



Ninth Annual Report January – December 2005

Mission statement

The Children's Rights Alliance is a coalition of 80 non-governmental organisations working to secure the full implementation in Ireland of the principles and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Structures

The membership of the Alliance is made up of a diverse range of groups including child welfare agencies and service providers, child protection groups, youth organisations, human rights organisations, family support groups, disability organisations, Traveller organisations, parent representative bodies, trade unions and professional organisations. At the Alliance Annual General Meeting, held in May each year, Directors are elected from among Alliance member organisations in order to oversee the functions of the Alliance. The Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis.

Strategic Objectives

At the 31st May 2005 AGM the *Strategic Plan, June 2005 - January 2007* was adopted by Alliance members. The Plan identifies the following six priority areas for the 18 month period:

1. Preparation of a *Shadow Report* providing an NGO perspective on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Ireland from 1998 to 2005.
2. Raising Awareness of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.
3. Participation in Social Partnership to achieve improvements in the situation of children living in Ireland.
4. Working with others to promote the ending of child poverty in Ireland.
5. Promotion of the rights of young people in the youth justice system.
6. Continued support of the CADIC Coalition (formerly Campaign Against the Deportation of Irish Children).

Progress on these six priority areas during 2005 is discussed below.

Overview of 2005

2005 was a busy year for the Alliance! The key focus was the compiling of the Alliance Shadow Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The last Shadow Report, *Small Voices: Vital Rights* was produced in 1997, thus this marked the largest policy development drive for the Alliance in eight years. The Alliance engaged in an extensive process of consultation with its members, creating a substantial body of policy, which powerfully represents the voice of 80 organisations on a broad range of issues.

There were changes to the Alliance staffing during 2005, with the Alliance operating below full capacity for much of the year, and be required to move offices during the summer. In light of these obstacles, the achievements made during 2005 are particularly noteworthy.

During 2005 the Alliance significantly strengthened its position as the voice representing the children's sector to the Government. In addition to its roles on the National Children's Advisory Council and as a Social Partner, the Alliance represented the children's sector on multiple occasions in interactions with the Government, elected representatives and in the media.

Administration

Board members

At the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Children's Rights Alliance, held on 31st May 2005, the following members of the Board of Directors (formerly the Executive Committee) were elected. The Board met on 9 occasions during 2005. The Alliance extends its thanks to the members of the Board of Directors for their continuing involvement and support.

Chairperson	Liam O'Dwyer	Irish Youth Foundation
Vice-Chairperson	Nóirín Hayes	School of Social Science and Legal Studies, DIT
Secretary	Margaret Burns	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
Treasurer	Michael McLoughlin	Youth Work Ireland (formerly the National Youth Federation)
Director	Mary O'Connor	Children in Hospital Ireland
Director	Peter McVerry, s.j.	Arrupe Society
Director	Norah Gibbons	Barnardos
Director	Grace Kelly	ISPCC

Staff

During the year we were operating with from 2.5 to 4.5 staff.

Chief Executive	Jillian van Turnhout	From August	Full time
Deputy Chief Executive	Maria Corbett		Full time
Communications & Education Officer	Sarah Benson	Until December	Full time
Policy Officer	Stacey Gutkowski	From March	Full time
Administrator	Ann Quinn & Ciara Murphy	2 days a week from January to September and 3 days from September to December	Part time job share

The Alliance also houses two programme coordinators for coalitions the Alliance is a part of:

Programme Coordinator, End Child Poverty Coalition	Liz Kerrins Jo Harding	Until February From April	Full time
Programme Coordinator, CADIC	Kerry O'Leary	From November	Full time

There was a significant recruitment drive during 2005. Jillian van Turnhout began her appointment as Chief Executive of the Alliance on 1 August. The Alliance expresses its gratitude to Maria Corbett for her work as Acting Chief Executive from September 2004 to July 2005. Maria was appointed Deputy Chief Executive in February. Stacey Gutkowski took up the position of Policy Officer in March. Ann Quinn took up her position as Administrator in March (part-time job share). Jo Harding was appointed Programme Coordinator for the End Child Poverty Coalition in April. Kerry O'Leary was appointed Programme Coordinator for CADIC in November.

