



## **1.0 Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2003.**

- 1.1 The minutes of the previous meeting of the Joint Committee were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the President of the IHRC and the Chief Commissioner of the NIHRC.

## **2.0 Matters Arising**

- 2.1 In relation to paragraph 2.3 the Chief Commissioner indicated that he had spoken to Christine Bell and that the conventions database would be updated during the summer period.

The Chief Commissioner informed the meeting that the following web number could be used to access the shadow database in the interim.

No. – 194.83.144.60  
Username – editor  
Password – editor 671

- 2.2 In relation to paragraph 3.15 of the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting the Chief Executive of the IHRC noted that it was desirable to distinguish between when the two Commissions acted jointly but in their own capacities and when they act as the Joint Committee.

## **3.0 Sub-Committee Reports**

- (i) Charter of Rights Sub Committee

- 3.1 A note from Paddy Kelly was circulated at the meeting. The Chief Commissioner reported that the sub-committee on the charter had received requests to broaden the circulation of the consultation document. It was agreed not to widen the scope of the consultation at this stage but should any organisation request a copy of the consultation paper it should be made available to them.

- 3.2 Michael Farrell reported that the Law Society were hosting a conference in the autumn in relation to new human rights legislation and that the Charter would form part of the discussions.

- (ii) Racism Sub-Committee

- 3.3 In relation to the booklet on the CERD Convention, Michael Farrell reported that the UK Periodic Report was to be considered in August and that the Republic's Report should be available before the end of July. He reported that Morten Kjaerum, a member of the CERD Monitoring Committee, had been invited to write a brief foreword to the booklet and the President and Chief Commissioner would write the introduction. The booklet would be a publication of the Joint Committee and it was hoped to have it available before the UK Report was considered on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August and that members of the

Joint Committee would be circulated with the booklet before publication. It was agreed that the NGO's would get forward copies if feasible. There is to be no charge for the publication.

He reported that the booklet had been fleshed out and edited to include a digest on the case law applicable to the Convention and therefore recommended it for adoption by the Joint Committee subject to some small editing matters. Publication was approved.

- 3.4 In relation possible research topics, Michael Farrell reported that the southern committee had discussed its own proposals and that both they and their northern counterpart had some reservations in relation to the suggested topics and that further consideration was required. He also indicated that the southern committee would go ahead with on some work on Ireland's obligations in relation to migrant workers in the interim.
- 3.5 Michael Farrell reported that the paper produced by the Republic's National Action Plan Against Racism Steering Group seems, at a quick glance, to be an advance over previous reports in relation to its recommendations to Government.

#### **4.0 Emergency Legislation**

The Chief Commissioner of the NIHRC circulated a paper in advance of the meeting and spoke to it. It was noted that the Northern Commission had not discussed emergency legislation. The matter was therefore remitted to the relevant committees of both Commissions for further consideration and it was agreed that the subject would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **5.0 Update on Activities**

- 5.1 The Chief Commissioner of the HIHRC tabled a note at the meeting and spoke to it.
- 5.2 A written report of the activities of the IHRC had been circulated in advance with the papers for the meeting and the Chief Executive of the IHRC spoke to it.

#### **6.0 Review of Membership of Joint Committee**

- 6.1 It was agreed that there should be no change in the composition of the Joint Committee.

#### **7.0 Any Other Business**

- 7.1 It was agreed that a draft minutes of the joint committee would be circulated in advance of the papers for the joint meetings if possible.

- 7.2 A correction was made to paragraph 3.3.4 of the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee Meeting. The word “acceptable” was changed to “open to signature”.
- 7.3 In relation to the Second Session of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, the Chief Commissioner reported that the Northern Commission had no difficulty with the draft common position. The President of the IHRC informed the meeting that Commissioner Binchy was representing the IHRC in New York and the Chief Commissioner reported that Commissioner McLaughlin was representing the NIHRC. It was noted that the Danish Commission had lodged a substantive submission of their own. William Binchy, Gerard Quinn and Commissioner McLaughlin were requested to report back to the Joint Committee at its next meeting.
- 7.4 In relation to Commissioner Yu’s request that the Joint Committee make some comment on Ireland’s refusal to allow the nationals of some countries attend the Special Olympics as a result of the SARS virus, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate now that the games had commenced.
- 7.5 It was agreed that the President of the IHRC would send a note of sympathy, in the name of the Joint Committee, to Paddy Kelly on the death of her father.
- 7.6 It was agreed to request Suzanne Egan and Professor Stephen Livingstone to address a future meeting of the Joint Committee in relation to the project on the Charter that they are presently engaged in.
- 7.7 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Committee is to take place in the premises of the Northern Commission on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September at 11am.

The meeting ended at approximately 12.45pm.