

PFG PRIORITIES:

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

➤ Recommendations

We recommend actions to:

- address key shortfalls in Northern Ireland so as to ensure compliance with obligations under international human rights conventions, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

“Ultimately, the research has identified a range of shortfalls in delivery in Northern Ireland relative to the UNCRPD.”

Research: Bryne B, et al, Shortfalls in public policy and programme delivery in Northern Ireland relative to the Articles of UNCRPD, 2014.

➤ International human rights obligations

The Commission is of the view that the PFG should include clear commitments to address key gaps in policies and programmes in Northern Ireland, so as to ensure compliance with the UK Government’s obligations under international human rights conventions. There should also be clear commitments to ensure comprehensive input into State Party submissions relating to such conventions.

These conventions include the UNCRPD, as well as other international conventions such the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD); the UN Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM).

We have, for example, highlighted that there are key gaps, in terms of policies and programmes, aligned to a number of UNCRPD Articles that need addressed⁷.

In addition, in our [CEDAW Shadow Report](#) (2013), we highlighted a range of areas that we considered needed addressed with regards to women’s equality in Northern Ireland. Significantly, in its most recent Concluding Observations (2013), the UN CEDAW Committee expressed concerns about the implementation of CEDAW across the UK. The Committee also included specific recommendations relating to Northern Ireland.

Further, in our [FCNM Shadow Report](#) (2016) we raised the importance of addressing inconsistencies in the race equality legislation and gaps in protection; our proposals for reform of the fair employment legislation; and the need to address inequalities faced by migrant workers.

⁷ IMNI (ECNI, NIHRC) (2014) [UNCRPD Jurisdictional ‘Parallel’ Report on Implementation in Northern Ireland](#), (working paper).

Read more: www.equalityni.org/addressinginequality