The Alliance would like to express its thanks to Sarah Benson, Communications and Education Officer with the Alliance from October 2002 to December 2005, and to Liz Kerrins, Policy and Projects Officer with the End Child Poverty Coalition from June 2003 to February 2005, for their valued contribution to the work of the Alliance and the End Child Poverty Coalition.

New Members

The Alliance would like to welcome the following organisations who became members in 2005: Childminding Ireland; City Arts; Drugs Awareness Programme-Crosscare; The Irish Girl Guides; and Lifestart.

New premises

In August 2005, after an extensive search for suitable premises, the Alliance moved offices from 13 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 to 4 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

Funding

During 2005, the Alliance received funding from the following sources:

- Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (National Anti Poverty Network and Federations and Networks grants)
- Atlantic Philanthropies (Shadow Report and CADIC)
- Irish Youth Foundation (End Child Poverty Coalition)
- Combat Poverty Agency (UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty grant)

Quite a lot of attention, particularly in early 2005, was paid to securing new sources of funding for the Alliance. In June 2005 the Alliance secured funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies for the Shadow Report. Also during 2005 the Alliance entered into a dialogue with the funder, the One Foundation.

Media Training. In November, Alliance staff and two Board members attended a two-day media training course with Carr communications.

Progress on Strategic Plan

The following progress was achieved over the course of 2005 on these priority areas:

1. Preparation of the Shadow Report

Shadow report

Preparation of the Shadow Report, *From Rhetoric to Rights*, formed the core of the Alliance's policy work during 2005. As a State Party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) the Irish Government is required to submit an assessment of its progress in implementing the provisions of the Convention every five years. Under Article 44 of the UNCRC, NGOs are invited to submit alternative or "shadow" reports in response to the State's Report. The Alliance's Shadow Report was submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 1 March 2006.

Consultation with Alliance members

The Alliance conducted an extensive consultation process with member organisations between June and December 2005 to develop policy in partnership with member organisations. During 2005, Alliance staff worked to inform members of the unique opportunity provided by the reporting process to the UN, to support and facilitate all member organisations in providing input to the Shadow Report, and to keep members up to-date on the development of the report.

Subgroups The main vehicle for consultation was through a "subgroup structure". Subgroups were based on thematic areas, drawn up in consultation with members. They were: education, early childhood, health, disability, child poverty, care, youth justice, child protection, immigration/multiculturalism.

The first round of subgroup meetings was held in June, and then again in November, after a first composite draft had been circulated to members. Outside of the meetings themselves, subgroup participants also communicated among themselves over email mailing lists facilitated by Alliance staff.

This structure has been useful, not only in facilitating member input into the Shadow Report, but also providing an opportunity for NGOs who might not usually work together to dialogue with each other on topics of mutual interest. The structure has been a constructive model for policy development, allowing the Alliance to effectively bring together member organisations' expertise. The Alliance is examining how this structure could be adapted for future policy development.

Individual meetings. Meetings were also held with individual member organisations upon request. This was particularly effective for smaller, service providing organisations.

Membership building. Additionally, several non-member organisations approached the Alliance about participating, either through individual meetings or the subgroup structure, or were approached for advice on specific policy issues. A number of these organisations subsequently joined the Alliance.

Research and policy development

The opportunity presented by the Shadow Report allowed the Alliance to develop policies on areas that it had not previously fully explored or that had not been updated for several years. These areas included the arts, play and recreation, public space, education, early childhood education and care, drug use and healthcare services. The Alliance is grateful not only to members but also to non-member organisations and academics who contributed to policy development in these areas.

