



# **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Issues and challenges in Northern Ireland**

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# UNCRRPD: Issues and challenges in Northern Ireland



- Co-operation between ECNI and NIHRC: The Independent Mechanism for Northern Ireland;
- Expectations;
- Resources;
- Awareness;
- Monitoring compliance

# Gaps in implementation of the Convention



- *Disability programmes and policies: How does Northern Ireland measure up? (Disability Action: January 2012):-*
  - Awareness Raising (Article 8);
  - Participation in Public and Political Life (Article 29);
  - Access to Information (Articles and 21) and Statistics and Data Collection (Article 31).

# Gaps in implementation of the Convention (cont).



- *Shortfalls in public policy and programme delivery in Northern Ireland relative to the Articles of the UNCRPD (QUB: 2014) :-*
  - Equality and non-discrimination (Article 5);
  - Equal recognition before the law (Article 12);
  - Living independently and being included in the community (Article 19);
  - Education (Article 24);
  - Health (Article 25);
  - Adequate standard of living and social protection (Article 28).

# Relevant law reform initiatives



- Analysis of Bills and Policies e.g. welfare reform;
- Mental Capacity (NI) Bill:
  - Ministerial Commitment to ensure compatibility with the UNCRPD but challenges in making paradigm shift;
  - Emphasis on respecting autonomy;
  - Emphasis on supported decision making;
  - Statutory definition of restraint;
  - New offences to address ill treatment and wilful neglect.

# Further information



- Website: [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org)
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