

# CHAPTER 12 - CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

## CAIBIDIL 12 - CEARTA LEANAÍ

The ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Government in 1992 resulted in an emphasis on the promotion of children's rights in Ireland. The United Nations Convention is far-reaching and contains 54 articles in relation to promoting children's civil, economic, social and cultural rights, in addition to children's right to protection (United Nations, 1989). It has heightened public consciousness about children's rights, emphasising, for example, their right to be consulted and to be contributing participants in decisions that affect their lives, community and society. However, to date, there has been a greater emphasis on youth than children in the early years and this imbalance must be addressed to incorporate the rights and views of all children (McAuley and Brattman, 2003).

Ireland's demographics are unusual in European terms as we have a higher proportion of younger people, with approximately half of our population under the age of 25, and one-third under the age of 18 (DHC, 2000a: 16). The perception of children as active citizens in society is a role that must be nurtured and developed (DSCFA, 1998). Children's involvement may be beneficial for their own personal development and it also has the capacity to strengthen civil society and democracy, providing a fresh perspective on issues (McAuley and Brattman, 2002).

Ireland submitted its First National Report to the United Nations in 1996 (DFA, 1996) in relation to our implementation of the Convention. The United Nations evaluation of this Report raised many concerns, highlighting our lack of national policies and structures to facilitate children's rights and the absence of measures to eliminate child poverty (United Nations, 1998). These concerns were reiterated by the Children's Rights Alliance (1998). The recommendations made spearheaded a myriad of reforms and initiatives, which enabled us to make progress in implementation.

Most notable of these is The National Children's Strategy (2000), 'Our Children, Their Lives.' The Strategy is a 10-year Action Plan for children aged 0-18 years of age, placing children's rights as a matter of public policy. It was developed through a process of inter-departmental liaison and an extensive process of consultation, including children and young people. The vision of the National Children's Strategy is to work towards;

*"An Ireland where children are respected as young citizens with a valued contribution to make and a voice of their own; where all children are cherished and supported by family and the wider society; where they enjoy a fulfilling childhood and realise their potential"* (DHC, 2000a: 10).

Ba é an toradh a bhí ar dhaingniú Choinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe um Chearta an Linbh ag an Rialtas i 1992 ná béim a leagan ar chothú chearta an linbh in Éirinn. Tá Coinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe forghabhálach agus tá 54 airteagal ann a bhaineann le cearta sibhialta, eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus cultúir leanaí a chothú, mar aon le ceart an linbh i leith na cosanta (na Náisiúin Aontaithe, 1989). Tá aird an phobail ar chearta leanaí ardaithe aige agus leagann sé béim, mar shampla, ar an gceart maidir le dul i gcomhairle leo agus iad a bheith ina rannpháirtithe gníomhacha i gcinntí a mbíonn tionchar acu ar a saol, a bpobal agus a sochaí. Go dtí seo, áfach, is mó de bhéim a leagadh ar óige seachas ar leanaí sna blianta luatha agus ní mór aghaidh a thabhairt ar an neamhchothroime sin chun cearta agus tuairimí gach linbh a ghlacadh san áireamh (McAuley and Brattman, 2003).

Tá deimeagrafaic na hÉireann neamhghnách i dtéarmaí Eorpacha mar go bhfuil céatadán níos airde de dhaoine óga againn; tá thart ar leath den daonra faoi bhun 25 bliana d'aois, agus tá aon trian den daonra faoi bhun 18 mbliana d'aois (DHC, 2000a: 16). Ní mór an dearcadh faoi leanaí a bheith ina saoránaigh ghníomhacha sa tsochaí a chothú agus a fhorbairt (DSCFA, 1998). D'fhéadfadh rannpháirtíocht leanaí dul chun sochair dá bhforbairt phearsanta féin agus is féidir leis an rannpháirtíocht sin freisin an tsochaí shibhialta agus an daonlathas a láidriú, rud a sholáthróidh peirspictíocht úrnua do na saincheisteanna (McAuley agus Brattman, 2002).

