

**The Children's Rights Alliance**  
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23 June 2003

Dear Friend,

You are invited to attend an information and consultation meeting for members and friends of the Children's Rights Alliance to discuss the Alliance's Second Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child; priorities for social partnership; and guidelines for children's participation.

The meeting in **Galway** will be held on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003** in the Seminar Room at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway, from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

The meeting in **Dublin** will be held on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2003** at the Central Hotel, Exchequer Street, Dublin 2 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide information and to hear the views of Alliance members in relation to the following matters:

- Preparation of the Alliance's **Second Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** regarding Ireland's performance in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child since the last review undertaken in 1998. The Report will reflect our consultation with member organisations; our examination of data and research findings relative to the status of children in Ireland; and consultations undertaken by the Alliance and its member organisations with children and young people in Ireland.
- Priorities for and engagement with **social partnership initiatives and structures**. It is anticipated that much of the work of social partnership will focus on the Ten Special Initiatives outlined in Sustaining Progress, the new social partnership agreement: Housing and Accommodation; Cost and Availability of Insurance; Migration and Interculturalism; Unemployed; Tackling Educational Disadvantage; Waste Management; Care - Children, People with Disabilities and Older People; Alcohol/Drug Misuse; Inclusion and the Information Society; and Ending Child Poverty.
- Practical application of the **Hearing Young Voices Guidelines for Consulting Children and Young People** to promote children's participation and to enable their views to be heard on matters and

decisions that affect them. Copies of the *Hearing Young Voices Guidelines* have been distributed previously; additional copies can be obtained by contacting the Alliance or by downloading the documents from [www.childrensrights.ie](http://www.childrensrights.ie).

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the section on the Ten Special Initiatives outlined in the new social partnership agreement and a grid providing members the opportunity to prioritise Alliance involvement with these Initiatives. Copies of the completed grid can be emailed or posted to the Alliance.

We hope you will be able to find the time to attend one of what we hope will be useful and informative consultation meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Dooley  
Chief Executive