

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	28 Sep 1992	<p>CRC/C/IRL/CO/3-4 1 March 2016</p> <p><a href="http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fIRL%2fCO%2f3-4&amp;Lang=en">http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fIRL%2fCO%2f3-4&amp;Lang=en</a></p> <p><b>C. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)</b></p> <p><b>Respect for the views of the child</b></p> <p>31. The Committee welcomes the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making. The Committee also notes that the State party has legislative provisions recognizing the right of a child to have his or her views heard. However, the Committee is concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The said legislative provisions have not been effectively implemented;</li> <li>(b) Under the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015, parents must bear the cost of an expert to hear the views of the child in family law proceedings;</li> <li>(c) The Education Act does not provide for the right of the child to be heard in individual cases;</li> <li>(d) Notwithstanding the State party's commitment in the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 to 2020 to hold a referendum on lowering the voting age from 18 years to 16 years, this referendum has yet to be conducted.</li> </ul> <p>32. In the light of its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal proceedings, in particular family law proceedings, including by establishing systems and/or procedures for social workers and courts to comply with the principle;</li> <li>(b) Ensure that there are provisions under the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 with regard to covering the cost of an expert to hear the child's views in family law proceedings, to guarantee that the views of the child are taken into account in all child care proceedings;</li> </ul>

		<p>(c) Ensure that the Education Act is amended to ensure the right of the child to be heard in individual cases;</p> <p>(d) Consider implementing its plan to carry out a national referendum on lowering the voting age to 16 years in accordance with its previous commitment.</p> <p><b>F. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (1-2), 20, 21, 25 and 27 (4))</b></p> <p><b>Family law proceedings</b></p> <p>41. The Committee is concerned that judges in family law cases are not provided with systematic training for dealing with cases concerning children and that there are long delays in such cases, to the detriment of the children involved.</p> <p><b>42. The Committee recommends that the State party encourage and provide sufficient resources for the training of judges for family law cases involving children and ensure that such cases are prioritized in the court system.</b></p> <p><b>Children deprived of a family environment</b></p> <p>43. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Child and Family Agency Act, which improves the basis for the State party to ensure the best interests of the child in proceedings that may result in a child being deprived of a family environment. The Committee remains concerned, however, that for children who are placed in alternative care, there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Inadequate measures for individual needs assessments and care planning, as well as record keeping;</li> <li>(b) Insufficient alternative care services for children with special needs, which has resulted in the need for such children to be accommodated in alternative care institutions outside the State party;</li> <li>(c) Inappropriate use of single isolation in special care units;</li> <li>(d) Inadequate coordination between the State party bodies responsible for child protection, mental health and disabilities resulting in fragmented or inadequate care being provided for children in such situations;</li> </ul>
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Country Report		
		CRC/C/IRL/3-4  <a href="http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fIRL%2f3-4&amp;Lang=en">http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fIRL%2f3-4&amp;Lang=en</a>
<b>OPSC to CRC</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	N/A	
<b>OPAC to CRC</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	18 Nov 2002	
<b>ICCPR</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	08 Dec 1989	
<b>ICESCR</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	08 Dec 1989	
<b>CEDAW</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	23 Dec 1985	
<b>CRPD</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	N/A	
<b>UPR</b>	<b>Date of Consideration</b>	<b>Link to Page</b>

	11 May 2016	<a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/IESession25.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/IESession25.aspx</a>
<b>Hague Intercountry Adoption</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Link to Country Profile</b>
	28 July 2010	<a href="https://www.hcch.net/en/states/hcch-members/details1/?sid=44">https://www.hcch.net/en/states/hcch-members/details1/?sid=44</a>

**Acronyms and Abbreviations:**

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child/Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OPAC to CRC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
OPSC to CRC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review