Chuir Éire a Céad Tuarascáil Náisiúnta faoi bhráid na Náisiún Aontaithe i 1996 (DFA, 1996) maidir le cur-i-ngníomh an Choinbhinsiúin in Éirinn. D'ardaigh an measúnú a rinne na Náisiúin Aontaithe ar an Tuarascáil sin roinnt imní agus leagadh béim ar easpa beartas agus struchtúr náisiúnta chun cearta leanaí a éascú agus ar easpa bearta chun bochtaineacht leanaí a dhíothú (na Náisiúin Aontaithe, 1998). Bhí an Children's Rights Alliance (1998) ar aonfhocal faoin imní sin. Chuir na moltaí a rinneadh tús leis an iliomad athchóirithe agus tionscnamh, rud a chuir ar ár gcumas dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ó thaobh cur-i-ngníomh de.

Is é an ceann is suntasaí díobh sin ná an Straitéis Náisiúnta Leanáí (2000), Our Children, Their Lives. Is éard atá sa Straitéis sin ná Plean Gnímh 10 mbliana do leanaí idir 0-18 mbliana d'aois, rud a dhéanann beartas poiblí de chearta leanaí. Forbraíodh an straitéis trí phróiseas idirchaidrimh idir-rannaigh agus trí phróiseas dianchomhairliúcháin, lena n-áirítear leanaí agus daoine óga. Is fíis de chuid na Straitéise Náisiúnta Leanáí ná oibriú i dtreo:

*"An Ireland where children are respected as young citizens with a valued contribution to make and a*

This will be achieved through the realisation of 3 national goals:

1. Children will have a voice;
2. Children's lives will be better understood;
3. Children will receive quality supports and services.

Objective A of the Strategy relates directly to early childhood care and education needs being met through quality early childhood care and education places and family-friendly employment measures.

There have also been a number of other positive developments including:

- The establishment of Dáil na nÓg to provide a forum for the voices of children and young people in Ireland,
- The quarterly meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Children, chaired by An Taoiseach, to review progress on implementing the National Children's Strategy,
- The creation of the National Children's Office to lead and oversee the implementation of the National Children's Strategy
- The inception of the National Children's Advisory Council to provide an independent advisory role in the implementation of the Strategy
- The development of the Children's Consultation Unit by the ISPCC to provide a forum for dialogue with children
- The establishment of the CECDE to develop and co-ordinate early childhood care and education services in Ireland

In light of the First National Report to the United Nations and the positive steps taken in light of the recommendations, a Second National Report for Ireland is to be submitted to the United Nations in 2004.

The following **categories** emerged in the collation of the data.

- 12.1 Government Publications
- 12.2 Promoting Children's Voices
- 12.3 Protecting Children's Rights

These are presented under the same **sub-categories** as before;

- Description/Analysis
- Evaluation
- Guidelines
- Policy

*voice of their own; where all children are cherished and supported by family and the wider society; where they enjoy a fulfilling childhood and realise their potential"* (DHC, 2000a: 10).

Bainfear é sin amach trí 3 sprioc náisiúnta a bhaint amach:

1. Beidh guthaíocht ag leanaí;
2. Tuigfear saol leanaí ar bhealach níos fearr;
3. Gheobhaidh leanaí tacaíochtaí agus seirbhísí ar ardchaighdeán.

Baineann cuspóir A den Straitéis go díreach le freastal ar riachtanais oideachais agus cúraim Luath-Óige trí áiteanna oideachais agus cúraim Luath-Óige ar ardchaighdeán agus bearta fostaíochta a oireann do theaghlaigh.

Tharla roinnt forbairtí dearfacha eile, cosúil le:

- Bunú Dháil na nÓg chun fóram a chur ar fáil do ghuthaíocht leanaí agus daoine óga in Éirinn,
- Cruinnithe ráithiúla an Choiste Comh-Aireachta um Leanaí, faoi chathaoirleacht an Taoisigh, chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn maidir le cur-i-ngníomh na Straitéise Náisiúnta Leanaí,
- Oifig Náisiúnta Leanaí a bhunú chun cur-i-ngníomh na Straitéise Náisiúnta Leanaí a stiúradh agus maoirseacht a dhéanamh air,
- Bunú an National Children's Advisory Council chun ról comhairle neamhspleách a sholáthar i gcur-i-bhfeidhm na Straitéise,
- Forbairt an Children's Consultation Unit ag an ISPCC chun fóram a chur ar fáil do chainteanna le leanaí,
- Bunú CECDE chun seirbhísí oideachais agus cúraim Luath-Óige a fhorbairt agus a chomhordú in Éirinn.

