

## Celtic League

[...]

Across those jurisdictions there are differing approaches to progress in the 'FOUR AREAS' you highlight and that in itself indicates the problems faced where you have elderly people served by jurisdictions in a 'Transnational' context as in Ireland (26 & 6 Counties) and indigenous minorities within 'National' boundaries such as France and the United Kingdom and its Dependencies.

A) In relation to "Right to Work and Access to the Labour Market". This area is already addressed in both ILO and via Regional bodies such as the Council of Europe. Indeed ILO focus on this area goes back MANY DECADES and yet I struggled to find any significant application of the broad principles set down by the National entities in the jurisdictions we cover. We would suggest the Working Group make a recommendation that State parties when responding to ILO conventions reports or for Regional bodies (eg Council of Europe) set out in detail the PRACTICAL EFFECT they are giving to the application of guidelines, recommendations and principles ALREADY laid down.

B) In relation to 'Access to Justice for Elderly People'. The same principle should in our view apply and State parties should give MEANINGFUL effect to International guidance and norms already in place. We would however suggest specific areas for improvement would be the breaking down of barriers of 'Access to Justice for Older People' addressing lack of knowledge about obligations, rights and procedure taking account of physical incapacity and cost concern and long-standing ill health. It is worth identifying if THERE IS also a lack of expertise and specialist services for older persons (brief research us shows no substantial NATIONAL work or research. The Working Group could usefully urge that Professional Legal bodies 'Bar Associations' etc are asked what Legal Needs Survey of elderly people has been undertaken if any and how often this exercise is repeated.

C) 'Education Training and LifeLong Learning etc'. I quote from the paper link attached:

“in line with the higher life expectancy, opportunities to participate in educational programmes and to create individual learning processes in old age are increasing. Unfortunately, some social groups do not yet have access to educational programmes”

Again we believe the Working Group should ascertain if State parties are providing access to Education Training and LifeLong learning on an equitable basis in line with International commitments already entered into. Certainly we would question that is the reality in the National areas the Celtic League encompasses.

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/e98a/69bdafa9b6cebce13ba5bbe4622c7622d009.pdf>

D) ‘Social Protection and Social Security’. We would argue again that States apply principles markedly differently on both a ‘Transnational’ and within ‘State’ boundaries of the areas we encompass. There are widely differing applications of ‘Social protection and Social Security’ within for example Ireland (26 Counties and 6 Counties) and the UK and dependencies as its applied by Central government, National Parliaments and Regional Assemblies. This can lead to discrimination when an individual has accrued benefits in one part of the territory and eventually finds themselves in later life living across the ‘Transnational’ boundary’ or in a part of the ‘National territory’ that applies different criteria. We trust the Working Group will ask Nation States how they intend to address anomalies caused in this way to citizens and indigenous minorities.

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