Equality and Human Rights Commission (Great Britain)

Making UNCRPD rights a reality
Introduction

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   1. The UK Independent Mechanism (UKIM)
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About the EHRC: human rights and equality

- Double mandate for equality and human rights
- Disability Committee
- EHRC’s remit covers Britain only (excludes Northern Ireland)
UK Independent Mechanism (UKIM)

• UKIM = 4 Commissions:
  • Equality and Human Rights Commission
  • Scottish Human Rights Commission
  • Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
  • Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

• Working in partnership
Article 33: Government’s role

- Office for Disability Issues is the focal point in the UK for co-ordinating work on UNCRPD
- Focal points in each of the devolved governments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- Involving disabled people and their organisations
Domesticating UNCRPD rights

• Article 33: domesticating the monitoring process
  • Not relying solely upon the UNCRPD Committee

• Maintaining momentum
  • UK state party examination likely to be 2013 / 2014
  • UKIM parallel report: timing and impact
  • Implementing rights now
The Commission’s role

- Raise awareness
- Enforce rights
- Gather evidence
- Influence government
- Report to UN

INVOLVE DISABLED PEOPLE
Monitor: UK draft state report

- Public consultation on UK Government’s draft initial report on UNCRPD
- Government stated it would take public’s responses into account as it:
  - finalises the report
  - changes or develops new policies in future
  - develops ‘a cross-government disability strategy (which)…will say how the government is going to continue implementing the Convention’
Monitor

- Parallel report
  - Baseline research
  - Literature review
  - List of emerging priority issues

- Parliamentary questions
Promote

- Promoting implementation, not just awareness
- UNCRPD web pages
- Guide to UNCRPD for disabled people and DPOs
- Evidence to UK Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry on article 19 right to independent living
Protect

• On-going work on government reservations

• Review of legislative landscape

• Using EHRC legal enforcement powers
e.g. Disability Harassment Inquiry
Involving disabled people

• Participation and awareness events held across Britain

• ‘Hard to reach’ and marginalised groups
  - Disabled children and young people
  - Digital events for rural communities

• External experts advisory group
International co-operation

- EHRC chairs the UNCRPD working group of the European Group of NHRIs
UNCRPD (Euro) Working Group’s aims

- Point of contact between independent mechanisms and with European Union
- Develop and promote good practice guidance on the role and actions of NHRIs in promoting, protecting and monitoring CRPD implementation
- Promote and support use of the Optional Protocol
- Promote ratification and implementation throughout Europe and the European Union
- Influence interpretation and jurisprudence by the UNCRPD Committee and by courts
UNCRPD (EURO) Working Group

- Submission to the European Commission on what article 33 arrangements should apply to the European Union
- Extending the group: observer status / supporting Independent Mechanisms
International co-operation

- Working with NHRIs and other partners world-wide

- Sharing good practice
More information

- EHRC UNCRPD webpages

- Transcripts of oral and written evidence to JCHR:
‘Building a society built on fairness and respect where people are confident in all aspects of their diversity.’