I bhfianaise na Chéad Tuarascála Náisiúnta do na Náisiúin Aontaithe agus na gcéimeana dearfacha a glacadh de thoradh na moltaí, táthar chun an Dara Tuarascáil Náisiúnta d'Éirinn a chur faoi bhráid na Náisiún Aontaithe in 2004.

Tháinig na **catagóirí** seo a leanas chun cinn i mbailiú na sonraí:

- 12.1 Foilseacháin Rialtais
- 12.2 Guthaíocht Leanaí a Choithú
- 12.3 Cearta Leanaí a Chosaint

Cuirtear iad sin i láthair faoi na **fochatagóirí** céanna a úsáideadh roimhe seo:

- Tuairisciúil/Anailísiúil
- Meastóireacht
- Treoirínte
- Beartas

## 12.1 GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Ireland's progress in implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was initially slow. However, the United Nations Review Report (United Nations, 1998) acted as a catalyst for an era of policy development and reform. The National Children's Strategy is among the most important of these, prompting many of the subsequent developments and initiatives (DHC, 2000a). For children aged 0-6 years of age, many of these rights are mediated through their parents or guardians. This means that parental awareness and support of children's rights is a prerequisite of success (DHC, 2000a; Fingleton, 1998).

### 12.1.1 Evaluation / Meastóireacht:

Children's Rights Alliance (1998). *Children's Rights: Our Responsibilities. Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Following Examination of the First National Report of Ireland on the Implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

### 12.1.2 Policy / Beartas:

United Nations (1989). *Convention on the Rights of the Child, Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, 20th November 1989*. (Ratified by Ireland, September 1992) Geneva: United Nations.

Department of Foreign Affairs (1996). *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. First Annual Report of Ireland*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (1997c). *Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Children*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Education and Science (1998b). *Education Act*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs (1998). *Strengthening Families for Life: Final Report of the Commission on the Family to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2000a). *The National Children's Strategy. Our Children-Their Lives*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2000b). *The National Children's Strategy. Our Children-Their Lives: Executive Summary*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2000c). *The National Children's Strategy. Our Children-Their Lives. Report of the Public Consultation*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2000d). *The National Children's Strategy. Our Children-Their Lives. Report of the Public Consultation: Executive Summary*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2000e). *The National Children's Strategy. Our Children-Their Lives. Report to Children on the Public Consultation*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2000f). *The National Children's Strategy. Our Children-Their Lives: Children's Version*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (2001c). *The Children Act 2001*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs (2002). *Building an Inclusive Society: Review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2002c). *Ombudsman for Children Bill*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Department of Health and Children (2002d). *Ombudsman for Children Act*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

## 12.1 FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS

Bhí dul chun cinn na hÉireann maidir le Coinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe um Chearta an Linbh a chur i ngníomh mall ar dtús. D'fheidhmigh an United Nations Review Report (na Náisiúin Aontaithe, 1998) mar chatalaíoch, áfach, do thréimhse forbartha agus athchóirithe beartais. Tá an Straitéis Náisiúnta Leanaí ar cheann de bearta is tábhachtaí díobh sin, agus spreag an straitéis forbairtí agus tionscnaimh a tharla ina diaidh (DHC, 2000a). I gcás leanaí idir 0-6 bliana d'aois, cuirtear go leor de na cearta sin i bhfeidhm trína dtuismitheoirí nó trína gcaomhnóirí. Ciallaíonn sé sin gur réamhriachtanais iad feasacht agus tacaíocht tuismitheoirí maidir le cearta leanaí chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh (DHC, 2000a; Fingleton, 1998).

