

Convention would enhance its effectiveness by providing for direct domestic application.

Among the aspects considered positively by the Committee were: amendments to the Constitution which extensively changed and added to human rights provisions previously in effect, including an explicit reference to equality without regard to national origin, race or colour; abolition of the requirement that a naturalized foreigner assume an Icelandic-sounding family name; changes to the Penal Code which make racial discrimination punishable by law; initiatives by the Human Rights Office including special lectures on human rights and tolerance for persons working with and teaching immigrants; providing human rights education both in the schools and for the adult population; including a compulsory general course on human rights in the training of the Icelandic School for Policemen; and, establishing a special Information and Cultural Centre for Foreigners which, *inter alia*, provides practical information concerning residents' permits, health care, social services, insurance and the school system.

The Committee expressed concern that Iceland had not implemented fully or in part recommendations contained in its concluding observations of 17 August 1994 related to the Convention's status in the domestic legal order of Iceland, measures to implement fully the provisions of article 4 (racist organizations and hate speech) of the Convention, and measures to combat racial discrimination in the fields of teaching, education, culture or information.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ further publicize Iceland's acceptance of article 14 of the Convention (complaints procedure) so as to make this avenue widely available to the residents of Iceland;
- ▶ implement fully article 4 and adopt measures accordingly to combat racial discrimination in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information; and,
- ▶ include in its next report further information on the naturalization law and its mechanisms.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 24 July 1980; ratified: 18 June 1985.

Iceland's third periodic report was due 18 July 1994.

Torture

Signed: 4 February 1985; ratified: 23 October 1996.

Iceland's initial report was due 22 November 1997.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 28 October 1992.

Iceland's second periodic report is due 26 November 1999.

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IRELAND

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Ireland has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.15) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic data and information on the Irish language, the Constitution, the Government, Parliamentary Committees, the electoral system, the civil service and local government and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Ireland's legal system is based on common law, and international agreements to which Ireland is a party are not automatically incorporated into domestic law. Amendments to domestic laws may be required and enacted to ensure that they conform with the provisions of international treaties to which Ireland has acceded or has ratified. The Constitution includes provisions on a number of rights, including: equality before the law, the right to life, security of person, reputation, property, personal liberty, freedom of expression, assembly and association, family rights, conscience and religion, the right to vote and be elected, trial by jury and the non-retroactive application of law. Remedies for infringements of civil or political rights may be claimed either through judicial review or action for damages.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 1 October 1973; ratified: 8 December 1989.

Ireland's initial report (E/1990/5/Add.34) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's April/May 1999 session; the second periodic report was due 29 June 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 2; paragraph 2 (a) of article 13.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 1 October 1973; ratified: 8 December 1989.

Ireland's second periodic report was due 7 March 1996.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 10; article 14; paragraph 2 of article 19; paragraph 1 of article 20; paragraph 4 of article 23; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 8 December 1989.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 5.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 18 June 1993.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 21 March 1968.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 23 December 1985.

Ireland's second periodic report was due 21 January 1991; the third periodic report was due 21 January 1995.

Reservations and declarations: Paragraphs (b) and (c) of article 13; paragraph 3 of article 15; paragraph 1 (d) and (f) of article 16; paragraphs 1 (b), (c) and (d) of article 11; paragraph (a) of article 13.

Torture

Signed: 28 September 1992.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 28 September 1992.

Ireland's initial report (CRC/C/11/Add.12) has been submitted and is pending for consideration by the Committee at its January 1998 session; the second periodic report is due 27 October 1999.

Reservations and declaration: General declaration on signature.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/95/para. 24)

The report notes that, on the question of extraterritorial jurisdiction of courts, there were two bills before Parliament.