

Children's Rights Alliance Membership Survey 2015

Summary of Findings
March 2016



The Children's Rights Alliance unites over 100 members working together to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child. We change the lives of all children in Ireland by making sure that their rights are respected and protected in our laws, policies and services.

22q11 Ireland Support Group
Ag Eisteacht
Alcohol Action Ireland
Alliance Against Cutbacks in Education
Amnesty International Ireland
Arc Adoption
The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children
ASH Ireland
Assoc. for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD)
Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland (ASTI)
ATD Fourth World – Ireland Ltd
Atheist Ireland
Barnardos
Barretstown Camp
BeLonG To Youth Services
Bessborough Centre
Border Counties Childhood Network
Catholic Guides of Ireland
Childhood Development Initiative
Children in Hospital Ireland
COPE Galway
Cork Life Centre
Crosscare
Dental Health Foundation
DIT – School of Social Sciences & Legal Studies
Disability Federation of Ireland
Down Syndrome Ireland
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
Dun Laoghaire Refugee Project
Early Childhood Ireland
Educate Together
School of Education UCD
EPIC
Extern Ireland
Focus Ireland
Foróige
GLEN - Gay and Lesbian Equality Network
Headstrong - The National Centre for Youth Mental Health
Healthy Food for All
Immigrant Council of Ireland
Inclusion Ireland
Independent Hospitals Association of Ireland
Inspire Ireland
Institute of Community Health Nursing
Institute of Guidance Counsellors
International Adoption Association
Irish Association for Infant Mental Health
Irish Association of Social Care Workers (IASCW)
Irish Association of Social Workers
Irish Association of Suicidology
Irish Autism Action
Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)
Irish Foster Care Association
Irish Girl Guides
Irish Heart Foundation
Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO)
Irish Penal Reform Trust
Irish Premature Babies
Irish Primary Principals Network
Irish Refugee Council
Irish Second Level Students' Union (ISSU)
Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Irish Traveller Movement
Irish Youth Foundation (IYF)
Jack & Jill Children's Foundation
Junglebox Childcare Centre F.D.Y.S.
Kids' Own Publishing Partnership
Law Centre for Children and Young People
Lifestart National Office
Mental Health Reform
Mounttown Neighbourhood Youth and Family Project
MyMind
National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA)
National Parents Council Post Primary
National Parents Council Primary
National Youth Council of Ireland
One Family
One in Four
Parentline
Parentstop
Pavee Point
Peter McVerry Trust
Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI)
Realt Beag
SAFE Ireland
Saoirse Housing Association
SAOL Beag Children's Centre
Scouting Ireland
Simon Communities of Ireland
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Sonas Housing Association
Special Needs Parents Association
SpunOut.ie
St. Nicholas Montessori Teachers Association
Saint Nicholas Montessori College Ireland
St. Patrick's Mental Health Services
Start Strong
Step by Step Child & Family Project
Suas Educational Development
Sugradh
Teacher's Union of Ireland
The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway
The Guardian Children's Project
The Prevention and Early Intervention Network
Treoir
UNICEF Ireland
Unmarried and Separated Families of Ireland
youngballymun
Youth Advocate Programme Ireland (YAP)
Youth Work Ireland

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1. Introduction



The Children's Rights Alliance unites over 100 members working together to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child. We change the lives of all children in Ireland by making sure that their rights are respected and protected in our laws, policies and services.

Purpose of the Survey: Members are at the core of the work of the Children's Rights Alliance. Every two years we survey our members to ensure that we are being effective in responding to their needs. The results of this survey will be used to guide the review of the Children's Rights Alliance Membership Development Strategy and will guide our work with our members for the next two years.

Methodology: The survey was conducted using online survey software Survey Monkey. The survey consisted of 10 questions and was distributed to all members by email, which was followed up by reminder phone calls. 39 out of 113 member organisations responded to the survey (34.5%).

2. Summary of Findings

Importance of Alliance membership: 49 per cent of the respondents view Children's Rights Alliance membership as being quite important to their work and 26 per cent viewing it as extremely important.

Value for Money: 95 per cent of the respondents view Children's Rights Alliance membership as being value for money.

Membership Benefits currently provided: Overall the Oireachtas monitor was considered the most useful benefit followed closely by the Children's Rights Now! e-bulletin. The overwhelming data emerging from the rating of membership benefits is that we have a very varied membership with very different needs. For example: 49 percent of the members reported that they find our legal and policy analysis slightly or not at all useful while 51 percent find it moderately to extremely useful.