## 12.2 PROMOTING CHILDREN'S VOICES

Children have a right to voice their opinion (United Nations, 1989; DHC, 2000a). They have an active contribution to make in shaping their own lives and the lives of those around them. Communication with children is a two-way process, both empowering young people to speak and enabling adults to listen (McAuley and Brattman, 2003). This is especially true for the most vulnerable, socially excluded and marginalized children in our society, who need to be the primary focus of empowerment (McAuley and Brattman, 2002). The first objective of the National Children's Strategy, largely mirroring Objective 12 of the United Nations Convention, pertains to the empowerment of children and young people in society;

*"Children will have a voice in matters which affect them and their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity"* (United Nations, 1989 - Objective 12).

Despite these positive developments at policy level, the practice of empowering children and hearing children's voices in a meaningful way is very much in its infancy in Ireland (Hogan, D., 1998). Younger children aged 0-6 years of age are largely excluded from current consultation processes. However, international models of consultation with children in this age cohort are emerging and it is likely that this will become a feature of Irish policy and practice in the future (McAuley and Brattman, 2002).

### 12.2.1 Description/Analysis - Tuairisciúil/Anailísiúil:

Logan, A. (1991). *Pupil Opinion – A Contribution to Child-Centred Theory and to Curriculum and Staff Development*. D.Phil. Thesis. Cork: University College Cork.

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1997c). *Making Children's Voices Heard*. (Samples of ISPC Campaigns and Advocacy Work Involving Children). Dublin: Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Fingleton, M. (1998). *Consultation with Children and Parents: Results of a Consultation Project carried out with Children, Parents and Staff at Four Childcare Locations on behalf of the Expert Working Group on Childcare*. (Unpublished).

Hogan, D. (1998). *Valuing the Child in Research: Historical and Current Influences on Research Methodology with Children. Researching Children's Experiences: Qualitative Approaches*. Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin.

Hogan, D., Etz, K. and Tudge, J. (1999). "Reconsidering the Role of Children in Family Research: Conceptual and Methodological Issues." pp. 93-105. (in) Shehan, C. (Ed.). *Contemporary Perspectives on Family Research, Volume 1. Through the Eyes of the Child: Re-visioning Children as Active Agents of Family Life*. Stamford: JAI Press.

Open your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative (2000a). *In our own Words – The Voices of Children Experiencing Poverty*. Dublin: Open your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative.

Glynn, E. (2001). *We Have a Voice! Using Peer Research to Explore the Needs of Young People*. Dublin: Midlands Health Board/ Health Promotion Unit/ National Youth Council of Ireland.

## 12.2 GUTHÁÍOCHT LEANAÍ A CHOTHÚ

Tá sé de cheart ag leanaí guthaíocht a thabhairt dá gcuid tuairimí (na Náisiúin Aontaithe, 1989, DHC, 2000a). Tá ról gníomhach le himirt acu ina saol féin agus saol na ndaoine thart orthu a mhúnlú. Is próiseas débhealaigh é dul i mbun cumarsáide le leanaí, rud a thugann cumhacht do dhaoine óga labhairt agus a chuireann ar chumas daoine fásta éisteacht leo (McAuley agus Brattman, 2003). Is amhlaidh a bhíonn i gcás na leanaí is leochailí, is eisiata sóisialta agus is imeallaí sa tsochaí, leanaí ba chóir a bheith i gcroílár an phróisis chumhachta (McAuley agus Brattman, 2002). Baineann an chéad chuspóir den Straitéis Náisiúnta Leanaí, a thagann a bheag nó a mhór le Cuspóir 12 de Choinbhinsiún na Náisiúin Aontaithe, le leanaí agus daoine óga a chumhachtú sa tsochaí;

*"Children will have a voice in matters which affect them and their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity"* (Na Náisiúin Aontaithe, 1989 - Cuspóir 12).