While developing the report, the Alliance also carried out substantial research on a wide range of areas, in order to fully support material generated through member consultations. In particular, it was crucial to gather as much data on children as was available, to present the UN Committee with a complete picture of the scale of problems facing children in Ireland.

Think in

In late November, a half-day “think in” was held to help develop the larger, long-term policy objectives for the Shadow report. Attendees included Alliance Board members and staff, and external advocates and experts were invited to attend in an advisory capacity.

Drafting and editorial

In addition to the two formal drafts circulated to members for consultation, the Shadow report went through 52 rounds of drafts between August 2005 and its submission to the UN Committee in March 2006. Between August and October 2005, the core drafting work on the Shadow report was carried out, with a preliminary draft submitted to Board members in September and a first draft sent to all member organisations for comment on 1st November. From November onwards, significant research was undertaken, and this included ongoing individual consultation with members and non-member organisations with expertise in particular areas. An editorial committee was formed to oversee decisions on amendments to the draft submitted by member organisations at the end of November. The editorial process continued into 2006.

State report

In November 2004, representatives from the Alliance, along with members of the National Children’s Advisory Council, met with the National Children’s Office and representatives from Government departments regarding a first draft of the State’s report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Alliance asked to be consulted on a second draft of the State report, and this consultation was held in April 2005. Prior to the second consultation with the NCO, the Alliance held a consultative meeting with members and submitted two documents to the NCO: a list of concerns regarding the draft State Report and a list of key priorities for the Children’s Rights Alliance.

The State Report was submitted to the UN Committee on August 11 2005. The Alliance’s response to the NCO brought about three key changes to the final State Report. First, the documents submitted by the Alliance to the NCO were included within the State Report as the NGO comment. Second, the State included a more balanced assessment of its own progress, highlighting areas in which progress had been slow. Third, the inclusion of a comprehensive introduction has made the document more accessible to an outside reader.

Ireland’s State report has been scheduled for consideration at the 43rd session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in September 2006.

Children's Report

In addition to the Shadow Report, the Alliance worked with member organisations during 2005 to compile a children's report. The report *Our Voices: Our Realities* is a snapshot of what children and young people think about life in Ireland. To create this report, the Children's Rights Alliance worked with thirteen organisations to complete seventeen consultation workshops with children under eighteen years between October and December 2005. The 132 children who took part in these workshops are of different age groups, live in different parts of the country, and have different ethnic and social backgrounds. They include children with disabilities, children seeking asylum who are separated from their parents, and children living in care. In the workshops, the children were invited to think about their own experiences and, with these experiences in mind, to identify good and bad aspects of being a child living in Ireland today as well as changes that could improve their lives. A selection of the children's views and ideas is presented in the form of a scrapbook of children's written and visual work and a reflective comment by a reference group of seven children and young people.

2. Raising Awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Participation guidelines

Young Voices: Guidelines on How to Involve Children and Young People in your Work was launched on 14th June. The guidelines were a joint project between the Alliance, the National Children's Office and the National Youth Council of Ireland. The guidelines built on the *Hearing Young Voices* guidelines, published by the Alliance in 2003. The publication of the guidelines marked an important step in promoting participation by children in policy development and planning. The report is available on our website www.childrensrights.ie

Joint Project with Amnesty International

The Alliance was approached in December 2004 by Amnesty International (Irish section) about engaging in its Human Rights Based Approaches Initiative. The Irish Association of Young People in Care was then invited to be a third partner in this project and in March 2005, the three organisations began developing a children's rights module for FETAC level 1 candidates. IAYPIC, as a recognised FETAC centre of learning, will run the course with support from the Alliance and Amnesty. A group of young people who have experience of being in care will participate in a pilot course. Work on this project is ongoing but has been delayed due to external factors.

