



Equality and rights in action

ERA members will be consulted in the development of the Roadmap. Your insights and knowledge will ensure that the Roadmap is grounded in the every day experiences of people who need change most.

A key goal of ERA is to provide leadership in protecting, strengthening and critiquing the equality and human rights infrastructure.

The Roadmap will set out:

- The case for improving our ambition for equality and human rights in the current socio-economic context.
- The improvements needed to our laws to ensure better outcomes for people experiencing inequality, discrimination, poverty and social exclusion.
- The standards needed to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of our statutory equality, human rights and anti-poverty agencies.
- The practical means to develop a more joined-up approach to addressing inequality, poverty and human rights.

How will the Roadmap be used?

The Roadmap can be used as a reliable resource for political parties and policy makers serious about improving our equality and human rights protections.

It will be used to secure political commitment to developing a more effective and independent equality and human rights infrastructure.

The Roadmap will be used to seek endorsement from across civil society, giving people from all walks of life the chance to sign up to a better future.

Don't Rebuild It. Make it Better.

The government cuts to the Equality Authority and the Irish Human Rights Commission along with the closure of the NCCRI and the silencing of the independent voice of the Combat Poverty Agency have seriously damaged our ambition to be a mature democracy that embraces diversity and protects the most vulnerable.

Even prior to these cuts, there was a need to improve our record on equality, poverty, social exclusion and human rights. Ireland had fallen behind in ratifying important international human rights conventions; there were many areas where our equality legislation needed to be strengthened; and the Equality Authority and the Irish Human Rights Commission were under-resourced to deliver on all of their powers and functions.

What we had before the cuts wasn't bad. But what we can have, with fresh thinking, political will and strong civil society involvement is a lot better.