In ainneoin na bhforbairtí dearfacha sin ag leibhéal beartais, níl an cleachtas maidir le leanaí a chumhachtú agus éisteacht le guthanna leanaí ar bhealach a mbaineann brí leis ach ina thús in Éirinn faoi láthair (Hogan, D., 1998). Den chuid is mó fágtar leanaí óga idir 0-6 bliana d'aois ar lár ó phróisis reatha chomhairliúcháin. Tá múnlaí idirnáisiúnta comhairliúcháin le leanaí sa chóhort aoise sin ag teacht chun cinn, áfach, agus is cosúil gur gné de bheartas agus de chleachtas na hÉireann a bheidh ann amach anseo (McAuley and Brattman, 2002).

Shannon, G. (2001a). *Giving Children a Voice: the Case for the Independent Representation of Children*. Report prepared by the Guardian Ad Litem Group. Dublin: Law Society of Ireland.

Walsh, N. (2001). *Children's Perceptions and Experiences of Play: A Case Study of One Dublin Primary School*. M.Ed. Thesis. Dublin: University College Dublin.

Greene, S. and Hogan, D. (Eds.) (2002). *Researching Children's Experiences: Approaches and Methods*. London: Sage.

McAuley, K. and Brattman, M. (2002). *Hearing Young Voices. It's Not Rocket Science: Consulting Children and Young People, Including those Experiencing Poverty or other Forms of Social Inclusion, in Relation to Public Policy Development in Ireland. Key Issues for Consideration*. Dublin: Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative.

O'Doherty, A., Wiczorek-Deering, D. and Shannon, G. (2002). "Consulting Children: Issues Raised and Questions Asked." pp. 234-252. (in) Horgan, M. and Douglas, F. (Eds.) (2002). *Lessons for the 21st Century – Research, Reflection, Renewal: Proceedings of the OMEP (Ireland) Conference*.

Hayes, N. (2003b). "Children's Rights: Participation of Children in Policy-making in Ireland." (in) Crimmens, D. (Ed.). *Having their Say. Young People's Participation: European Perspectives*. UK: University of Lincs and Humberside.

### 12.2.2 Evaluation / Meastóireacht:

Hennessy, E. (1998). *Consistency in Young Children's Reports of Childcare Experiences*. Paper presented in Berne, Switzerland at the XVth Biennial ISSBD Meeting.

Hennessy, E. (1999). Children as Service Evaluators. *Child Psychology and Psychiatry Review*, Volume 4, pp. 153-161.

Hennessy, E. (2001). "Children's Experiences in After-school Care." pp. 99-118. (in) Cleary, A., Nic Ghiolla Phádraig, M. and Quin, S. *Understanding Children, Volume 2: Changing Experiences and Family Forms*. Cork: Oak Tree Press.

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (n.d.). *Look Who's Talking: An Independent Review to Combat the Social Exclusion of Young People*. Dublin: Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

### 12.2.3 Guidelines / Treoirínte:

McAuley, K. and Brattman, M. (2003). *Hearing Young Voices. Guidelines for Consulting Children and Young People in relation to Developing Public Policy and Services in Ireland*. Dublin: Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative.

### 12.2.4 Policy / Beartas:

Kilkelly, U. (1997). *Small Voices, Vital Rights*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

Children's Rights Alliance (2001). *National Children's Strategy: Goals and Commitments*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

Guardian Ad Litem Group (2001). *Giving Children a Voice: The Case for the Independent Representation of Children*. Dublin: Report of the Guardian Ad Litem Group.

## 12.3 PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The protection of children's rights has become an integral public policy issue in recent years (United Nations, 1989; DHC, 2000a; Hayes, 2003b). Children are now more firmly perceived as citizens of the state with many rights and responsibilities (Cousins, 1996). Childhood, as well as being a period of paramount importance in its own right, is also a period of preparation for children into taking their place in a democratic and participatory society (McAuley and Brattman, 2002). Awareness of children's rights is developing and children are being educated to become more vocal in relation to their rights (DHC, 2000c). A number of statutory and voluntary organisations such as the National Children's Office, the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) and the Children's Rights Alliance have been established to ensure children's rights are known and implemented.

### 12.3.1 Description/Analysis - Tuairisciúil/Anailisiúil:

Coffey, P. (1992). *Constructing a Childhood: The Law and Children in Modern Ireland*. LL.M. Thesis. Cork: University College Cork.

