights advocacy methods and critical concepts as a means for them to reflect on and deepen their own work. The course will look at the theoretical foundations and critical issues of human rights advocacy, elements of advocacy planning, and strategies for action. In this course, participants should deepen their knowledge about advocacy and its relationship to: Politics and Democracy; Citizenship and Rights; Power, Empowerment and Citizen Education and Action. The course is intended for staff members of human rights/social justice organisations. Application deadline is 15 December 2008. For details, [click here](#).

Introduction to Mediation (December 4, Sligo)

Presented by Team Solutions

VENUE: Sligo Park Hotel, County Sligo

DATE: 4th December 2008

This workshop is designed to help build an initial understanding of the role of mediation in conflict resolution. It will provide clear working definitions of mediation, the processes involved and the skills needed in mediation. The workshop will give the participants clear strategies into how and why mediation should be used in various situations such as the workplace, in the Community and in legal disputes.

<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=1486>

Motivational Interviewing: Introduction Workshop (29th & 30th January, Dublin)

Motivational Interviewing is a client-centered approach that elicits behavioural changes by assisting individuals explore and resolve ambivalence. This approach is especially helpful with less motivated individuals. Research has shown this approach to be helpful with a wide spectrum of client populations and issues.

Introduction Workshop

Date: 29 & 30 January 2009 (10am to 4.30pm)

Venue: Jury's Croke Park Hotel, Dublin.

<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=3846>

Advanced Component Certificate in Group Facilitation (starting in March, Tipperary)

Organised by Parent Focus this course consists of 4 FETAC Modules Level 5 and 6:

Conflict Management Level 6, Working With Groups Level 5, Group Work Theory and Practice Level 6, Train The Trainer Level 6.

This course is for those who wish to gain a formal recognised qualification in Facilitation. This course will focus on delivering a Parenting Programme, but maybe adapted by participants to deliver any programme within their profession.

Venue: Tipperary Enterprise Centre, Station Road, Tipperary Town.

<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=1907>

Culture

ONLINE RADIO: Disability Matters

Since 2003, long-time disability activist Joyce Bender has hosted Disability Matters - an online talk radio show that features guests with prominent roles in the US disability arena. Broadcast online every Tuesday from 2:00pm - 3:00 pm Eastern Time, the show also features real-time captioning focused on the employment and empowerment of people with disabilities. Hear prominent disability leaders such as Congressman Tony Coelho, Governor Dick Thornburgh, Andy Imparato and senior executives from the private sector. Disability Matters is on the VoiceAmerica Channel – link below:

<http://www.modavox.com/voiceamerica/>

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/>

Webby-Talents

WebbyTalents is a free video hosting designed to break down barriers for people with disabilities around the world. People with disabilities and site visitors are invited to make and post up their videos on the Webbytalents to share their personal stories. Associations, Organizations and Communities, from anywhere in the world, are also invited to upload their videos or trailers. Webbytalents is a place that is made so that everyone can express themselves, learn, share experiences, present his association and raise awareness of disability worldwide. It is a good way to see what people or communities from different countries think about disability.

<http://www.webbytalents.com/>

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