Corporal punishment

In mid March, the Alliance, along with the Ombudsman for Children, Barnardos and the ISPC, met with Peter Newell, coordinator of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children. At the end of March the Alliance met with the Minister for Children regarding corporal punishment within the home. Subsequent to these meetings Ireland was found in breach of the Revised Social Charter by the European Committee of Social Rights. This finding was the result of a "collective complaint" against Ireland's "reasonable chastisement" clause and lack of legislation prohibiting corporal punishment. Conclusions of the Committee of Social Rights have similar weight to judgments of the European Court, in that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe supervises states in complying with them.

3. Participation in Social Partnership

During 2005, the Alliance continued its work as the Social Partner representing children's interests, focusing on child poverty and alcohol, and sitting on behalf of the Community and Voluntary Pillar, on the working group on alcohol established under the special initiatives of Sustaining Progress.

Groundwork was laid throughout 2005 in preparation for negotiations of the new Social Partnership agreement. Following on from input from members, the Alliance submitted a list of priority issues to the Community and Voluntary Pillar in June, and made a second, more substantial submission in September. Preparation of the Shadow report was instrumental in

developing areas of policy prior to the inter-Pillar meetings on what priority areas would feature during the negotiations. The Alliance sat on the Pillar sub-group that determined these priority areas. The Social Partnership negotiations were postponed until the beginning of 2006.

4. Ending Child Poverty

End Child Poverty Coalition

The End Child Poverty Coalition is comprised of seven organisations working co-operatively and actively to influence policy to end child poverty. The Irish Youth Foundation gives core funding to support the Coalition's work.

The Coalition presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Social and Family Affairs on 8 February, using this opportunity to discuss the shortcomings of Budget 2005. It made recommendations on future developments and emphasised the need for a second-tier payment.

In July the Coalition made a series of comprehensive submissions to six Government Departments in relation to the preparation of the 2006 Book of Estimates (Estimates For Public Services And Public Capital Programme).

The Coalition's pre-budget submission, *Last Chance to End Child Poverty by 2007*, was desk-launched in mid-October and distributed to all TDs and Senators.

The Coalition compiled and published a report, *Child Poverty in Ireland 2005: An Overview*, to mark October 17th, UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The report was launched at the Coalition's second Breakfast Briefing at the Mansion House. The purpose of this networking event was to brief and to continue to put pressure on elected representatives and key officials to allocate the necessary resources, as this was the last Budget prior to the expiration of the Government commitment to end child poverty by 2007. The event also sought to raise public awareness that child poverty does exist in post-Celtic Tiger Ireland. Lord Mayor Councillor Catherine Byrne opened the event, which had inputs from journalist Olivia O'Leary, and practitioners and members of the steering committee of the Coalition.

Child Poverty in Ireland 2005: An Overview was a follow-up to the Alliance 2004 report on child poverty. The report provides the most recent statistics on child poverty, explores policy approaches and provides case studies of children in poverty. The report was distributed widely to all TDs, Senators, and government agencies. The Alliance wishes to express its thanks to the Combat Poverty Agency for funding the design and print costs. The report is available on our website www.childrensrights.ie

Research entitled "Hearing the Voices of Children in Relation to their Experiences of Poverty" was due to be published in 2004. The Coalition was unhappy with the report submitted by the contracted researcher and this project will proceed further.

In December, upon invitation, the Alliance participated in an All-Ireland forum on child poverty.

Alliance work on child poverty

In addition to working as part of the Coalition, 2005 saw the Alliance continue to lobby government ministers, key civil servants and decision-makers on the issue of child poverty. In early 2005, the Alliance used its status as a Social Partner to express its concerns at the Plenary session in relation to Budget 2005 which broke the *Sustaining Progress* commitment to implement the planned increases in Child Benefit in 2004 and 2005, and no increase was made in the Child Dependant Allowance, the Back to School Clothing and Footwear payment or the direct provision payment.

Regarding Budget 2006, for the third year in a row the Alliance was one of the expert organisations invited to present at the Department of Social and Family Affairs annual Pre-Budget Forum in October 2005. At the Post Budget Press Forum in the Department of Social and Family Affairs the Alliance expressed its disappointment at the elements of Budget 2006

relating to children in poverty. The Alliance called attention to the fact that yet again no increase was made in the Child Dependent Allowance and there was no move towards a targeted, “second tier” payment for families with children on low incomes.