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1997a). *Act Now for Children*. (Samples of ISPCC Campaigns and Advocacy Work Involving Children). Dublin: Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1997b). *Asking Children*. (Samples of ISPCC Campaigns and Advocacy Work Involving Children). Dublin: Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Frank, R. (1999). *Children and Childcare: The Missing Link*. Waterford: Waterford Area Partnership.

Shannon, G. (1999). *Children in the Legal Process*. Paper presented at the Children at Risk in Ireland Anniversary Conference, Dublin, October 1999.

Martin, F. (2000). *The Politics of Children's Rights*. Cork: Cork University Press/ Undercurrents Series.

Shannon, G. (2000). *Children and the Law: Papers of Continuing Legal Education Seminar*. Dublin: Blackhall Place.

Richardson, V. (2001). "Legal and Constitutional Rights of Children in Ireland". pp. 21-44. (in) Cleary, A., Nic Ghiolla Phádraig, M. and Quin, S. (Eds.) (2001). *Understanding Children, Volume 1: State, Education and Economy*. Dublin: Oak Tree Press.

Shannon, G. (2001b). *European Convention on Human Rights Bill, 2001 and Child Law*. Paper presented to the Family Law Conference, Dublin, September, 2001.

Barnardos (2002b). *World Forum 2001 Proceedings: The Children's Agenda – Familiar Issues, Emerging Concerns*. Dublin: Barnardos' National Children's Resource Centre.

### 12.3.2 Policy / Beartas:

Council for Social Welfare (Ed.) (1991). *The Rights of the Child: Irish Perspectives on the United Nations Convention*. Dublin: Council for Social Welfare.

Focus on Children (1994). *Focus on Children: Blueprint for Action*. Dublin: Focus on Children.

Cousins, M. (1996). *Seen and Heard, Promoting and Protecting Children's Rights in Ireland*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

## 12.3 CEARTA LEANAÍ A CHOSAINT

Tá cosaint chearta leanaí ina gné lárnach den bheartas poiblí le blianta beaga anuas (na Náisiúin Aontaithe, 1989; DHC, 2000a; Hayes, 2003b). Meastar leanaí a bheith ina saoránaigh stáit níos mó anois, saoránaigh ag a bhfuil go leor freagrachtaí agus cearta (Cousins, 1996). Ní hamháin gur tréimhse an-tábhachtach í an óige inti féin, ach is tréimhse í ina n-ullmhaíonn leanaí iad féin chun páirt a ghlacadh i sochaí dhaonlathach agus rannpháirtíoch (McAuley agus Brattman, 2002). Tá feasacht ar chearta leanaí á forbairt agus táthar ag cur oideachais ar leanaí le bheith níos guthaí maidir lena gcearta féin (DHC, 2000c). Bunaíodh roinnt eagraíochtaí reachtúla agus deonacha cosúil leis an Oifig Náisiúnta Leanaí, an ISPCC agus an Children's Rights Alliance le cinntiú go mbíonn daoine ar an eolas faoi chearta leanaí agus go gcuirtear i bhfeidhm iad.

Children's Rights Alliance (1997). *Small Voices: Vital Rights: Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1997d). *Mo Chuid Ceart/ My Rights*. Dublin: Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Kilkelly, U. (1997). *Small Voices, Vital Rights*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

Children's Rights Alliance (1998). *Children's Rights: Our Responsibilities. Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Following Examination of the First National Report of Ireland on the Implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

United Nations (1998). *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Ireland 04/02/98. CRC/C/15/Add.85. (Concluding Observations/Comments)*. Geneva: United Nations.

Children's Rights Alliance (2001). *National Children's Strategy: Goals and Commitments*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

Western Health Board (2001). *Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Care*. Galway: Western Health Board.

Children's Rights Alliance (2002). *Pre-Budget Submission 2003: Put Children First*. Dublin: Children's Rights Alliance.

Hayes, N. (2002a). *Children's Rights - Whose Right? A Review of Child Policy Development in Ireland. Studies in Public Policy 9*. Dublin: The Policy Institute at Trinity College Dublin.