

Right to participate in cultural life (Article 15)

Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights requires the Government to recognise the right of everyone to participate in cultural life.

It also requires the Government to take necessary steps to for the conservation, the development and the diffusion of science and culture.

As outlined in [General Comment No.21 of CESCR](#), ICESCR imposes a 'specific and continuing obligation' on the State to take 'deliberate and concrete measures' to fully implement the right of everyone to take part in cultural life.

Components of right to participate in cultural life



Discussion points on the right to participate in cultural life:*

- Availability of services in the Irish language particularly including education, health services, etc.;
- Promotion of the Irish language and the role of the Irish Language Commissioner – the former Irish Language Commissioner resigned in 2013 due to lack of action on the part of the Government to promote the Irish language;
- Respect for the cultural life and traditions of minorities including migrants and Travellers;
- Need to achieve a balance between the rights of other cultures and particular groups such as women and children;
- Access to broadband internet.

*This is not an exhaustive list but these issues have arisen through other consultations or in research.

Questions for FLAC Consultation on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Accessing the Right and Available Remedies

- Is information available on how you can access the right?
- Are there any government or state bodies or supports available to help you access the right?
- Do you feel that the process or procedure for you to assert the right is transparent?
- Do you feel that all of the different elements of the right are respected, protected and fulfilled in the way intended by the Committee?
- If you feel that the right is not being respected, do you know if there is a remedy available to you or who to contact?

Vulnerable Groups

- Are there any particular groups of people who face specific discrimination when trying to access a particular right or who are more likely to be affected by the lack of access to the right?
- If so, please give a short outline of the group and describe the nature of the discrimination they face and how this impacts on them.

Government Action

- What steps has the Government taken to progress this right?

In law:

- Have any specific laws been introduced to support better enjoyment of this right?
- Have any specific laws been introduced which impact negatively on the enjoyment of this right?

In policy:

- Has the Government introduced any policy which supports or promotes the better enjoyment of this right?
- Has the Government introduced any policy which negatively impacts on the enjoyment of this right? Please give details.

In budgetary decision-making:

- Has the Government introduced any budgetary measures to support, promote or improve the enjoyment of this right?
- Has the Government introduced any budgetary measures which negatively impact on the enjoyment of this right?
- Has there been any change, positive or negative, in how this right is enjoyed since the economic downturn?
- Do you feel these changes have been reasonable?

Additional information

Do you have any other information or issues that you wish to raise which have not been covered already?