5. Youth Justice

The Alliance spent a considerable amount of energy working on issues of youth justice during 2005. In addition to work undertaken in the name of the Alliance, we also took a coordinating role in two coalitions: the Irish Youth Justice Alliance and the Coalition Against ASBOs.

Irish Youth Justice Alliance

The Alliance coordinated a delegation from the Irish Youth Justice Alliance (IYJA) who met with the Department of Justice Youth Justice Project Team twice in February. In November 2004 the Alliance prepared a submission on behalf of the IYJA regarding the proposed Project Team, and this invitation for consultation was in response to that submission. However, the discussions were broader than the remit of the Project Team and among other things looked at which Department should have responsibility for children at risk of offending and children in young offenders centres.

Also in February, the Alliance presented on behalf of the IYJA to the Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women’s Rights regarding the Criminal Justice Bill 2004. The Alliance focused on amendments to introduce Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, electronic tagging applicable to children and young people, and proposed changes to the Garda Diversion Programme. The hearing generated significant media interest.

Coalition Against ASBOs

The Coalition Against ASBOs was established in early March 2005 and coordinated by the Alliance throughout its 2005 campaign. The Coalition was founded in response to widespread concern, among youth organisations, human rights organisations, church groups, solicitors and barristers about the possible introduction of anti-social behaviour orders and the short-term and long-term effect that these Orders would have on children. It was indicated that the model of ASBO proposed was based on the UK model and would be introduced through an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill 2004.

The Alliance coordinated the drawing up of a Coalition paper entitled *The Case Against ASBOs*, which was widely circulated and is available on our website. The Alliance both coordinated and participated in substantial media work in relation to the Coalition through out 2005. The Alliance hosted a public meeting on ASBOs in April and also presented at a conference on ASBOS, held by Trinity College Dublin. In May, the Alliance arranged for Mr. Matt Foot, Coordinator of ASBO Concern UK, to speak at the TD and Senator briefing and a press conference. The Alliance also arranged for Mr. Foot to meet privately with the Minister for Children and with the Ombudsman for Children. The Alliance wrote to the Ombudsman for Children to seek her involvement in the Coalition Against ASBOs but were unsuccessful in our efforts.

The proposed text for the amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill is considerably weaker than originally proposed and is integrated into the Children’s Act. While the Coalition was seeking an abandonment of the proposals, this weaker proposal marks a victory for the Coalition Against ASBOs and for the Alliance.

In late October the Alliance (invited in its own right) attended a consultative meeting with Minister Lenihan along with representatives from Alliance member organisations Barnardos, ISPCC and NYCI, ahead of his bringing proposals to Cabinet regarding the Criminal Justice Bill, 2004. The focus of the meeting was on youth justice, and the Minister outlined his plans for the next phase of the implementation of the Children Act and sought advice on several issues relating to amendments he was proposing to make to the Children Act, 2001 through the Criminal Justice Bill, 2004. Following the meeting, the Alliance made a written submission to the Minister on behalf of the member organisations in attendance.

6. CADIC Coalition (formerly the Coalition Against the Deportation of Irish Children)

The CADIC Coalition had a particularly successful and busy year, building on its late 2004 success in securing a new application procedure for migrant parents of Irish children to apply for residency for a scheme that began January 2005 and finished March 2005. Also in late 2004 the Coalition secured a grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies to fund work to protect the rights of families of Irish children of migrant parents. The CADIC Coalition's work over the course of 2005 encompassed two main phases. During the first phase, the Coalition's work centred around facilitating migrant parents of Irish children to access the new application procedure for residency, and since July, the CADIC Coalition has focused on refusals under the scheme and family reunification.

