



The ESC Rights Initiative



COMMUNITY PLATFORM
CHALLENGING POVERTY & INEQUALITY

Declaring our Human Rights



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS

IHREC Auditorium - 6th December 2018
10.30am till 12.30pm (tea/coffee at 10am).

Community groups declare their Human Rights

**Poems, testimonies and songs
to mark the 70th anniversary of
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Responding to the invitation of the [Community Platform](#) and the [Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Initiative](#), 50 Human Rights' activists from Dublin community groups met this morning in the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission to recognise the [70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

Poems, testimonies and songs underlined the contribution of human rights principals, instruments and proclamations to equality and social justice in Ireland, first set down by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration on the 10th December 1948.

Aiden Lloyd, chair of the [ESC Rights Initiative](#) said : *"Our event highlighted the resolution and accomplishments of groups and individuals in the continuing quest for the protection of human dignity and fundamental freedoms, with a special focus on the indivisibility of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. For the ESC Rights Initiative it was also the time to ask the Government to break four years silence after [the clear request of the Constitutional Convention in February 2014](#) to strengthen the protection of Economic, Social and Cultural rights in Bunreacht na hEireann".*

The participants declared their Human Rights in various ways and were invited to create the '**Freedom Bird**'. Each feather of this bird is illustrating how Human Rights matter in their own lives or in the life of their community. The gathering of all feathers on one bird symbolised the huge inter-dependence usually referred to as **"indivisibility" of all human rights**. Poor delivery of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights results in a poor civic, political and democratic life with low turnout at elections, mistrust in the system and the representatives. It also drastically limits individual freedom.

Pierre Klein, [All Together in Dignity Ireland](#), active member of the ESC Rights Initiative and the Community Platform said: *"The more you understand how everything is strongly interconnected in our social life, the more you want to defend the whole package of civic, political, family, economic, social and cultural rights and freedoms all together. All are included in the 1948 Declaration. And you can find all of them in the [2012 Guiding Principles on Poverty and Human Rights](#)."*

*"For almost three years media have been full of reports on the Housing crisis: 10,000 homeless, endemic overcrowding, unaffordable rents, and unaffordable houses. Over 390,000 people, including more than 140,000 children, in consistent poverty. The life expectancy is an average of 13 years shorter for members of the Traveller Community compared to the general population and 3.5 less for disadvantaged communities compared to more affluent communities. **Can Ireland become a country where the basic***

human rights to health, housing and the freedom from poverty are constitutionally protected? “ asked **Paul Ginnell**, Director of [EAPN Ireland](#) and coordinator of the [Community Platform](#). “*The European network EAPN launched 'Change, Hope, and Justice' in 2018. It is a practical handbook to develop a Human Rights based approach to poverty issues in the EU. Our Government has ratified a range of international human rights agreements and has a responsibility to deliver on them.*”

The event was chaired by **Anastasia Crickley** who has been recognised by the UN 2018 [#StandUp4HumanRights](#) campaign as an [Irish Human Rights Champion](#). Anastasia Crickley is the former chairperson of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and was also Chair of the Management Board of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. In Ireland she co-founded the Migrants Rights Centre and Pavee Point, and she is currently the chair of Community Work Ireland.

Contacts:

Aiden Lloyd - 087 919 10 26

Paul Ginnell - 087 640 22 00

Pierre Klein - 089 440 15 23

Note to the Editor:

- **The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Initiative**

The [ESC Rights Initiative](#) is a coalition of non-governmental organisations, community groups and trade unions advocating for strengthened constitutional protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

