



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Human Rights Defenders: Negotiation Set ENNHRI NHRI Academy, June 2025

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Explicit Strategic Commitment

Fulfil our international role as part of a global network of National Human Rights Institutions and National Equality Bodies

4.2 Support and demonstrate solidarity with NHRIs and NEBs who are at risk when democracy, peace and the rule of law are under threat.

Negotiation Set: Elements

Purpose, priorities, red lines

Context: internal, external

Alignment: internal- Commission, staff; SMT; team;
external- NHRI/NEB, civil society, networks

Relationships: existing, new; internal, external

Analysis: 'worlds' of negotiating partners

Tone

Plan: clear, agile, communicated (declared)

Horizon scanning (political opportunity structures)

Institutional, individual power, agency, autonomy

‘Multi-level Game’

Considerations

- HRD ecosystem, role in strengthening and expanding the existing ecosystem
- Location: our institution, NHRIs, ENNHRI and GANHRI+, specific mandates
- ‘Pitch’: tailored

Levels

- Treaty bodies systems: UN, Council of Europe
- International engagement: EU, treaty body mechanisms, Missions
- Irish parliament: e.g. PACT
- Diplomatic corp
- Media: Palestinian NHRI and HRDs in Occupied Palestinian Territories

Credibility and Authority

- Grade A Status
- ENNHRI, GANHRI, ODIHR, HRD Working Group (?)
- Independent relationships: civil society, diplomatic corp, EU/UN/CoE
- Evidence
 - Collation of UN and CoE recommendations
 - Collation of IHREC positions
 - Equality defenders
 - HRDs research methodology, ethics, good practices
 - Early warning signs study
 - Baseline and monitoring reports

‘Political Opportunity Structures’

Scoping study on IHREC’s engagement in the EU

UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs, Mary Lawlor

Frontline Defenders

Candidature for Human Rights Council (themes, Ireland Inc.)

Ireland Civil Society Resolution

EU Presidency (June-December 2026), triologue with Lithuania and Greece

EU Strategies: Civil Society, Gender, Anti-Poverty

UN State Reviews: Ambassador, Ganhri, ILGA World, civil society reception, State reception



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