In early January 2005, the CADIC Coalition obtained a meeting with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to seek clarification on the new residency procedure. Concerns were raised about certain aspects of the procedure and particular concerns regarding family reunification were aired. The Coalition also sought legal advice on the statutory declaration parents were required to sign during the application procedure, waiving their right to family reunification. In addition, the Coalition wrote to the Irish Human Rights Commission and the NCCRI about the application process.

Between January and March 2005, the CADIC Coalition established a helpline, based in the Immigrant Council of Ireland, to assist parents in making their residency applications. The Coalition targeted a range of media outlets, including a radio advertisement, to raise public awareness of the residency procedure and the services provided by CADIC. As of 31 January 2006, 17,917 applications were recorded as received and of those, 16,693 were successful. There were 1,119 refusals.

In July, Atlantic Philanthropies approved a revised funding proposal to reflect CADIC's new focus on family reunification, as CADIC's original objective (to have a residency procedure put in place) had been achieved. In early autumn, Chuck Feeney, founding Chairman and a member of the Board of Directors of The Atlantic Philanthropies, requested a meeting to learn more about the coalition at first hand. The Children's Rights Alliance played a prominent role in this meeting. One of the Coalition's additional objectives, as proposed by Atlantic after grant approval, is to conduct an evaluation of its operation as an effective model of coalition-building. The Atlantic Philanthropies envisions that this evaluation will be a significant resource and that the CADIC Coalition model may be of interest both here and abroad.

One of the most exciting changes for CADIC in 2005 was the hiring of Kerry O'Leary as Programme Coordinator in November and the contracting of the FLAC solicitor Hilka Bekker in October to undertake legal work on behalf of the Coalition. Kerry's position is housed in and supported by the Children's Rights Alliance.

In November CADIC made a submission to Cabinet members in relation to migrant workers and family reunification. CADIC also held a legal training workshop for CADIC Coalition members on residency applications and family reunification for families of Irish children of migrant parents.

In late autumn, a researcher was contracted to develop a child impact model analysis, a children's rights audit. The area of child impact assessment has been a long-standing interest of the Alliance and it is hoped that this model will be used and adapted to a range of other areas concerning children. The Children's Rights Alliance in its own right made a submission to the Department of Justice, calling for the rights of the child to be taken into account during the application and decision-making process. Children's rights, particularly in relation to family reunification, were also the focus of CADIC's June meeting with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Overall 2005 was a very successful year for the CADIC Coalition, and the Alliance played a seminal role in helping the Coalition to achieve its goals. Alliance staff made a substantial contribution to the CADIC Coalition's work, including acting as co-vice-chair of the management committee, preparing progress reports and financial materials for The Atlantic Philanthropies, and fielding a wide range of queries from the public about the residency scheme.

During 2005, the Alliance directly participated on or supported the following bodies' work:

National Children's Advisory Council (NCAC)

The National Children's Advisory Council, of which the Alliance has been a member since its inception, has an independent advisory role in relation to the implementation of the National Children's Strategy, reporting to the Minister for Children. It includes 30 representatives of the statutory agencies, voluntary sector, research community, parents and young people. After a brief hiatus, the NCAC was re-constituted in mid-2005, and the Alliance has been actively participating in the Council's mid-term review of the National Children's Strategy. In addition to participating in a two-day "think-in" in late September, the board and staff of the Alliance met with the NCAC consultants at the end of November and also made a written submission regarding the mid-term review.

Office of Minister for Children (OMC)

In November, the Alliance wrote to the Taoiseach regarding the fragmentation of responsibility for children's services and how this has impacted on the implementation of Goal 3 of the National Children's Strategy. The Alliance called for a single coordinating authority charged with implementing supports and services for children.

In December, the new Office of Minister for Children was announced. This new office will support the Minister for Children in implementing the National Children's Strategy, implementing the National Childcare Investment Programme, developing policy and legislation on child welfare and child protection and implementing the Children Act 2001. The OMC will maintain a general strategic oversight of bodies with responsibility for developing and delivering children's services. Additionally, it was announced that the Minister for Children will attend all Cabinet meetings.

