

## **Diversity and Equality Law Division response to questionnaire on the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

### **Section 3.2 (The Evidence)**

**Are you aware of evaluations or reviews by others of the impact of any actions under the National Strategy? Please forward copies of any relevant publications or documents, or contact details of those who undertook the evaluation.**

This Division's main awareness of evaluations of or attitudes towards the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence arises from our coordination of material for United Nations human rights reporting, and particularly, the coordination of all stages of Ireland's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, a peer review of each UN member state's domestic human rights record.

Leading up to the review process, other member states are lobbied by civil society (national and international) to propose particular recommendations to the state under review. At Ireland's review in October 2011, member states made 8 recommendations on topics relevant to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. These were:

- 106.49. Continue to strengthen its policies and laws against domestic violence (Algeria);
- 106.50. Strengthen its policies and laws against domestic violence towards women (Moldova);
- 106.51. Continue efforts with the aim of establishing protection campaigns and programmes for women against domestic violence (Argentina);
- 106.52. Submit rapidly its national report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that was due in 2007 and include a section on violence against women as requested by the Committee (Switzerland);
- 106.53. Fully implement the relevant laws, policies and programmes aimed at combating domestic violence in the country (Malaysia);
- 107.36. Enhance its efforts at the local level to better carry out the campaign against domestic violence (Switzerland);
- 107.37. Sign the Council of Europe Convention on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Austria);
- 107.38. Strengthen its policies and laws against domestic violence and prepare adequate statistics, including sex, age and family relationship of victims and perpetrators (Pakistan);

(Attached for reference is a copy of the *Report of the Working Group Report on the Universal Periodic Review – Ireland.*)

In March this year, we published a National Interim Report on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Ireland. The Irish Human Rights Commission made a shadow submission to the UN, *Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review Mid-Term Report.*

On the recommendations listed above, their only comment was:

“The State has not ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating violence against Women and Domestic Violence and in this context has not provided adequate resources for domestic violence services.”

Similarly, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties’ (ICCL) shadow document, *Joint written statement\* submitted by International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status*, makes only one reference to the recommendations on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence:

“The current Programme for Government shadows the timeframe of Ireland’s First UPR Cycle and it sets out commitments that correspond directly to certain UPR recommendations under consideration. However, we have yet to see movement with respect to reforms on domestic violence legislation (preventing Ireland from ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on violence against women and domestic violence).”

Given the civil society focus on the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention, and the marked lack criticism of measures and actions despite the high number of peer states’ recommendations, it is a fair assumption that actions under the current strategy have been favourably received.