Potential Membership Benefits: Members were asked to identify their interest in the Children's Rights Alliance providing three extra benefits which were identified in the consultation for the Membership Development Strategy (2014). Members were most interested in the Children's Rights Alliance establishing standing thematic working groups with 64 percent stating that they would be very interested.

Member Working Groups: 54 per cent of members surveyed had taken part in member working groups. Feedback from the members about the working groups was overwhelmingly positive with respondents thinking it an effective way of bringing members together to work on an issue.

Strategic Direction of the Alliance: The majority of the members (89 percent) are happy with the overall strategic direction of the Alliance.

Areas that the Alliance should focus its work on during 2016: The key areas identified by members were poverty (11), mental health (7) and education (6) with disability rights (4) and Homelessness (4) also scoring high.

3. Analysis

This section contains a detailed breakdown of the member responses to the survey. For ease of analysis the survey has been broken down into four broad sections; overall satisfaction with Children's Rights Alliance membership, membership benefits, Children's Rights Alliance Working Groups and strategic direction and future work of the Alliance.

3.1 Overall Satisfaction with Children's Rights Alliance Membership

Questions:

1. How do you rate your organisation's membership of the Children's Rights Alliance?
2. Do you think membership of the Children's Rights Alliance is value for money?

Results:

Overall the members view being part of the Children's Rights Alliance as being important to their work – 49 percent viewing it as being quite important with 26 percent viewing it as extremely important. All of those who responded to the survey found membership of the Alliance to be of some importance to their work.

An overwhelming majority, 95 per cent, view membership of the Children's Rights Alliance as being value for money. This is the first membership survey done since the introduction of scaled membership fees in 2013 which saw the membership fees rise from a flat rate of €50 to scaled fees based on organisational income ranging from €70 - €1,000. Considering this, it is extremely positive that the membership is overall happy with the current fee structure.

3.2 Membership Benefits

Questions:

1. On a scale of 1-5 please rate the following membership benefits and publications:
 - Weekly Oireachtas Monitor
 - Children's Rights Now!
Member E-Bulletin
 - Coalition Support Around
Campaigns, Member Email
Updates
 - Member Meetings
 - Know Your Rights Information
Guides
 - Report Card, Post Budget
Analysis
 - Legal and Policy Analysis
2. On a scale of 1-3 please indicate your interest in the Children's Rights Alliance providing the following benefits for members:
 - Annual member meeting
 - Standing thematic working groups
 - Annual member training on children's rights
3. Are there any other benefits that you would like to see the Children's Rights Alliance offer members?

Results:

Members were asked to rate membership benefits and publications as to how useful they were to them in carrying out their work. Overall, our current suite of membership benefits has rated quite well among the membership. The Oireachtas monitor was considered most useful resource (79 per cent of members finding it quite or extremely useful) followed closely by the Children's Rights Now e-Bulletin (72 per cent of members finding it quite or extremely useful).

The key trend emerging from the data is that we have a very varied membership with very different needs. For example: 49 percent of the members reported that they find our legal and policy analysis slightly or not at all useful while 51 percent find it moderately to extremely useful. The challenge for the Children's Rights Alliance is to ensure that it continues to respond to the varied needs of the membership into the future.

Members were asked to identify their interest in the Children's Rights Alliance providing three benefits which were identified in the consultation for the Membership Development Strategy 2014 – an annual member meeting, standing thematic working groups and annual member training on children's rights. Members were most interested in the Children's Rights Alliance establishing standing thematic working groups with 64 percent stating that they would be very interested.

There was only one other benefit suggested by a single member – more opportunities for members to network.

3.3 Children's Rights Alliance Working Groups

Questions:

1. Have you taken part in a Children's Rights Alliance working group?
2. If yes, please give details of how you found the experience.

Results:

54 per cent of members who responded to the survey had taken part in an Alliance working group. Working Groups in recent years have been held on issues such as the Children and Family Relationships Act, Ireland's recent examination under the UNCRC, Better Outcomes Brighter Futures and the Child and Family Agency Act.

3.4 Strategic Direction and Futures Areas of Work

Questions:

1. Are you happy with the overall strategic direction of the Children's Rights Alliance?
2. What are the three key areas of work that you think the Children's Rights Alliance should focus on in 2016?
3. Any other comments?

Results:

An overwhelming majority of the members (89 percent) are happy with the overall strategic direction of the Alliance. The Children's Rights Alliance members were asked to identify three key

area of work that they would like to see us focus on during 2016. The key three areas identified by members were poverty (11), mental health (7) and education (6) with Disability Rights (4) and Homelessness (4) also scoring high.