In Memoriam, Ray Dooley, Chief Executive of the Alliance 2000- 2004

Ray Dooley, former Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance, peacefully passed away on the morning of Sunday 9 April 2006, after a brave battle with cancer. Ray is survived by his loving wife Anne Rowland and his children, Caitriona, Conor and Brian, as well as his mother and brothers and extended family in the United States.

During his time as Chief Executive, he worked tirelessly to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child. Ray was the first Chief Executive of the Alliance, his visionary leadership and strength of commitment positioned the Alliance as a key player in the voluntary sector, within social partnership and with Government. He brought passion, enthusiasm and commitment to all that he did. He touched many hearts and minds. His legacy will live on in the work of the Alliance and its members who remain inspired by this dedication and achievements. Ray will be sadly missed.

Key advisory consultations

- National Children's Office review of Comhairle na nÓg (January)
- Department of Justice regarding family reunification for Irish children of migrant parents (January)
- Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights regarding the Criminal Justice Bill 2004 (February)
- Department of Justice Youth Justice Project Team (February, twice)
- Minister for Children, regarding corporal punishment (March)
- National Children's Office consultation regarding State Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (April)
- Evaluation of the Social Services Inspectorate (April)
- Amnesty International *Human Rights Based Approaches* Training Courses (April)
- Ombudsman for Children, regarding ASBOs (May)
- National Children's Advisory Council, mid-term review of the National Children's Strategy (September)
- Minister for Children, regarding the Criminal Justice Bill 2004 (October)
- Health Services Executive, National Care Group, Children, Adolescents and Families, consultation on children's services (November)

Selected media coverage

In addition to print media, the Alliance maintained a radio and television profile during 2005.

- Irish Times*, "Marketers turn children into soft targets," 31 January 2005.
Irish Examiner, "Constitution 'fails to protect children,'" 1 February 2005
Irish Times, "Official stance on Traveller ethnicity defended to UN," 4 March 2005.
Irish Times, "Alliance against McDowell plan formed," 12 March 2005
Irish Examiner, "Children face jail under anti-social rules," 12 March 2005
Irish Times, "Cork TD to discuss curfew for under-16s with city council in Britain," 29 Mar 2005
Irish Times, "Orders for disorder," 2 April 2005
Irish Times, "Labour backs anti-social behaviour orders," 23 April 2005
Irish Times, "€200 on-the-spot fines to combat anti-social activity," 26 April 2005
Irish Times, "Expert to urge TDs to reject anti-social behaviour orders," 5 May 2005
Irish Times, "New order," 7 May 2005
Irish Times, "ASBO concerns to be raised with UN," 13 May 2005
Irish Times, "ASBO opponents to voice concerns to UN Committee," 16 May 2005
Irish Times, "Call to involve children in policy creation," 15 June 2005
Irish Times, "Age of criminal responsibility likely to be raised to 10 years," 16 June 2005
Irish Times, "Budget 'priority' for children and elderly," 18 October 2005
Irish Times, "Child poverty report to cite broken promises," 18 October 2005
Irish Times, "Groups demand direct investment in childcare," 7 November 2005
Irish Times, "Pay a parent to stay at home for a child's first year- experts agree," 7 Nov 2005
Irish Times, "Taking action on childcare," 8 November 2005
Irish Times, "Maths, Irish, English...would you like fries with that?" 22 November 2005
Irish Times, "Guarded welcome for childcare package," 8 December 2005
Irish Examiner, "Budget bites," 8 December 2005
Irish Times, "Lenihan to be responsible for all childcare," 9 December 2005.
Irish Times, "Ombudsman queries youth justice reform plan," 13 December 2005.
Irish Times. "Trust gave more than €20m to Irish bodies in 2005," 14 December 2005.
Irish Times, "Schools lack guidelines on teenage mothers," 28 December 2005.